

# WATCH OUT FOR LUGGAGE THIEVES AT THE AIRPORT



**14,000**

travelers will have an item stolen from their luggage as they move through United States airports this year. Avoid becoming a victim of airport theft by reading the statistics that Safe Skies gathered and taking simple precautions to protect yourself and your valuables.

## STATISTICS

**5 in 1,000**

domestic passengers complain about "mishandled" luggage

**200+**

luggage thefts occur daily at JFK airport

**"The belly of the airplane has become like a flea market for airport employees. They go in there and go through all the luggage unencumbered, unchecked."**

*Kenneth Mollins - JFK security lawyer*

## CASES OF THEFT IN THE U.S. FOR 2012 (AS OF MARCH 31, 2012)

**FYI**



### LUGGAGE PROFILING

One of the things that makes thieves so successful is that they engage in luggage profiling. They go after the most expensive luggage, but they also check out where you're traveling to and from.

**BOS**



### FEBRUARY 2012

Two baggage handlers arrested at Logan International Airport, charged with multiple thefts of checked luggage.

**DFW**



### JANUARY 2012

A thief was found to have stolen iPads from luggage that was hand-inspected in an out-of-sight "resolution room."

**JFK**



### FEBRUARY 2012

Airport personnel at JFK arrested on charges of stealing almost \$160K in cash from travelers' luggage. Law enforcement reports 200 airport thefts per day.

**LAX**



### FEBRUARY 2012

A baggage handler and former baggage handler were arrested for allegedly stealing more than \$100K in cash and property from LAX travelers.

**MIA**



### JANUARY 2012

Airport personnel charged with grand theft after an iPad led police to their crime spree which involved stealing passengers' items and hiding them in a special pocket added to a uniform jacket.

## PRECAUTIONS

- Use a Safe Skies TSA-accepted lock for your bags. It will help to deter thieves from breaking into your luggage.
- Don't buy black luggage. Thieves prefer these because they look similar to other black bags.
- Get off the plane quickly and head to baggage claim. Getting there quickly means you'll be there when your bag rolls off the belt.
- Don't assume airlines will reimburse you for stolen goods. Ticket rules rarely cover loss of expensive items.
- Don't put electronics or expensive items in your checked bag. They are a prime target for thieves.



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE A VICTIM

- File a report immediately. Airlines have a timeframe in which you're allowed to file a theft report.
- Check your luggage for all its contents upon arrival. If something is missing check your other bags and make a note, then contact the airline's customer service department to file a theft report.
- If you can't get help from the airline, contact the U.S. Department of Transportation. It can assist you if you flew on a flight from or to the U.S.



## SOURCES

BudgetTravel, Travel + Leisure, ABC 7 - KABC-TV, Miami Herald, WFAA-TV, ABC 40/FOX 6 - WGGB, USA Today, CBS 2

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN SAFE SKIES AND MAX BORGES AGENCY

