The Maiden Voyage Business Traveller Safety eLearning Series provides travellers and their managers with practical tips and advice, including a special focus on female and LGBTQ+ travellers. Written by industry experts, each 15-20-minute module is packed with real-life case studies, practical tips and additional resources to further your knowledge.

With particular focus given to diverse travellers, the issues we cover include:

- Cultural differences and risks in the country of travel,
- Legal restrictions and risks in the country of travel,
- The higher statistical likelihood of sexual harassment and assault and how to mitigate risk,
- Homophobia,
- The compounded risk to travellers as a result of handbag theft,
- Gender specific medical risks, including pregnancy and business travel.

The modules are suitable for an international audience, catered to the inexperienced traveller and to those who travel regularly; all audiences will benefit from re-capping on key safety measures to ensure complacency doesn’t wade in. The modules cover aspects of travel safety from pre-trip planning and packing, safe ground transportation, hotel safety, intercultural awareness and how to conduct safe meetings in your destination city.

The five modules include:

1. Pre-Planning and Packing

The aim of this module is to raise awareness of the need for travellers to plan and pack judiciously for the destination and for their own wellbeing. On completing the module, learners will be able to:

- Understand the destination they are travelling to and the inherent risks,
- Use a range of resources to understand the geopolitical climate of their destination,
- Pack and dress appropriately for the destination,
- Prepare for emergency evacuations,
- Identify all the essential travel document, visas and permits required in country,
- Identify key health considerations and medication implications when travelling overseas,
- Prepare for and identify risks associated with pregnancy and business travel.
2. Safe Ground Transportation

The aim of this module is to raise awareness of potential risks to personal safety that is presented through ground transportation and the use of public transport. On completing the module, learners will be able to:

- Reduce the risk of being picked up by the wrong driver,
- Reduce the risk of abduction,
- Deal confidently with inappropriate behaviour from drivers,
- Reduce the risk of being involved in a road traffic accident,
- Have safety strategies in place when using ride-sharing services,
- Understand and avoid the risk of car-jacking,
- Understand when it is or is not appropriate to use public transport,
- Reduce the risk of theft of your belongings on public transport.

3. Hotel Safety

The aim of this module is to raise awareness of potential risks associated with hotel stays and to equip learners with the knowledge that they need to enable them to stay safe. On completing the module, learners will be able to:

- Identify threats and risks in hotels,
- Identify and book safe accommodation,
- Understand the obligations that hotels have to keep their guests safe and confidently challenge them when they don’t,
- Understand what to do in case of a hotel fire,
- Protect personal belonging in and around a hotel,
- Stay safe in their hotel bedroom and public spaces,
- Avoid unwanted attention and from hotel staff and other guests,
- Avoid hotel intruders and nuisance calls.

According to the Women in Business Travel Report, conducted by Maiden Voyage:

79% of respondents said that they felt underprepared to deal with a travel-related incident, should one occur.

70% state that they felt that travel providers should try harder to address their specific needs.

31% said that they felt employers should look after them better.
4. **Intercultural Awareness**

The aim of this module is to raise awareness of restrictions, both legal and cultural that may affect women & LGBTQ+ travellers as they travel and work in different countries and cultures. On completing the module, learners will be able to:

- Understand how differences in culture may impact their personal safety,
- Identify appropriate resources to understand the local culture and customs which must be observed,
- Recognise any local legal restrictions that they must adhere to,
- Have awareness of how cross-cultural dynamics could lead to sexual harassment or assault,
- Understand which products might cause offence if taken into the country,
- Understand how different body-language and hand gestures could be perceived across different cultures,
- Learn about some key geographical hotspots of gender-based risk,
- Be aware of local and legal responses to the LGBTQ+ community and the inherent risks,
- Safely and appropriately report a sexual assault,
- Keep safe when using social media.

5. **Safe Meetings and Leisure Time**

The aim of this module is to help learners to stay safe whilst navigating their meetings and leisure time when travelling on business. On completing the module, learners will be able to:

- Identify the safest meeting venues,
- Reduce the risk of a personal safety incident both in and out of the work environment
- Understand and reduce the risk of drink spiking,
- Continue a health and wellbeing programme, safely, when away from home,
- Reduce the risk of sexual harassment and unwanted attention,
- Identify where cross-culture may lead to inappropriate behaviour,
- Keep company information confidential,
- Deal with inappropriate behaviour from colleagues and business acquaintances,
- Keep safe when dating or looking for a relationship whilst also travelling on business,
- Recognise their ‘duty of responsibility’ and not compromise their own personal safety or your organizations reputation.