

Fire Safety

- **Take responsibility...** Ensuring that you and your family have a safe holiday is your responsibility. The first step is to ensure that you plan for how you will all escape should a fire occur. Read the fire safety instructions in your room and make sure that in an emergency situation you can follow these. Do not take for granted that fire escapes, emergency exit routes and fire extinguishers are all in place, check that your planned escape route is viable and you can follow it even in the dark.
- **Let them know...** Most hotels are incredibly helpful to those that have special requirements as long as they are aware of them. Make sure that if you are hard of hearing or that you may have some difficulty evacuating quickly that you ensure that the hotel staff are aware of this. Some hotels provide door signs for those that may require help in an emergency, however if in doubt make your own.
- **Take it seriously...** Smoke alarms do save lives and it is important that you take alarms seriously. False alarms are annoying but it is always better to be safe and get out no matter what you think may be happening. Also be aware of how seriously the hotel takes fire safety, different countries have a variety of standards but looking out for smoke detectors, sprinkler systems and fire extinguishers will give you an idea of how fire safety is managed.
- **Check the equipment...** Your hotel room will most probably contain a number of pieces of electrical or other equipment that if poorly maintained or misused could present a risk of fire. Self-catering apartments have particular risks with regard to gas safety or cooking equipment. In all cases check out your room prior to unpacking, make sure that everything looks to be in good working order and if not give the hotel an opportunity to remedy the situation.
- **Light the way...** A really useful travel item is the trusty torch. If you are unfortunate to be in a hotel that has a fire one of the biggest problems is visibility. Smoke and darkness can hinder your escape and if emergency lighting is not available or has failed you can use a torch to light your way to safety.