



## General Tips to Recognize Travel Scams and Fraud on the Internet

- Although there are many wonderful travel deals available online, occasionally looking for a travel bargain online can introduce you to fraud by having your email address harvested.
- Travel scams are common in the form of vouchers sold through spam and online contests.
- A non-refundable, transferable airline ticket offered online will result in the buyer receiving nothing but a useless travel voucher.
- Understand the terms and conditions that apply to travel services being offered online, and if you don't understand, ask. Legitimate travel agencies will provide more information, but con artists won't
- Don't judge an online travel agency by the appearance of its web site. Online scams are increasing because it's so easy to set up and promote a web site.
- Remember that it's easy to disguise your identity on the internet. Don't assume that everyone who contacts you online for a travel "deal" is who he says he is.
- Be aware that when you place your business card or name into a drawing for a free vacation, you may be added to a telemarketing call list or an email scam
- Be wary of "great deals" and low-priced offers. Few legitimate travel agencies can afford to give away travel services of real value or substantially undercut other agencies' prices

## Tips to Identify Fraud or a Scam on a Local Level

- Know your travel agent. Ask friends and family whom they have used in the past.
- Look for awards from the agency's suppliers, membership in trade organizations, the Chamber and Better Business Bureau for legitimacy.
- Always get the supplier's booking numbers NOT a sequential booking number supplied by the agency.
- Always get a receipt for ANY money given the agency.
- Legitimate travel agencies will send you an invoice showing exactly what you have purchased, how much it costs, and how much money they have collected from you.
- If you have doubts, ask for a copy of a confirmation from a cruise line or tour operator that shows how much money has been received from the travel agency who booked your vacation.
- Use a credit card or check whenever possible to book your travel. Never use cash.

Reproduced with permission of Sherrie Funk, Just Cruisin' Plus, Nashville, TN

**VACATIONS & TOURS & CRUISES & GROUPS**  
42149 Chinaberry St., Eustis, FL 32736  
[info@getaways-unltd.com](mailto:info@getaways-unltd.com) ♦ [www.getaways-unltd.com](http://www.getaways-unltd.com)