



Vacation-Rental Fraud

Fake postings offering vacation-rental properties created by scammers who take the victim's money, leaving the traveler without accommodations.

How to Avoid:

- Reverse-image search a property listing to see if photos are copied from other sites;
- Be wary of foreign telephone numbers and typographical errors;
- Use reputable websites—check the Better Business Bureau website for complaints; and
- Only make payments through the secure payment portal on the listing website.



Florida Attorney General's Office Scams at a Glance: Travel Traps

Visit MyFloridaLegal.com to find consumer tips or to file a complaint.

**Report fraud by calling
1-866-9-NO-SCAM
(1-866-966-7226)**

View other Scams at a Glance
resources at:
MyFloridaLegal.com/ScamsAtAGlance

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Scams at a Glance: *Travel Traps*



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SAFE ★ STRONG ★ FREE

BE AWARE OF TRAVEL SCAMS

Florida is a popular tourism destination, and vacationers are eager to book trips throughout the year. Scammers know this and may try to exploit the excitement with fraudulent phone calls, text messages and online advertisements promising free, or cheap, vacations. These scammers are casting a wide net to try and trap unwary travelers.

More than 130 million tourists visited the state in 2022. To help ensure a safe and relaxing trip, vacationers should follow these tips when planning a visit to our great state.



Types of Travel Scams



Credit-Card Skimming

The illegal copying of the magnetic strip of a credit or ATM card—often occurring when a credit card is taken out of sight, or by placing illicit skimming machines on card readers or terminals.

How to Avoid:

- Ask for a card back immediately after it's swiped;
- See if a card machine has been altered before swiping; and
- Never give away a PIN number.



Vehicle-Rental Scams

Damaged sports-rental equipment or vehicles, such as jet skis, scooters, and boats are rented to vacationers and the owner then claims the renter damaged the vehicle.

How to Avoid:

- Read online reviews and use reputable sites when renting water-sports equipment or other vehicles;
- Inspect the vehicle or equipment for prior damages and take a photograph for proof; and
- Confirm that insurance covers the vehicle.



Taxi or Ride-Sharing Scams

Unlicensed or unmetered drivers that operate out of airports or major tourist destinations, charging undisclosed or flat-rate fees that are more expensive than real-metered fares.

How to Avoid:

- Research and book car services before arriving;
- Only use licensed or approved drivers; and
- Always confirm the use of a meter or fee arrangement before entering a vehicle.



Fake-Ticket Scams

Scammers create fake websites, ads or physical tickets to trick visitors into buying worthless tickets.

How to Avoid:

- Know the relative price of tickets and be wary of anything that seems too cheap to be real; and
- Use reputable ticketing websites.