

Common Travel Scams

& how to avoid them

Free Vacation Scams

Be skeptical of offers that seem too good to be true, like "free" vacations from online ads or unsolicited messages claiming you've won a trip. Legitimate companies do not require upfront payments for prizes. Always question offers that demand hidden fees or taxes to claim a so-called "free" trip.

Vacation Home Rental

Reaching out to property owners on platforms like Airbnb and VRBO is easy, but beware of scammers who hijack genuine listings or create fake ones. This can lead to multiple bookings for the same property, leaving you without accommodations. Scammers often pressure quick decisions, so take your time before committing to a rental.

International Travel Documents

Many websites claim they can help you get a travel visa, passport, or other documents. They can look convincing, but they're often just copies of the [U.S. Department of State's](https://www.state.gov) site and will charge high fees for services that are free on the official site.

Fake International Driving Permit

An International Driving Permit (IDP) translates your driver's license into ten languages for easier driving abroad. Beware of scammers selling fake IDPs, as purchasing one can waste your money and lead to legal issues or travel delays. Legitimate IDPs are issued by the U.S. Department of State, AAA, and AATA.



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