



THE INVESTIGATOR

Travel Scams on the Rise

Now that Canadians are making travel plans and booking flights again, scammers are making sure they get in on the action. TransUnion has reported a 49.61% increase in suspected [travel and leisure fraud](#).

Cheap airline tickets and accommodation deals in a market with rising prices are always exciting to find but are often too good to be true. [Con artists](#) are using the temptation of an amazing deal to lure their victims onto fraudulent booking sites or to their fraudulent vacation rental ad on a reputable site. To avoid the headache, disappointment and lost income, review the following tips and tricks:

[How to Avoid](#) Travel Scams:

- **Do your research.** If you come across a company you haven't dealt with before, research it before making any purchases. Look for reviews and feedback from previous customers.
- **Double check the URL before you enter personal and payment information.** It can be easy to click on a sponsored ad or imposter website without noticing. If possible, go directly to an airline or travel agency's website for customer service numbers, and double check the URL before entering personal and payment information.
- **Be wary of third-party websites. Some websites appear to offer a legitimate service but are only fronts for a scam.** Be suspicious of websites with no working customer service number and no physical address. Typos and grammatical errors can be indications of a scammers handiwork, too.
- **Make online purchases with your credit card.** [Fraudulent charges](#) made on a credit card can usually be disputed, whereas that might not be the case with other payment methods. Unfortunately, there is no way to get back the personal information you may have shared. Also, be wary of any site asking you to pay via e-transfer or prepaid gift card.



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Since 2000, BCSI Investigations Inc. has performed thousands of successful investigations. Our integrated team of investigators and support services ensure that the investigations are conducted in a timely fashion with leading edge techniques. BCSI Investigations Inc. is considered the platinum standard of the industry based on the quality and the wide spectrum of its services as well as the expertise of the investigators.



- **Looking for a vacation rental?** Watch out for fraudulent companies that are offering properties that are not real. A request to take your conversation off the site is a sign of a likely scam. If a property has few reviews or seems too good to be true, search the address online, or check it on Google Maps.

Now more than ever, you must be [vigilant](#): avoid shortcuts, do your research, and use common sense. In the rush to travel again after the pandemic, too many people are bypassing all three. The easiest rule to follow is...if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Contact Us

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