

Essex Police Fraud Alert System

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21st May 2021

CAUTION ON HOLIDAY BOOKINGS AS TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS EASED

As lockdown and travel restrictions ease and we are all eager to get away, residents are reminded to be vigilant when booking holidays as £2.2m was lost to holiday fraud last year - an average of £1,242 per victim.

Criminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated by either impersonating travel companies and flight comparison websites or advertising fake accommodation on legitimate sites. Here are some tips to ensure the holiday you've been dreaming of doesn't become a nightmare:

- **Stay safe online:** check the web address is legitimate and has not been altered by slight changes to a domain name – such as going from .co.uk to .org.
- **Do your research:** don't just rely on one review! Do a thorough online search to ensure the company is credible—if it's not there are likely to be warnings posted online.
- **Look for the logo:** check whether the company is an ABTA Member. Look for the ABTA/ATOL logo on the company's website. If you have any doubts, you can verify the companies membership via their websites.
- **Pay safe:** wherever possible, pay by credit card. You should avoid paying directly into a private individual's bank account.
- **Check the paperwork:** you should study receipts, invoices and terms and conditions, and be very wary of any companies that don't provide any at all. When booking through a Holiday Club or Timeshare, get the contract thoroughly vetted by a solicitor first

£2.2m was lost to
holiday fraudsters
in the 2020 / 21
financial year

If you think you've fallen victim to holiday fraud, tell your bank immediately and report to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

ActionFraud  #HolidayFraud

- **Use your instincts:** if a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is!



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and
do **even more** Online at essex.police.uk

