

Many of us now book our holidays online, but criminals will take advantage of this and advertise accommodation, flights and other travel services that either don't exist or are subsequently not provided. The false advertising could be via an entirely fraudulent website or criminals may post a fake advert on a genuine website. A further holiday discount may be offered if you complete the booking away from the site, and payment is likely to be encouraged via a direct bank transfer.

If you have been the victim of a scam or fraud, please report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at <a href="https://www.actionfraud.police.uk">www.actionfraud.police.uk</a> Contact your bank immediately if you think you may have lost money.

## How to protect yourself

Pay for holidays using a credit card if you can, which provides additional financial protection.

Be suspicious of any discount offered for paying by bank transfer or completing the booking away from the website.

Ensure your booking is covered by a consumer protection scheme such as ABTA or ATOL, but remember that fraudsters can copy their logos. Look for the membership number and contact the scheme to establish if the company you are using is a genuine member.

Research any accommodation before you book and see if it is advertised elsewhere. Be suspicious if the prices are significantly different.



For more information about how our Anti-Crime Team can help you, please contact:

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