

Better Business Bureau's Tips to Avoid Travel Fraud

Travel season is upon us and the Better Business Bureau encourages you to take basic precautions before leaving on your trip. Here are some tips to help you avoid travel fraud and to insure an enjoyable vacation.

- **It is best to deal with reputable travel agencies**, such as members of the American Society of Travel Agents and National Tour Association. Checkout unfamiliar companies at the **Better Business Bureau** by calling 330-253-4590 or by going to www.akronbbb.org.
- **Avoid dealing with agencies that insist on collecting payment by wire or overnight delivery.** These are methods used by firms trying to avoid detection of possible mail or wire fraud.
- **Before paying, make sure you receive specific information about the details of the trip** (total price, name of the airline or cruise ship being used, names and telephone numbers of all lodgings). Do not accept vague terms such as "luxury cruise ships" and "major hotels." Get the names of your accommodations and call to confirm your reservations before departure.
- **Use a credit card to make your purchase.** It will be easier to dispute charges if you do not get what you paid for. Do not give your credit card number to telemarketers who claim to need it for identification or verification. They don't. Only give account numbers for payment to companies that you have verified to be reputable.
- **If you are making a major trip, you may want to consider travel insurance.** But before buying, check existing policies to avoid overlapping. For instance, your homeowner's insurance may cover the theft of expensive items abroad; your medical insurance may cover emergency procedures or evacuation abroad; and airlines are responsible to replace lost luggage (up to a certain dollar amount).
- **Read the fine print of the travel insurance policy.** Trip cancellation coverage often only reimburses you for serious illnesses and injuries, or the death of a family member or traveling companion.
- **Take care to insure against lost luggage.** Identification tags should be clearly labeled and firmly secured.
- **Make an itemized list and take a snapshot of the contents of your bags.** Include the cost of each item on the list. These minor steps can be invaluable when obtaining reimbursement for lost luggage.



The BBB 24/7 Line-
330-253-4590 or 800-825-8887



On the Internet at
www.akronbbb.org

Serving Ashland, Medina, Portage, Richland, Summit and Wayne Counties

*Better Business Bureau Dispute Resolution Participant

The BBB has nearly 2600 members. A full listing of members is available from the Bureau.
The BBB does not endorse, recommend, or disapprove of any company, product, or service.

The above partial listing of BBB members are paid sponsors of this message