

Vacations-Abroad.com Press Release

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How not to get scammed from a vacation rental

Vacation rentals are one of the fastest growing segments of the \$593B hospitality industry but is also one fraught with danger. Here are some tips on how to make sure you do not get ripped off.

- 1) Talk to the person renting the apartment by phone.
 - a. Do they speak with a strange accent?
 - i. If yes, then they may be located in a foreign country and using a fake id.
 - b. Do a reverse look up of the telephone number.
 - i. Is there a published name associated with the phone?
 - ii. If you cannot find a reference to the phone number, then the phone and the owner may not be legit.
- 2) Ask for the address of the property and look it up on Google, Yahoo or Bing maps.
 - a. Is the neighborhood a residential area and as portrayed by the advertisement?
 - b. Look up address in local Property Tax Assessor database.
 - i. Is the owner's name the same as the person advertising the property?
 - ii. If the owner's name and the person representing the property are different, then it might be a scam.
- 3) If you are renting through an online company, contact them prior to sending a deposit and ask them to verify the property.
 - a. Ask the online company about their rental guarantee and if there has been any feedback on the property.
- 4) Is this too good to be true?
 - a. Compare the photos, with the rate and location.
 - b. Scammers will find a photo of a beautiful luxurious property and place an ad for a property in a high demand area, like NYC or Paris and offer it at a ridiculously low price.

For Interviews Contact Linda Jenkins, CEO Vacations-Abroad.com

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See additional document for bio

