Vacations-Abroad.com Press Release

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# **How not to get scammed from a vacation rental**

Vacation rentals are one of the fasted 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.
   1. Do they speak with a strange accent?
      1. If yes, then they may be located in a foreign country and using a fake id.
   2. Do a reverse look up of the telephone number.
      1. Is there a published name associated with the phone?
      2. 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.
   1. Is the neighborhood a residential area and as portrayed by the advertisement?
   2. Look up address in local Property Tax Assessor database.
      1. Is the owner’s name the same as the person advertising the property?
      2. 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.
   1. 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?
   1. Compare the photos, with the rate and location.
   2. 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.

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See additional document for bio

