

7 TIPS ON HOW TO AVOID TRAVEL SCAMS AND PROTECT YOUR VACATION

1. Keep Hard Copies of Confirmations

Bring printed copies of all booking records. If a system glitch occurs or a merchant tries to upcharge you, physical proof ensures you get the rate you originally locked in.

2. Avoid Suspicious Digital Deals

Resist clicking on “too good to be true” travel ads. These tempting offers are often sophisticated phishing shells designed to harvest your login credentials and personal data.

3. Book Exclusively with Credit Cards

Use a credit card for all vacation expenses rather than a debit card. This provides a critical layer of protection, allowing you to dispute fraudulent charges if you encounter travel booking scams.

4. Activate a VPN on Public Wi-Fi

Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) when connecting to airport or hotel networks. This encrypts your data and prevents “session hijacking,” where hackers intercept your active logins.

5. Freeze Your Credit Before Departure

Consider a temporary credit freeze if you don’t plan on opening new accounts while away. This stops identity thieves from opening unauthorized lines of credit in your name while you’re off the grid.

6. Prioritize Digital Wallet Payments

Use Apple Pay or Google Pay whenever possible. These services use “tokenization,” which allows you to pay without ever sharing your actual card number with a merchant’s system.

7. Pack a Portable Power Bank

Avoid “juice jacking” by using your own battery pack instead of public USB charging ports. This eliminates the risk of malicious hardware installed in planes or terminals stealing data through your charging cable.