



How to Avoid Common Airline Scams



Icons Relate to the Following:

- **Verify**
- **Phone safety**
- **Warning**
- **Protection**
- **Payment safety**
- **Travel tip**

Key Points

- **Scammers increasingly target travelers who are stressed**, stranded, or searching online for help with flights.
- **Fake customer-service accounts** on social media monitor complaints and quickly message travelers pretending to be airline reps.
- **Fraudsters often direct victims to spoofed websites** that harvest personal or financial information.
- **Fake booking sites** lure travelers with low fares, then demand extra fees or claim prices have suddenly increased.
- **“Pharming”** attacks can redirect users from legitimate airline sites to fraudulent third-party booking agencies that charge inflated fees.
- **Bogus customer-service phone numbers** frequently appear at the top of search results, leading travelers to give credit-card info to scammers.
- **Fake cancellation notices** prompt travelers to call fraudulent numbers and unknowingly pay for unnecessary “replacement” tickets.
- **High-pressure tactics** — such as insisting a fare is only available “right now” — are major red flags.
- **Using official airline apps**, verifying social-media accounts, and speaking directly with airport ticket agents are the safest ways to confirm flight issues.
- **Victims should immediately** contact their bank and report scams to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).



How to Protect Yourself

- Use the **official airline app or website** — not links from messages or ads.



How to Avoid Common Airline Scams

-  Double-check phone numbers on the **airline's real website**.
-  Avoid ads promising **unusually low fares**.
-  At the airport, go to an **official ticket counter** for help.
-  If something feels rushed or suspicious, **stop and verify**.

If You Think You Were Scammed

-  Contact your **bank or credit-card company** immediately.
-  Report the scam to the **FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)**.
-  Change any passwords you shared.

If you like this scam aid... go to www.MARC4U.org for additional copies.

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