

Holiday Scam Watch

SUMMER
2026
FREE

Booking a holiday this summer? Scammers are targeting travellers more than ever. Here's what to watch out for — and how to stay safe.

FAKE VILLAS & PROPERTIES



WARNING SIGNS OF A FAKE RENTAL

- Price is **far too cheap** compared to similar properties nearby
- Owner **can't meet you** — "I'm currently abroad" or "working overseas"
- Asked to pay by **bank transfer** rather than a booking platform
- Very few reviews, or reviews that feel **generic and copied**
- Photos look **too perfect** — try right-clicking and doing a reverse image search

DODGY BOOKING MESSAGES

FAKE TEXTS & EMAILS TO WATCH FOR

- "Your booking needs **reconfirming** — click here to avoid cancellation"
- "Your payment **failed** — re-enter your card details to keep your booking"
- Fake confirmation emails that look just like Booking.com or Airbnb
- Links that go to **copycat websites** — always check the address bar carefully

⚠️ **AI now writes perfect scam emails — don't rely on spelling mistakes to spot them. Check the sender's actual email address.**

REFUND & CANCELLATION CONS

HOW REFUND SCAMS WORK

- "Your **flight has been cancelled** — claim your refund here" (links to a fake site)
- Fake refund sites ask for your card details to "process" your money back — then take more
- Always go to the **official airline or hotel website directly**, never via a link in a message

THE SAFE BANK LINE

159

FREE • 24/7 • ALL MAJOR BANKS

- 1 **Hang up on the suspicious call**
Wait a few minutes before calling.
- 2 **Dial 159 from any phone**
This takes you directly to your real bank.
- 3 **Tell them what happened**
They'll check your account and advise you.

SAFE BOOKING CHECKLIST

TICK THESE OFF BEFORE YOU PAY

- Booked through a well-known platform (Booking.com, Airbnb, reputable travel agent)
- Paid by **credit card** — gives extra protection under Section 75
- Read real, recent reviews (check dates — avoid reviews all from one week)
- Found the property or company independently (not just through the advert's link)
- Have travel insurance that covers cancellation and booking fraud
- Told a family member where you're staying and the booking details

IF YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN SCAMMED

- **Call your bank immediately** — dial 159 or the number on your card
- **Report to Action Fraud:** 0300 123 2040 or [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk)
- Contact your credit card provider if you paid by card — you may get your money back
- Tell your family so they can watch out too

Got a suspicious message? Ask Kev.

Not sure if something is genuine? Give me a quick call — I'm always happy to take a look and put your mind at rest.

07946 638 247

Free quick chat • No obligation