

Don't Get Taken for a Ride During Travel Season

If you're planning a vacation in or outside of Massachusetts this spring, the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation has some helpful travel tips:

- Comparison shop and book your trip as early as possible to take advantage of special offers and deals.
- See what membership cards you have that might take money off the cost of your trip or have special offers.
- Check out the seller. Ask family and friends for recommendations, and check with the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, Attorney General's Office, and Better Business Bureau, to see if there is a history of complaints on file.
- Beware of travel scams. Deeply discounted and "free" vacations are usually too good to be true.
- Pay by credit card. If you don't get what you paid for, you may be able to dispute the charges with your credit card company.
- Get the details of your vacation in writing.
- Ask about cancellation policies. You may want to consider travel insurance for extra protection.
- Call to confirm your reservations and arrangements.
- Go on the website of the destination you are travelling to and plan out the things you want to do. This way you will know the costs before you get there.
- For local travel ideas, deals, and tips, visit the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism website.

If you are looking to rent a vacation property:

- Compare vacation rental websites and read disclaimers carefully.
- Be prepared to pay a rental deposit. Some homeowners require guests to sign contracts.
- Get a contact name and number for questions during your stay.
- Be sure that the rental is legal. Some cities and towns forbid short-term rentals.

For more information about travel and vacation tips, visit our website at www.mass.gov/consumer.