

## Avoid Travel Fraud

A little diligence can go a long way in reducing your exposure to travel scams. Following the tips below can help make your trip FREE! (of fraud):

### **Know who you are dealing with:**

Buy a travel package from a company with a good reputation. Ask friends to recommend a business you can trust. Research potential vendors online: Are they a member of the BBB? Does their website appear professional?

### **If it sounds too good to be true...**

Be wary of ads or faxes offering deeply discounted vacations. Some scam artists offer the world, but leave you at the gate. Other 'details' may contain hidden costs. Before you buy, get the details in writing and a copy of the company's cancellation and refund policies. Consider whether cancellation insurance is appropriate for you. Be wary of vague promises that you will stay at a 'major' hotel or sail on a 'luxury' cruise ship. Get the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of each party before you buy. Call to verify your reservations.

### **Use payment protection:**

Use a credit card to make your travel purchase. If you don't get what you pay for, you may be able to dispute the charges with your credit card issuer.

### **Read the fine print:**

Thinking about joining a travel club? Ask questions before signing up. Sometimes those 'free' memberships can weigh you down with credit card charges that you didn't realize were in the contract due to lack of disclosure.

For more travel and vacation tips refer to the following links:

PhoneBusters:

[http://www.phonebusters.com/english/recognizeit\\_travel.html](http://www.phonebusters.com/english/recognizeit_travel.html)

[http://www.phonebusters.com/english/recognizeit\\_vacation.html](http://www.phonebusters.com/english/recognizeit_vacation.html)

RCMP:

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams-fraudes/student-etudiant-guide-eng.htm#travel>