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Don't Be A Travel Scam Victim

By Terrell James

You had the idea to travel to somewhere exotic. You finally made a decision, you want an

adventure. You want to explore a beautiful country. You may also want to explore the jungle. You might also bring a friend or a loved one. Then an email comes along in your account that says you won a free vacation. Before you go, it is essential for you to be aware of predators. No, I am not talking about animals. These predators are human, and they set up schemes to trick you into a scam. He will try to gain your trust, then steal and run away with your money. He usually will sound like someone who is polite and seems to be an honest person. Unfortunately though, these types of predators come in all shapes, sizes, and are from different countries.

You should always be very cautious about traveling if someone tries to "pitch" something to you about a trip. The predator may try to sell you a "cheap discount bargain" for your trip, or claim to you excitingly you won a wonderful trip to somewhere half-way around the world. Here are some things you should know:

When you are planning a vacation you should have and receive full details of the total price, specific information of the package, and any penalties in writing before paying. You should never pay or give your credit card number unless you are confident about the company. Scam artists will almost never give full information in writing until after you paid them. A lot of times even after you do pay, you will not receive any more details. If you do receive anymore information, chances are there will be conditions and situations which will make your trip more expensive. If you think you are interested in the offer, you should ask **WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED**. A lot of travel scams will add on fees and service charges after you pay for it.

Travel scams are designed to trick victims and come in different forms. You should be very skeptical of phone, email, and mail offers that state you have won or been selected as the lucky winner. Deals offered by email are almost always a scam, and this is especially true more so for a contest you yourself have not even signed up or applied for. A lot of times you did not really win anything. You will be instead asked to pay a lot of fees to receive your "reward". If you really won anything, it shouldn't cost you anything to get your prize. It is like that old saying, "If it sounds too good to be true, it most likely is."

The author of this article Terrell, is the webmaster and owner of the new website

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which is about his backpacking experience in Cloud Forest in Costa

Rica.

Identity Theft Scams

By James H. Dimmitt

Identity Theft scams continue to flourish on the web. One that you need to be aware of and beware of is any site that seems to be selling high-demand items (digital cameras for instance) at a much lower (almost unbelievable) price than you can find on other sites or the manufacturer's site.

Often the victim's are told to pay nothing until they receive the merchandise. The person behind the scam uses the victim's name and a credit card number belonging to another person to purchase the item at a legitimate site.

Once the item is shipped, the victim then authorizes his credit card to be billed or sends payment directly to the scammer. The scammer has now put you in the position of being in receipt of stolen merchandise while they get away with your money.

Another scam that still seems to be working is being contacted through e-mail by someone claiming to be from your credit card company, your internet service provider, Paypal, or Ebay.

The scammer will send a message stating that your account information needs to be verified because their files were hacked into, their database crashed or they believe that someone has tried to steal your account information and they want to verify your information in order to protect your account. The con artist then uses the information supplied to "verify" your account to run up fraudulent charges.

NEVER give personal information to a company, such as AOL or Ebay, that already has it. If you are suspicious about being contacted, contact the company yourself before giving out any personal information.

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