



## 05/26/2023: Five Common Hotel Scams to Avoid While Traveling

When you're traveling, finding a comfortable and safe place to stay is a top priority. However, scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting tourists, ready to take advantage of their vulnerability. To help protect yourself, we've compiled a list of the five most common hotel scams to be aware of during your travels. Stay alert and keep these scams in mind to ensure a hassle-free and enjoyable trip.

- **Bogus Websites:** Scammers have become adept at creating bogus hotel websites that closely resemble legitimate ones. They lure unsuspecting travelers with attractive offers and discounted rates, only to disappear once they receive your payment. To avoid falling victim to this scam:
  - Double-check the website's URL for any discrepancies or misspellings.
  - Look for reviews and ratings from reputable sources to verify the hotel's authenticity.
  - Make your reservations directly through the hotel's official website or a reputable online travel agency.
- **Fake Food Delivery:** In some instances, scammers will slip flyers or menus under your hotel room door, advertising a delivery service with mouthwatering food options. If you call to place an order, they'll request your credit card information and disappear without delivering your meal. To protect yourself from this scam:
  - Use trusted food delivery apps or services that are recommended by the hotel.
  - Check with the hotel's front desk to confirm if they have a legitimate partnership with any food delivery services.
  - If in doubt, order food directly from the hotel's restaurant or venture out to a nearby eatery.
- **Front Desk Impersonators:** Scammers may call your hotel room posing as hotel staff or receptionists. They might claim there is an issue with your credit card or booking details and request your personal or financial information to resolve the issue. To avoid fake front desk scams:
  - Never share personal or credit card information over the phone.
  - Hang up and call the hotel's front desk directly to verify any inquiries or issues.
  - Be cautious of unsolicited calls and ask for identification if you're unsure.
- **"Free" Wi-Fi:** Public Wi-Fi networks are common targets for scammers seeking to gain access to personal information. They might set up fake networks that mimic legitimate hotel connections, leading you to unwittingly provide your login credentials or financial information. To avoid these scams:
  - Check with the hotel staff for the correct Wi-Fi network name and password upon check-in.
  - Avoid connecting to unsecured or unfamiliar networks.
  - Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to encrypt your internet connection and protect your data.
- **Checkout Scams:** During checkout, some hotels might attempt to add charges to your bill for services you didn't use or damages you didn't cause. To avoid being overcharged:
  - Keep all receipts and documentation throughout your stay.
  - Conduct a thorough review of your bill before paying, checking for any discrepancies.
  - Report any suspicious charges immediately to the hotel management.