

# BOGUS HOLIDAY CLUB SCAMS

The Office of Fair trading is warning holidaymakers flying abroad during the summer about the dangers of bogus holiday club scams, which cost UK residents millions of pounds each year.

Research shows that the summer is peak time for holidaymakers to be targeted by bogus holiday clubs, and the average victim can lose up to £3000.

Most touts working for bogus holiday clubs hand out scratch cards to unsuspecting holidaymakers which claims they have won a prize, when in fact all of the scratch cards are winners. To collect the prize they are forced to attend a lengthy presentation where they will be persuaded into signing a contract for an 'exclusive club'. The information contained in the contract regarding price, range and quality of holidays is usually false and after spending thousands of pounds, people often discover they have purchased little more than access to an internet booking service – the same service you would receive if you visited your local travel agent.

Holidaymakers who are approached by scratch card touts, or who attend a presentation should ask the following three questions:

- Can you take the contract away to consider at your own leisure?
- Is everything promised in the presentation in the contract?
- Do you know exactly what you are getting for your money?

**All our alerts are available in a range of formats and languages, including large print. Please contact Nicola Wilson if this would be helpful to you, or to someone you know.**

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