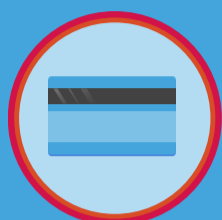
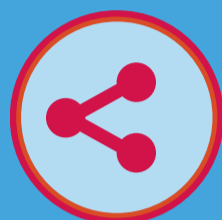


Top tips to prevent you becoming a victim of **SKI CHALET FRAUD**



PAYMENT METHODS

If the only payment method available is bank transfers, this should raise a red flag, as you will have no payment protection.



SOCIAL MEDIA

How long is the history of the social media accounts of the website? Do the posts and comments look natural?



WEBSITE

Have a good look around their website. Well established companies will usually have a blog full of useful local information.



AVAILABILITY

Genuine chalet companies will start receiving bookings for the peak weeks of the winter up to 12 months in advance. If the chalet has an empty calendar for the winter, be wary.



TESTIMONIALS

Text testimonials can easily be faked, so look for websites that use an independent review service, or companies which have reviews on sites such as TripAdvisor and HomeAway too.



PICK UP THE PHONE

If the person you're speaking to can't answer your questions with helpful answers, or only communicates via email or mobile phones, be suspicious.



SEARCH RESULTS

If you can't see the website you're looking for in the "organic" search results below the ads then this may be a sign that the website is newly set up.



BOOKING PLATFORMS

Don't trust listings on AirBnB / Booking.com etc which try to redirect you away from the platform, encouraging you to pay by bank transfer.



CHECK COMPANY REGISTRATIONS

Contact the local tourist office and ask whether they have heard of the company that you are dealing with.



TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

If the chalet has availability for a peak week at the last minute, or if the price is super low, that might seem too good to be true.

Not all of these are reasons to mistrust a chalet company. But if the answers to most of these questions are leaving you feeling uneasy, then be wary of booking. More tips at <http://bit.ly/AvoidChaletScams>.