



It's just good business.

Charter Flights

A marketplace tip the Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau

Charter flights in general look attractive and are offered for a very low cost. Remember, however, that charter flights are not held to the same standards of performance that a normal commercial passenger flight would be, i.e, they do not have to arrive and depart within an acceptable parameter of time.

Over a week-long “spring break” vacation, it is possible that a passenger on a charter flight to spend up to 72 hours waiting at an airport for both arrival and departure. Suddenly that very low ticket price doesn't seem like such a good deal after all.

A web site of a New York City-based charter operation states, “We can quote trips between any two locations in the world!” Obviously there is sub-contracting to other carriers going on, and your dilemma, in the event of a problem later, is figuring out who to hold accountable.

Always check out any business with the BBB. Beware of high-pressure sales tactics . . . too good to be true . . . paying up front . . . and the appealing low cost making you think that you do not have to do your homework.

Also a very good idea: consult the American Society of Travel Agent's Consumer Affairs at (703) 739-8739.

Contact the DOT Public Charter Licensing (202) 366-2396 – make sure the carrier you're considering is approved for the specific destination and departure city you have in mind

Beware of certificates or coupons for “free trips.” Other examples include: One free ticket is provided if you purchase a second, highly priced, ticket; if you “win” travel, there are often substantial hidden costs; or, you may be a “winner” but the details are only available through an expensive toll call)

Compare prices with regular airlines and with the various accommodations directly to see just what kind of deal you're really getting.