

Hajj Pilgrims Urged to Book Trips Securely

Travelport, a Leading Travel Commerce Platform has urged Hajj Pilgrims to Research Tour Operators before Booking Trips and Make Secure Payments to Minimise Fraud Risk.

Dubai, UAE,
Jun 30, 2015

Travelport (NYSE:TVPT), a leading Travel Commerce Platform providing distribution, technology, payment and other solutions for the \$8 trillion global travel and tourism industry is urging those booking trips to Hajj over the coming months to do so securely and to do their research before booking.

Millions of Muslims will make the Hajj pilgrimage in September, a journey that sees the largest gathering of pilgrims in the world each year. Many across the GCC are in the process of booking or have already booked their trips to make the pilgrimage, however some of those pilgrims arrive in Saudi Arabia to find the trips they have booked do not live up to their expectations- with sub-standard hotels or travel arrangements- or worse, that the bookings do not even exist and they are victims of fraudulent rogue travel agents.

“We would urge travelers to choose a travel agent that provides a dedicated payment solution that minimizes the risk of fraud. Warning signs of Hajj fraud could include being asked to make a direct bank transfer prior to the trip and being told that the tickets and travel documents will be shared nearer to departure”, said Rabih Saab, President & Managing Director of Travelport, Africa, Middle East and Asia.

Other important steps to protect against online booking scams include thorough research on the travel agency/tour operator. It is important to carry out basic checks on the travel agency/tour operator. If possible make sure that your travel company is a member of a recognized association such as [Travel and Tourism Agencies Council \(ATTAC\)](#). Getting all confirmations in writing and making sure that flight details, accommodation and Hajj visas are all valid by doing your own cross referencing are good steps to minimize the chance of a fraudulent booking.