



## Ticket Please: How to Avoid Online Ticket Scams

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We are now at the beginning of summer- a time of leisure, relaxation, and adventure for many. What these vacations look like differs from person to person. For some, they might want to hop on a cruise down to the Caribbean; Some might want to fly to experience new places, people and cultures. Others still might want to see their favorite musicians, like Taylor Swift, live in concert.

Access to these services and events often come in the form of tickets. [Ticketing](#) is as old as the events people see, and in the modern Internet age there are many new services available for customers to purchase and trade these tickets on an online platform. Cybercriminals have exploited this great demand to an even greater effect. Online ticket scams are [not a new phenomenon](#), but have greatly increased in frequency and sophistication. [An increase](#) in these scams have been reported to the Better Business Bureau since 2020, which is admittedly only a small fraction of actual cases of ticket fraud.

There are some signs that you should watch out for when searching for tickets:

- Social media-based vendors - Many ticket scammers lure their prey on websites such as Twitter or [Facebook](#). These websites, and their users, are not legitimate ticket vendors. Be wary when someone offers you a deal on tickets that are too good to be true; They probably are!
- High-demand shows - Tickets for tours can be sold out months before the performance. Even if you are buying tickets for a highly-anticipated Christmas show in June, you are [not immune](#) to being scammed.
- Peer-to-Peer payments - Payment methods such as Venmo, PayPal, and wire transfers make [refunds impossible to obtain](#) if you fall prey to a scam. Avoid any potential exchange that requires such methods for monetary transactions.

To better protect yourself while looking for tickets, you should consider the following:

- Trust, but especially verify! [Conduct your own research](#) on ticket sale platforms to find which ones are legitimate or not. Peruse user reviews and other online guides like this one to figure out which vendors are real and which ones are scams.
- Utilize modern solutions to your modern problems! Technologies such as [barcodes and QR codes](#) are able to quickly discern fraudulent tickets as they're being scanned. Events utilizing these will be able to detect fraudulent tickets with a single scan.
- Credit over cash! When purchasing your tickets, use your [credit or debit card](#) when making your purchase. This not only cuts down on the potential shadiness of the exchange, but also gives you a chance at a refund.
- See something? Say something! If you are able to uncover the scam before your event, contact your bank to request a refund. You should also report the scam to the proper authorities, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation ([FBI](#))

As impressive as an Eras Tour concert might be, it is not worth getting scammed out of hundreds, or even thousands, of dollars. Be sure to protect yourself while you are looking for those tickets!