Headline: Air travelers in need beware

Deckhead: Scammers weaponize fake phone numbers

AAA is warning air travelers to use caution when seeking an airline’s phone number. A AAA Travel Advisor recently spoke about a scam targeting air travelers.

The scam specifically targets people who search for an airline’s phone number online because their flight has been canceled or delayed. The fake phone numbers lead callers to an unrelated third party that will ask for your reservation information and credit card number to pay for a “service fee” or price difference between flights.

In some cases, the “fees” are hundreds of dollars. AAA wants members to be aware of these types of scams to avoid falling victim and recommends:

* If your flight is delayed or canceled, and you are at the airport, speak with a gate agent in person or use the airline’s app.
* If you prefer to call the airline, use the toll-free number that appears on its website.
* An airline will not charge you for a canceled or delayed flight.
* Prior to a trip, download the airline’s app and save their toll-free number on your phone.
* To avoid these situations, work with a AAA Travel Advisor ahead of time and purchase travel insurance to cover incidental expenses like meals and lodging in the event of a cancelation.

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Cutline: STAY AWARE – Don’t let a delayed or canceled flight cloud your judgment. Scam artists are waiting to take advantage of your frustration. Image: Alina Rosanova. Adobe Stock.