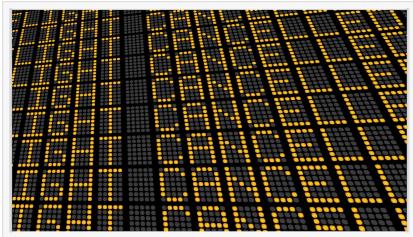


Mass flight cancellations heap even more misery on timeshare owners

Following two years of despair, timeshare owners are bracing for yet another summer of disappointment. Overbookings, bankrupt resorts, and flight cancellations

LONDON, OXFORDSHIRE, UK, July 19, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- During 2020 many holidaymakers plans were cancelled. With the majority of the holiday industry, refunds were given and alternatives offered. The timeshare industry instead decided to



Massive Flight cancellations

charge full fees, but offer extra accommodation the following year (whether it was convenient for their customers or not.) A spanner was thrown in the works when in 2022 resorts were closed again. Clients were once more charged in full with the promise of all the accommodation

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"New member sales have dropped off a cliff in Europe, because people today need to be able to book or change holiday plans at short notice."

Andew Cooper CEO of ECC

being rolled over again to 2022.

Cash grab

Experts pointed out that not only would all the extra holidays be impractical for most clients, but also resorts simply would not have the available inventory. The resorts' strategy was widely seen as a cash grab. They got paid in full, knowing they would be unlikely to ever provide the holidays.

Airport hell

COVID 19 has been described sardonically as 'the gift that keeps on giving'. During lockdowns, many airport staff found other jobs. Hotels are open for business, but airlines are unable to replace their staff in time to whisk guests to holiday destinations because of the security complexities of hiring airport workers. Without these workers, the flights can't take off, despite airlines frantically trying to fill staffing gaps right up to the last minute.

Cancellations

Thousands of outbound UK flights were cancelled in June with over 70% of these while holidaymakers were actually at the airport, often queueing at the check in desk.

Families who had arranged car hire, placed their pets in pet-care, and made all the arrangements necessary to go abroad suddenly get told "sorry, you are not going anywhere."



Huge volumes of flights are expected to be called off this summer, with EasyJet alone announcing that they will probably have to cancel over 10,000 flights.

Misery

Quite apart from the disappointment of looking forward to a well earned break, or explaining to your excited children that their holiday isn't not going to happen there also follows a scramble to prevent financial loss.

Travel insurance will cover some expenses, and maybe others like the car hire and pet care can be rescheduled for a later date.

<u>Timeshare owners</u> however, can expect neither a refund of their fees, nor the possibility of rescheduling when the cancellation is last minute.

Inflexible

Timeshare owners have to pay their annual fees in advance, and exchanging their week requires months, sometimes years of notice if they are to have any chance of getting the location and week that they want. If they want to cancel a booked week they have to give many weeks of notice in order not to lose the booking (and therefore money).

Certainly timeshare owners who cancel from an airport check in desk have no facility to bank or rebook that week for later. Their money is gone. If they want another holiday, they will have to pay for it.

Resort uncertainty

"Timeshare just isn't equipped to deal with the challenges facing the modern holidaymaker," explains Andrew Cooper, CEO of European Consumer Claims (ECC). "New member sales have

dropped off a cliff in Europe, because people today need to be able to book or change holiday plans at short notice. They don't want to be committed to paying every year a fee which is usually more than a regular holiday. Especially if they might not even be able to take that holiday.

"Timeshare resorts are closing down en masse, ceasing sales, and filing for bankruptcy and insolvency. Members are worried that their resort might not be operating from one year to the next."

What are my options?

<u>Timeshare owners who are looking for ways to escape the commitment</u> of their membership can contact our team at ECC for free, confidential advice.

Relinquishment is generally possible with expert help. In many cases unscrupulous timeshare resorts wrote illegal contracts in order to make more money. The members involved are legally entitled to compensation and the ECC team will be able to advise on this.

ECC provides timeshare claims services, expert advice and help E: (for media enquiries): mark.jobling@ecc-eu.com

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