# Fraud Claim - 230526CR015491

# Fraud Claim, Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys

# Parallel Fraud Claim, Luxury Tours France - 230413G1885B

Robert A. Leishear 205 Longleaf Court, Aiken, S.C., 29803 leiahear@aol.com 803-641-6753 Accounts ending in 6941 and 3022

# **Claim Summary:**

To simplify a complex fraud claim, Theirry Macalet, the owner of Luxury Tours France, has stolen \$4063.86 through a complex internet wire fraud, and he is working to steal another \$23,059.39 through fraudulent credit card invoices (230413G1885B). The Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys contracted with Thierry Macalet - not I - for my hotel stay for a Luxury Tours France tour. Thierry cheated the hotel of \$1018.68 when he refused to pay the hotel for my hotel stay. The hotel then cheated me out of this \$1018.68 to recover their losses. I was forced to pay both Thierry Macalet and the hotel for the same service, where I did not contract with the hotel in the first place. Accordingly, the hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys is owed \$1018.68 by Thierry Macalet - not I - and this \$1018.68 charge to my Bank of America credit card is therefore illegitimate.

# Fraud Background

I contracted with Luxury Tours France, sent them a wire transfer for \$6500 to pay for tour services and a hotel stay at the Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys from April 11-15, 2023, which cost \$1018.68. I even tried to contract directly with the hotel, but that request was refused over the phone.

Thierry Macalat, the owner of Luxury Tours France, fraudulently refused to pay the hotel invoice. I was forced to pay the hotel bill so that I had a place to stay while stranded in France with my wife.

The hotel manager informed my wife and I that the hotel had problems with Thierry's company once or twice a year, which would explain why the hotel charged the full amount of the hotel invoice to my credit card when I checked in. The hotel manager asked for my card to cover incidentals, and I was unaware until the fraud commenced that the hotel had already charged my credit card.

As some background to the Luxury tours France fraud, Thierry Macalet received a \$6500 payment 11 days before my wife and I arrived in France for a 4-1/2-day tour with Luxury Tours France. Two days into the tour, Thierry demanded another \$5000 in cash, threatened to have me arrested if I did not give that \$5000 in cash to him immediately, and then he cancelled my hotel stay, cancelled guide services, and cancelled transportation to the train station at the end of the trip so that my wife and I could leave France. As a follow-up, Thierry charged the trip to my credit card multiple times to the extent that he is currently defrauding my wife and I of \$27,123.25.

This Luxury Tours France fraud is fully documented in a parallel submittal (Bank of America, Fraud Complaint, 230413G1885B, 6/22/2023).

#### **Hotel Fraud**

Thierry Macalat contracted with the Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys, and Thierry Macalat defrauded the hotel as well as defrauding my wife and I. I am responsible to pay the hotel for Thierry's fraud against the hotel. The following documentation supports this claim. That is, I am responsible to pay for the same services

twice. When someone steals from you, you are not allowed to then steal from someone else to recover your losses, which is exactly what happened. Such actions constitute fraud and theft.

As stated in emails to the Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys, 'My wife and I are 'disgusted' with Thierry Macalet who threatened false imprisonment against me as a 71-year-old tourist, and then executed a massive fraud against my 73-year-old wife and I after such horrendous actions. Thierry Macalet's actions were despicable, and his horrific behavior continues to be a monstrous and ugly scar on the tourist industry of France.' 'More than \$27,000 is being stolen from me, I do not like to be robbed, and I am fighting theft.'

By supporting Thierry Macalet's fraud, the Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys becomes a contributor to that fraud. Responses to a Bank of America Questionnaire for this complaint, and an Op Ed that I wrote to document the scope of this fraud are also included below.

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# **Bank of America Questionnaire Responses**

Explain how the purchase was made: Luxury Tours France made all hotel arrangements, and informed me that I could not cancel the hotel, and I was not permitted to contract this hotel directly.

Explain how I calculated the disputed amount: The disputed amount is the full invoice for a four-night stay at the hotel (\$1018.68 as listed on Bank of America monthly statements for April 11-April 15, 2023).

Cancellation letter: There was no cancellation. We stayed at the hotel, but we paid Thierry Macalet to stay at the hotel, and Thierry contracted with the hotel - not I.

The name of the person you spoke with: Guillaume, Jouvin; Manager Hotel le Pavillon des Lys. This hotel was defrauded by Thierry Macalet, and I should not be forced to pay for Thierry's fraud again. I already paid Thierry Macalet for this hotel stay.

Pertinent emailsand wire transfer records, and an FBI internet crime complaint against Theirry Macalet and Luxury Tours France are attached below.

Table 1 that shows Theirry's five fraudulent claims for the same service

# OP ED: Visit France as a Tourist-Risk Fraud and False Imprisonment in Jail-Luxury Tours France and Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys

This Op Ed is currently in review by the editors of OpEdNews.com.

An international internet crime wave unfolds before us. The extent of this international crime wave is unknown. On a recent tour to the Loire Valley in France, my wife and I were defrauded of more than \$27,000, and I was threatened with false imprisonment in jail unless I immediately paid another \$5,000 in cash. The tour operator, Luxury Tours France, received advance payment, and then falsely claimed that payment was not received.



Figure 1. River Loire

#### **International Internet Fraud and Theft**

Then, a fraud and theft odyssey began. U.S. Laws are not enforced. Banks overlook fraud. And, thieves operate with impunity.

Per Merriam Webster, 'theft' is 'the act of stealing, specifically: the felonious taking and removing of personal property with intent to deprive the rightful owner of it.' The ongoing fraud by Luxury Tours France constitutes theft, of course. Anyone performing theft is a thief. 'Fraud' is 'deceit or trickery specifically: intentional perversion of truth in order to induce another to part with something of value or to surrender a legal right'.

Tens of thousands of additional dollars were charged to my credit card, and my bank agreed. I am now responsible for these criminal credit card charges for a partial tour that cost ~\$2,400. I am now responsible to pay these fraudulent charges to my credit card company. How can I be responsible to pay for money that was stolen from my wife and I?

#### National and International Frauds are Not Prosecuted

My bank accepted this fraud, and demanded payment. As this fraud proceeded, I was told by bank staff that nothing could be done, and legal actions would be my choice. After other phone calls and insistence, my bank finally agreed to reconsider this fraud claim, and the fraud continues. I will lose thousands of dollars to theft, but maybe I will not lose tens of thousands of dollars.

As this theft proceeded, I learned about the full scope of international wire fraud, and the inaction that allows these frauds to go unpunished.

#### A Fraud By Any Other Name is Still a Business Dispute?

If criminal enterprises tell banks that fraudulent claims are valid, banks do not consider those transactions to be Fraud Claims, and then the bank calls those transactions Business Disputes. Such a technique reduces the number of Fraud Claims on the records of banks.

## A Jail Threat in a Foreign Country

When I was threatened with jail, my wife was terrified. What would she do if her husband of 50+ years was thrown into a French jail under false arrest? The tour operator was threatening to put me in jail in a foreign country while on vacation, which is a terrible nightmare for a tourist just wanting to see French Chateaux'. My response to the tour operator was loud and vulgar, and ultimately he did not have me arrested. Being locked up abroad is one of the greatest fears that can be experienced by any traveler.

Imagine a couple in their 70s faced with the prospect of being stranded in France an ocean away from home, and not knowing if the police were going to swarm their hotel room at any moment. After these first 2 days of a 4-1/2-day tour, the tour operator also cancelled our hotel, guide service, and transportation to go home, where all expenses were completely paid 11 days before the tour for this high-price \$6500 tour.

#### Lies and Extortion

The tour operator has since been provided with bank records from Bank of America that his bank received the full payment of \$6500, yet he still falsely claims that he never received the money. Such actions are fraud. The definition of 'lie' is 'to present false information with the intention of deceiving.' Accordingly, Luxury Tours France staff lies, since they have the facts and state otherwise. They are liars and thieves.

Per Merriam Webster, 'extortion' is defined as 'the act or practice of extorting especially money or other property', and 'extort' is defined as 'to obtain from a person by force, intimidation, or undue or illegal power; also: to gain especially by ingenuity or compelling argument.' Since I was threatened with jail if I did not pay \$5,000, the definition of extortion fits the circumstances.

# **Credit Damage and Ongoing Theft**

My credit score dropped from near 800 to 523, which is now in the lower 9% of credit scores, per Experian. Almost \$10,000 is now due to my credit card company for fraudulent claims that remain on my monthly bank billing statement, and another \$13,000+ will be invoiced for payment shortly. Note that \$4000+ is already illegally held by Luxury Tours France.

# **Duplicate Hotel Payments - The Fraud Grew Bigger**

I paid the hotel in France (Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys) when my hotel was cancelled. However, I had no contract with this hotel. The tour operator contracted and defrauded that hotel - not I. I paid twice for the same hotel room - once to the tour operator and once to the hotel - and the hotel refuses to refund my money. Essentially, the tour operator is defrauding me of \$27,000+, and the hotel expects me to pay the money that the operator defrauded from the hotel. In my opinion, such actions constitute hotel complicity in this international internet fraud.

In spite of this fraud dispute with this hotel, hotel staff were exceptional in their efforts to help my wife and I respond to the tour wreckage left behind by Luxury Tours France.

#### The Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys Joins the Fraud

However, good service does not excuse fraud. The hotel was defrauded, and they passed that fraud along to my wife and I. When someone steals from you, you are not allowed to then steal from someone else to recover your losses, which is exactly what happened. Such actions are fraud and theft.

I attempted numerous times to allow the hotel to pay me the money that I was owed, but Luxury Tours France staff lied to the hotel, and again falsely claimed that they have never been paid. Luxury

Tours France has ensnared another company in their fraud, where both of these companies are located in the same small town of Amboise, France. Luxury Tours France and the Hotel le Pavillon Des Lys are now jointly responsible for this continuing fraud.

#### The Frauds Exploded As My Bank Endorsed Multiple Frauds

At present, bank records indicate that, 'The merchant provided information confirming that [I] received the merchandise or service.' I did not order this tour five different times. Any such ridiculous claims that I wanted to pay for the same trip multiple times are blatant lies. According to the information presented here, the tour operator who is perpetrating these frauds is therefore a liar and a thief.

My bank has agreed to reconsider the tour operator fraud dispute, and my bank also agreed to consider a billing dispute for the hotel. This fraud continues.

More than \$27,000 is being stolen from me. I do not like to be robbed. And, I am fighting this theft by writing this Op Ed.

This complex internet fraud scheme indicates that there may be other fraud victims. Luxury Tours France will certainly get away with stealing thousands of dollars from me, but perhaps this Op Ed can save some future tourists from similar frauds by Luxury Tours France.

#### A Deplorable Attack on Tourists

Luxury Tours France threatened false imprisonment against me as a 71-year-old tourist, and then executed a massive fraud against my 73-year-old wife and I after such horrendous actions. Their actions were despicable, and their horrific behavior serves as a monstrous and ugly scar on the tourist industry of France.

#### The FBI Ignores Internet Frauds

As I tried to prosecute these criminal acts, the FBI advised me that sums of this amount are never investigated during internet wire frauds. The FBI has not contacted me about an internet fraud complaint that I filed for this crime. In other words, internet crime and computer hacking are not prosecuted in the U.S. unless the fraud magnitude is near \$100,000, which is good news for crooks.

Consider another fraud example. Years ago, my internet account was hacked, and the hacker sent emails to many of my contacts asking for money. The hacker claimed that my wife had been badly beaten in Europe, and that we had been robbed, and we needed money immediately. Friends and family called before sending money, and theft was averted. The FBI would not accept phone calls. The FBI website stated that there are so many computer crimes that I should not expect action by the FBI.

#### **An International Crime Wave**

One international internet crime and the despicable jail threats in a single French town are considered here. The facts are that the FBI does not prosecute internet theft or any internet crimes under \$100, 000. Banks report fraud claims as business claims if customers have agreed to pay crooks who have deceived those customers. Given that prosecutions do not go forward, and crimes are improperly catalogued by banks, the scope of this international crime wave is obscured from the public. We have no concept or understanding of the full scope of this international internet crime tsunami.

#### **Our Spring Vacation**

On the way home from the Loire Valley (Figure 1), we stayed in Amsterdam, and we visited nearby tulip farms (Figure 2) and Keukenhof Gardens (Figure 3). All in all, my wife and I had an extraordinary vacation in Europe. However, she said that she will never set foot in France again.

#### Addendum

Complete details of this fraud are available ("Luxury Tours France, Bank of America Fraud Complaint", and "Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys, Bank of America Billing Complaint, http://www.leishearengineeringllc.com/luxury-tours-france--fraud.html).

Luxury Tours France and the Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys were provided drafts of this Op Ed. Neither company responded.

Atout, The Tourist Development Agency of France, will be notified of this fraud, where the text of this Op Ed will be provided, along with a statement that:

Luxury Tours France committed an act of extreme fraud, and threatened false arrest of a U.S. tourist. The following Op Ed was published as a public service to travelers who may consider visiting France

Earlier, I asked Atout by email if I can report a criminal act by one of their members. Atout did not respond.

This Op Ed was proofread by my wife, Janet D. Leishear, she agrees with the content of this Op Ed, and she provided additional insights to elucidate the full scope of the crimes cited in this document.



Figure 2. Tulip farming in the Netherlands.



Figure 3. A river of flowers at Keukenhof Gardens, Lisse, Netherlands

# **Emails with the Hotel:**

From: leishear@aol.com

To: contact@pavillondeslys.com

Cc: thierry@riverloire.com, claire@riverloire.com, tiffany-boussard@laposte.com

# Hôtel Le Pavillon Des Lys - Internet Trip Review

On Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 09:44:00 PM EDT, Robert A Leishear, Ph.D, P.E., PMP <leishear@aol.com> wrote:

You asked what my maneuver is? There is no maneuver. More than \$27,000 is being stolen from me, I do not like to be robbed, and I am fighting theft.

Thank you.

Robert A. Leishear, PhD, PE, PMP

In a message dated 6/21/2023 9:03:57 PM Eastern Standard Time, leishear@aol.com writes: Also, you falsely claimed that 'Today you are asking us to reimburse you otherwise you will file a complaint against us on the internet and to your bank'. A complaint against you is already in process with my credit card company, and I am in the process of submitting internet complaints against your company. I was not offering you a choice. I was offering you an opportunity to respond to [a] serious fraud allegation before print. You have chosen to stand on the side of a massive fraud, alongside Thierry Macalet.

Thank you. Robert A. Leishear, PhD, PE, PMP

In a message dated 6/21/2023 5:27:23 PM Eastern Standard Time, leishear@aol.com writes:

Also, I sent you a copy of the bank receipt that proves that Thierry Macalet received his payment. I sent the money. His bank received the money. Claiming that he did not receive the money is absolutely false. Using the man who is committing this fraud as your reference furthers my claims. You are endorsing the man who is performing this \$27,000+ fraud, where he continues to defraud my credit card company for multiple claims for the same service that was not completed. Thierry defrauded both of us, and I should not pay for the money that Theirry defrauded from you.

Thank you.

In a message dated 6/21/2023 4:31:48 PM Eastern Standard Time, leishear@aol.com writes:

Perhaps you misunderstand. I paid Theirry Macalet, and he owes you the money. Since I had already paid Thierry Macalet, I did not pay your hotel instead of Thierry. I paid both of you. That is, I paid you again after being threatened with jail. I had no contract with you, and Thierry owes you this money. You may not have received double payment, but I paid twice for the same service. Paying twice for the same service only increases the scope of the fraud by Luxury Tours France. You need to collect the money from Thierry and pay me back now.

Your team made my stay very pleasant, but Thierry has brought you into his fraud scheme. You contracted with him, and put yourselves in this situation. Can you explain why you are not responsible since you had a contract with Thierry, and not me? If so, I can reconsider, but you made a mistake by contracting with Thierry, and this mistake is costing me money. Go get the money from Thierry. Thierry's actions have been despicable, and I am fighting against him. Unfortunately, Thierry defrauded you as well.

I also plan to submit the following draft Op Ed for publication on the internet. In the final copy, this Op Ed will reference Bank of America Fraud Reports for Luxury Tours France and the Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys. With these references, any readers can see the facts of this horrendous fraud and the jail threats accompanying this fraud.

#### Visit France as a Tourist and Risk Fraud and False Imprisonment in Jail

By Robert A. Leishear, PhD, PE, ASME Fellow (Page 1 of 1 pages)

On a recent tour to the Loire Valley in France, my wife and I were defrauded of more than \$27,000, and I was threatened with false imprisonment in jail unless I immediately paid another \$5,000 in cash. The tour operator, Luxury Tours France, received advance payment, and then falsely claimed that payment was not received. Then, the odyssey began. Tens of thousands of additional dollars were charged to my credit card, and my bank agreed that I am responsible for these criminal credit card charges for a \$2436 service.

When I was threatened with jail, my wife was terrified. What would she do if her husband of 50+ years was thrown into a French jail under false arrest? He was threatening to put me in jail in a foreign country while on vacation, which is a terrible nightmare for a tourist just wanting to see French Chateaux'. My response to the tour operator was loud and vulgar, and he backed down, and he did not have me arrested. Being locked up abroad is one of the greatest fears that can be experienced by any traveler.

Imagine a couple in their 70s faced with the prospect of being stranded in France, and not knowing if the police were going to swarm their hotel room. The tour operator also cancelled our hotel, guide service, and transportation to go home after 2 days of a 4-1/2 day tour, where all expenses were completely paid 11 days before the tour.

My credit score dropped from near 800 to 523, which is now in the lower 9% of credit scores, per Experian. More than \$10,000 is still due to my credit card company for fraudulent claims that remain on my billing statement. I paid the hotel in France (Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys) when my hotel was cancelled.

However, I had no contract with this hotel. The tour operator contracted and defrauded that hotel not I. I paid twice for the same hotel room - once to the tour operator and once to the hotel - and the hotel refuses to refund my money. Essentially, the tour operator is defrauding me of \$27,000+, and the hotel expects me to pay the money that the operator defrauded from the hotel. In my opinion such actions constitute hotel complicity in this international internet fraud.

My bank has agreed to reconsider the tour operator fraud dispute, and my bank also agreed to consider a billing dispute for the hotel. This fraud continues.

Thank you. Robert A. Leishear, PhD, PE, PMP

In a message dated 6/21/2023 1:10:01 PM Eastern Standard Time, contact@pavillondeslys.com writes:

To Robert A. Leishear,

For several weeks, you have been sending us messages asking us to reimburse you for the amount of your stay at the Pavillon des Lys. I have already answered you, and do not understand your insistence. I remind you that you agreed to pay this amount on site at the hotel instead of paying your travel agency. Which is unusual. I confirm to you for the last time that I have not received double payment as you insinuate, the agency which recommended us and which we know for its seriousness, confirms to me that it has not received any payment from you. So what is this maneuver?

Today you are asking us to reimburse you otherwise you will file a complaint against us on the internet and to your bank, this is not acceptable for me and my team who have tried to make your stay as pleasant as possible.

We will obviously defend the reputation of our establishment.

Guillaume Jouvin

Manager Hotel le Pavillon des Lys

9 rue d'Orange 37400 – AMBOISE - VAL DE LOIRE, Tel + 33 (0)2 47 30 01 01

Le 21/06/2023 à 17:39, Robert A Leishear, Ph.D, P.E., PMP a écrit :

I plan to submit the following draft trip review to the internet this week, where I am presently writing a detailed letter of complaint against your hotel for ongoing fraudulent charges. I will add other supporting information as required. Comments?

# 'The Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys Joins a \$27,123.25 Luxury Tours France Fraud'

'After numerous unanswered communications, the Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys has forced me to provide a detailed fraud complaint to my bank. [The hotel manager has since responded, and refuses to return payment.]

Luxury Tours France is in the process of defrauding my wife and I for current, outstanding claims \$29.559.39 for \$2436.14 in services = \$27,123.25 = Fraud. Luxury Tours France contracted with this hotel, and Luxury Tours France is therefore responsible for this payment. In the hotel lobby, Theirry Macalet, the owner of Luxury Tours France, threatened to have me jailed if I did not immediately pay him another \$5000 in cash, cancelled my hotel, cancelled guide services, and cancelled transportation to leave France.

This hotel allowed me to stay if I paid for this hotel service a second time. Given that my 73-year-old wife and I were stranded in France, I paid the money. The hotel was very helpful to find another guide service and arrange transportation. Hotel staff was terrific, and the hotel was extraordinary.

However, Thierry Macalet owes the money for this hotel invoice - not I. By the hotel's continuing refusal to obtain the required payment from Thierry Macalet, and the hotel's continued insistence that they keep my duplicate payment, this hotel becomes complicit in this fraud.'

In an invoice that I sent yesterday to Luxury Tours France, I provided proof that Thierry received full payment of \$6500 that exceeded the cost of services and hotel invoice. My credit card company was falsely informed that Thierry proved that I owe him an additional \$23,059.39, in addition to the \$6500 that he has already received. Thierry's fraudulent actions must be illegal, and your ongoing actions support his fraud.

The attached table (Table 1) shows the extent of his ongoing fraud, where he is presently charging my bank four additional payments over and above the already paid invoice.

Thank you. Robert A. Leishear, PhD, PE, PMP

**Table 1: Luxury Tours France: Fraudulent Charges** 

Charges by Luxury Tours France (Riverloire - Loire Valley Day Tours)	
All payments were made through Bank of America.	Charges
Cornerstone Community Federal Credit Union, New York, New York, 3/31/2023, Wire Transfer	\$6,500.00
The Photo Shoppe, New York, New York, 3/25/2023, Credit card	\$6,566.39
The Photo Shoppe, Monterrey, Mexico, 3/26/2023, Credit card	\$6,566.39
The Photo Shoppe, Monterrey, Mexico, 3/26/2023, Foreign transaction fee	\$99.51
Telcol, Monterrey, Mexico, 4/10/2023, Credit card	\$6,551.40
Telcol, Monterrey, Mexico, 4/11/2023, Credit card	\$3,275.70
Total Charges by Luxury Tours France	\$29,559.39
Services Rendered by Luxury Tours France	
Tour Invoice	\$6,500.00
Hotel Le Pavillon Des Lys cost	\$1,018.68
Guide services = \$6500 - \$1018.68	\$5,481.32
Luxury Tours France, April 11-12, 2023, Invoice for 2 of 4-1/2 days = (5481.32)*(2/4.5)	\$2,436.14
Fraudulent Charges by Luxury Tours France = \$29,559.39 - 2436.14	\$27,123.25

## **Ongoing Hotel Billing Dispute**

In a message dated 5/26/2023 4:20:35 PM Eastern Standard Time, leishear@aol.com writes:

I filed a billing dispute with my credit card company today for this hotel stay. While your staff was extraordinary, I do not believe that I should [not] pay for the same service twice. I paid Thierry Macalat of Luxury Tours France to stay at your hotel, and I also paid your hotel. Theirry Macalat defrauded you of money, and I do not believe that I should [not] be held accountable for a fraud against your hotel.

He defrauded me of several thousand dollars in addition to this hotel fee, and he continues to try to defraud me of tens of thousands of dollars for this same trip that he cancelled after two of five days. Disputes against him through my credit card company are in process. I paid Luxury Tours France \$6500 for a tour in France, which included a stay at your hotel. He received a wire transfer for \$6500. He then charged my credit card six times for this same service, and he continues to attempt to receive more than \$27,000 \$35,000 for this trip that cost \$6500. He also threatened to have me jailed if I did not pay him another \$5000 in cash when I spoke with him in your hotel lobby.

I believe that your staff has been completely honest in these transactions, but the end result is that I am being asked to pay twice for the same service. This hotel stay was arranged through Luxury Tours France - not I. Thierry Macalat cheated you - not I - and he should pay you with the money that he received in full payment for this hotel stay.

If you cancel my payment for this hotel stay, I will halt further actions toward your hotel. I believe that my request is justified.

Thank you. Robert A. Leishear, PhD, PE, PMP

On Friday, May 5, 2023 at 09:44:10 AM EDT, Robert A Leishear, Ph.D, P.E., PMP < leishear@aol.com>wrote:

Also, I sent the following email to Luxury Tours France. I doubt that they will pay anyone.

"I have reported your criminal actions to the US FBI, the US Federal Trade Commission, the Hôtel Le Pavillon des Lys, the Amboise Police, travel websites, and your company website. Various versions of the following email were sent to these contacts.

#### **Defrauded and Abandoned by Luxury Tours France**

I was recently defrauded by Luxury Tours France when I stayed at Hôtel Le Pavillon des Lys in Amboise. Luxury Tours was paid \$6500 by wire transfer for a 4-1/2-day vacation to the Loire Valley for my wife and I. After we arrived in France, the tour operator demanded an additional \$5000 payment, and threatened to have me jailed if I did not pay immediately. When I refused to pay, he cancelled our trip, and we were forced to immediately make our own hotel arrangements, tour arrangements, and travel arrangements. His collection company demanded another \$9000 immediately from my credit card company after we arrived home in the US, and he filed more than \$35,000 in false charges, which have been denied by my bank after I filed fraud complaints. I also filed a criminal complaint with the FBI, Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) for the criminal actions of this tour company."

Thank you.

Robert A. Leishear, PhD, PE, PMP

On Friday, May 5, 2023 at 09:22:57 AM EDT, Robert A Leishear, Ph.D, P.E., PMP < leishear@aol.com>wrote:

I think that your staff was excellent in the way that they handled this situation. However, your contract was with Luxury Tours France, and they cheated you out of money - not I. You should get the money from them, and I should not be the person to pay for their fraud of your company.

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

On Thursday, May 4, 2023, 3:07 AM, HOTEL LE PAVILLON DES LYS <contact@pavillondeslys.com> wrote:

Dear Mr Leishear.

I acknowledge receipt of your message.

I confirm that I have received only one payment for your stay at the hotel, yours here at the hotel.

You obviously had a problem with your travel agent, which we also saw on the spot, a serious agency in Amboise with which many hotels are used to working and which, to my knowledge, is also renowned for its serious.

You have indeed agreed to settle the bill for your room on the spot by resolving the problems you had with your travel agency, and we thank you for that.

However, I do not accept that you associate our establishment in the terms you use, with your commercial dispute with your agency.

Hotel that we have been running for 10 years, renowned for its service and seriousness, having welcomed 42 nationalities in 2022.

However, I will do my best to reconnect with your agency and try to understand and move your situation forward.

Sincerely yours,

M. Guillaume Jouvin - Directeur 9 rue d'Orange 37400 – AMBOISE - VAL DE LOIRE Tel + 33 (0)2 47 30 01 01 contact@pavillondeslys.com www.pavillondeslys.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/HotelPavillondesLys/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/hotel\_pavillon\_des\_lys/

Le 03/05/2023 à 20:00, Hôtel Le Pavillon des Lys a écrit :

Contact depuis le site internet Hôtel Le Pavillon des Lys [https://www.pavillondeslys.com/en/]

Nom: Leishear Robert E-mail: leishear@aol.com Téléphone: 8036416753

Sujet : Fraud Message :

Dear Sirs; I was recently defrauded of thousands of dollars, where this fraud involved your hotel. That is, you were recently involved in criminal fraud by Luxury Tours France, who contracted your hotel for a

tour of the Loire valley by my wife and I. They received full payment for this tour, which included payment for a stay at your hotel from April 11-15. I agreed to pay the hotel bill when the tour operator lied to me, and stated that he did not receive any payment. My bank has since confirmed that he accepted full payment. The tour operator also demanded that I pay an additional \$5000 when he spoke to me at your hotel, and he threatened to have me jailed if I did not pay. Although I appreciate that your staff allowed us to stay at your hotel in the midst of this crime, I do not believe that I should [not] pay twice for the same service.

Thank you. Robert A. Leishear, PhD

# **Wire Transfer Receipts**

This payment was confirmed by Bank of America, and according to Bank of America staff this wire transfer was non-refundable since the money had been withdrawn from the account. The bank account information for the wire transfer was provided by Luxury Tours France staff. Copies of the Bank of America wire transfer and the Bank of America wire transfer trace follow.

BANK OF AMERICA

P.O. Box 15284 Wilmington, DE 19850

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A WIRE TRANSFER ADVICE PA6-580-04-05 1 FLEET WAY 18507 SCRANTON, PA

ROBERT A LEISHEAR REVOCABLE TRUST DATED 10/19/2012 205 LONGLEAF CT AIKEN SC 29803-5767

DATE: 03/31/23 DIRECT INQUIRIES TO: 800.729.9473 OPTION 2 ACCOUNT: XXXXXXXX5016

THE FOLLOWING WIRE WAS CREDITED TODAY:

2023033100597354 TRANSACTION REF: 20230331QMGFT004001199 IMAD:

ORIGINATOR: SENDING BANK:

SRP FED CREDIT UNION BENEFICIARY: ROBERT A LEISHEAR REVOCABLE TRUST

ROBERT A LEISHEAR

PAYMENT DETAIL: TRAVEL EXPENSE R A LEISHEAR

THE FOLLOWING WIRE WAS DEBITED TODAY:

TRANSACTION REF: 2023033100650125 RELATED REF: DMRNSFN3N

ORIGINATOR: ROBERT A LEISHEAR REVOCABLE TRUST#D INSTRUCTING BANK: BCC BRIAN CEROKY

BENEFICIARY: BENEFICIARY'S BANK: CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY FCU RECEIVING BANK: ALLOYA CORPORATE FEDERAL CREDIT UN

PAYMENT DETAIL: POP Services USD AMOUNT \$6,500.00

USD AMOUNT \$6,500.00

SERVICE REF: 034043

SERVICE REF: 001199

ID: XXXXXX0003

ID: XXXXXXXX5016

ID: 253278090

IMAD: 20230331B6B7HU4R034043

ID: XXXXXXXX5016 ID: UGQT ID: 232752501 ID: 222381293

ID: 221381715



#### **Funds Transfer Request Authorization**

<b>Customer Information</b>				
Name: Phone:	ROBERT A LEISHEAR REVOCABLE TRUST (803)641-6753	Address:	205 LONGLEAF CT AIKEN SC 29803-5767 US	
Account Information				
Account: PER_5016 Account Title: ROBERT A LEISHEAR REVOCABLE TRUST DATED 10/19/2012 ROBERT A LEISHEAR TRTEE				
Requester Name: Wire Information		Automotive to the second		
	DOLLEGES		22.22.22.2	
Wire Type: Country: Currency of Recipient Source: ID Verification/Type:	Account: USD IN PERSON U.S. DRIVER'S LICENSE (WITH OR WITH	Wire Date: Wire Amount (USD):	03/31/2023 6,500.00	
ID Verification/Type:	BANK OF AMERICA DEBIT CARD, ATM CAR	Wire Fee:	30.00	
Recipient Information		STATE OF STREET		
Recipient Name: BRIAN CEROKY		Bank Name:	CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION	
Account Number Type Account Number: Address:	e:ACCOUNT NUMBER 232752501 LOCKPORT NEW YORK 14095 US	Bank ID: Address:	222381293 6485 S TRANSIT RD LOCKPORT NY 14095 US	
Information about payment: Purpose of Payment: Additional Reference Information:	SERVICES	Additional Phone Advice Additional Bank Instructions:	e.	
Customer Approval				
transfer of funds is subj transfer. I accept the co sole discretion. You may Transfer Agreement for the currency of the rece process. If you chose to provide exchange rate in	be able to get a better exchange rate if you handle to further information regarding our exchange rates. For living account (denoted under 'Currency of Recipient A send USD rather than the foreign currency of the rec	pages of this form) and a e the wire is sent. Exchang his transaction online inst r a Consumer Internationa Account') so that we may of eiving account, we will ho ired disclosures, you must	pplicable fees. If this is a foreign currency wire ge rates are determined by Bank of America, N.A. in ou ead of in the financial center. Please see the Funds il wire: We rely on you, the customer, to inform us of disclose the exchange rate for conversion in the wire nor your choice, however, we will not be able to remain in the financial center until we provide you the	

Not Applicable (check box if no signature verification is required)	Signature Card (check box if signature care was reviewed)	Business Resolution (check box if business resolution was reviewed)	Posted Check# (reference PRO for date guidelin (complete field below)		sception Granted st place their initials or signature in box below)
			Check #	Exception	Reason
		For Bank Use	Only: Financial Center Int	formation	
Financial Center Name	AREN N	ALL		Date:	March 31, 2023
Company #/Cost Center #: 00005 7030600			Phone #:	803-989-7496	
Initiating Associate Name:	ing Associate Name. JONES, DAVID		Remittance ID #:	DMRNSFN3N	

# **Luxury Tours France, Tour Contract**

----Original Message-----

From: Claire Riverloire <claire@riverloire.com>

To: Robert A Leishear, Ph.D, P.E., PMP < leishear@aol.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 20, 2023 10:17 am

Subject: Re: The Loire Valley with RiverLoire

Dear Robert,

I hope you are doing well and you had a nice weekend.

I have now designed a suggested 5 days / 4 nights Private Loire Valley tour that you will find attached. An itinerary which I believe will give you a great insight of what the Loire Valley has to offer as its best: fine gastronomy, rich history, authenticity and charm!

This itinerary is fully chauffeured and guided with a private English-speaking guide, including of course periods of free time. On the first day, I am suggesting to pick you up directly at the CDG airport and stop at the magnificent Chateau de Versailles, with our private guide (*subject to availability as the tickets of Versailles must be pre-booked in advance*).

Note that regarding the accommodation, I have selected the *4 Star Manor Hotel, Le Pavillon des Lys*, located right in the heart of the Royal little town of Amboise. Please kindly let me known if you want me to put an option for you, this is a Deluxe bedroom available at your time of travel.

Robert, I hope this suggested program will suit both of you but please do not hesitate to give me your feedback.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and be sure that we will do everything possible to make your stay in the Loire Valley, a memorable experience!

Kind regards, Claire

> Claire Branscombe Responsable Produits/Product Manager Agent de Voyages/Travel Advisor 26 Rue de la Concorde 37400 AMBOISE Tél: +33(0)2 47 50 64 42

www.riverloire.com www.luxurytoursfrance.com www.riverloire-events.com

#### **Contract Emails:**

In a message dated 3/21/2023 10:10:09 AM Eastern Standard Time, claire@riverloire.com writes:

Bonjour Robert,

Thank you for your email. Regarding the train on Saturday April 15th, there is a direct train departing at 02:54pm from St Pierre des Corps and it takes about 1h40.

To answer your question, Normandy region is a 3-hour drive from Loire valley which means 6 hours of transfers on a day tour basis, so pretty tiring for a day.

I have put an option on a charming Deluxe bedroom at the 4 Star Manor hotel, le Pavillon des lys, as the month of April is coming soon and is already getting very busy.

I allow myself to prepare a booking form with the RiverLoire Terms and Conditions, attached to this email. Please fill it in and send it back to us signed, should you wish to confirm your booking.

As per our payment terms, a deposit of 30 % is due to confirm the booking and the balance has to be paid 35 days before the start of the tour. However, as we are within those 35 days, would you mind settling the total amount in one go?

For safety of the payment transaction, our bank strongly recommends payments over  $3\,000\,\mathrm{C}$  to be processed by bank transfer rather than online credit card, and I'm joining here below the bank details of RiverLoire for the payment.

Beneficiary Details	Bank Details
Name: RiverLoire Sarl	Name: Société Générale
Address: 3 impasse de la Bergeronnerie	Branch address: 3 boulevard Heurteloup
37270 Saint Martin le Beau, FRANCE	37000 Tours, FRANCE
	<i>Bank code</i> : 30003
	Branch code: 02130
	Account Number: 00020867563
	Sort code: 53
	IBAN: FR76 3000 3021 3000 0208 6756 353
	BIC : SOGEFRPP

I look forward to meeting you in our beautiful region and do not hesitate to contact me if you do have any further questions or requests!

Kind regards

Claire

Claire Branscombe

Responsable Produits/Product Manager

Le 21/03/2023 à 03:03, Robert A Leishear, Ph.D, P.E., PMP a écrit :

We like this itinerary, but do not know when to book flights from Paris on Saturday, since I am unfamiliar with train travel at the moment. How long will it take to get to the CDG airport by train on Saturday. That is, what time should I schedule a flight to Amsterdam? Non-stop flights in the morning of April 11 are selling out quick. there were only 4 tickets left tonight.

Any chance of a day at Normandy? I will look at this tonight, since I will be in meetings for another 8 hours today. Looks good so far, but I need to look closer. Prices included - I did not look yet.

Thank you.

Robert A. Leishear, PhD, PE, PMP

----Original Message-----

From: Claire Riverloire <claire@riverloire.com>

To: Robert A Leishear, Ph.D, P.E., PMP < leishear@aol.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 20, 2023 10:17 am

Subject: Re: The Loire Valley with RiverLoire

Dear Robert,

I hope you are doing well and you had a nice weekend.

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This itinerary is fully chauffeured and guided with a private English-speaking guide, including of course periods of free time. On the first day, I am suggesting to pick you up directly at the CDG airport and stop at the magnificent Chateau de Versailles, with our private guide (*subject to availability as the tickets of Versailles must be pre-booked in advance*).

Note that regarding the accommodation, I have selected the 4 Star Manor Hotel, Le Pavillon des Lys, located right in the heart of the Royal little town of Amboise. Please kindly let me known if you want me to put an option for you, this is a Deluxe bedroom available at your time of travel.

Robert, I hope this suggested program will suit both of you but please do not hesitate to give me your feedback.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and be sure that we will do everything possible to make your stay in the Loire Valley, a memorable experience!

Kind regards,

Claire

Claire Branscombe

Le 17/03/2023 à 17:07, Robert A Leishear, Ph.D, P.E., PMP a écrit : Looks like We can probably get into Degaulle by 9:20 in the morning.

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

On Friday, March 17, 2023, 11:58 AM, Robert A Leishear, Ph.D, P.E., PMP <leishear@aol.com> wrote: I have not picked the arrival and departure times, since I do not yet know what options you offer. I have only picked the arrival and departure dates, where we have scheduled events April10 and April 16 in London and Amsterdam, respectively. I may or may not be able to respond to your emails before next Friday, since I will be traveling on business next week.

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

On Friday, March 17, 2023, 11:38 AM, Claire Riverloire <claire@riverloire.com> wrote: Dear Robert.

Do you have any idea of your arrival and departure times? Thus, I will know if I can include a private transfer from or to Paris as well as the visit of Versailles on the way.

I will send you a bespoke program on Monday,

Wish you a lovely weekend,

Claire

Le 16/03/2023 à 21:52, Robert A Leishear, Ph.D, P.E., PMP a écrit :

Can you combine trip with the Palace of Versailles? Let me know, and I can consider how long to stay in the Loire Valley

Thank you.

Robert A. Leishear, PhD, PE, PMP

----Original Message-----

From: Claire Riverloire <claire@riverloire.com>

To: Robert <leishear@aol.com> Sent: Thu, Mar 16, 2023 10:08 am

Subject: Re: The Loire Valley with RiverLoire

Dear Robert,

I would like to thank you for your interest in the Loire Valley and for contacting us regarding your travel plans in our beautiful region.

To start with, I would like to emphasize the fact that we, in RiverLoire, only organize private and personalized tours, as we believe this is the best way to discover the region.

As such, we will be pleased to organize a private tour for you from April 11th to April 15th. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any specific requests and point of interests. The Loire Valley is renowned for its castles, gardens, gastronomy,... If you wish a mix of the best of the Loire Valley (except wines) that is fine as well.

Also, please kindly advise in which kind of accommodation you would like to stay (we highly recommend Manor Hotel, Chateau Hotel or Luxury guesthouse, not more expensive than "chain hotel" but much more typical of our region). For the place to stay, I'm suggesting Amboise, the cradle of the Renaissance. Amboise is not only a beautiful little Royal town, but also the true centre of the Loire Valley. Thus, all the transportation to the main attractions will be quick and easy!

Many thanks in advance for your feedback. Looking forward to hearing from you, and rest assured, Robert, we will do our best to organize for the both of you a beautiful stay in the Loire Valley!

Kind regards,

Claire

Claire Branscombe

Le 14/03/2023 à 21:20, Robert via RiverLoire a écrit :

Name: Robert Surname: Leishear Email: leishear@aol.com Telephone: 8036416753 Country: United States Number of participants: 2

Arrival Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 Departure Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023

Your request: My wife and I are considering a few days in France from April 11 to 15 - arrive from London on April 11 and depart to Amsterdam on April

15. We are interested in the Loire Valley and the Palace of Versailles. We are not interested in wine tasting at all. What options are available through your company? Thank you. Bob Leishear, leishear@aol.com

#### Sans virus.www.avast.com

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Claire Branscombe Responsable Produits/Product Manager Agent de Voyages/Travel Advisor 26 Rue de la Concorde 37400 AMBOISE

Tél: +33(0)2 47 50 64 42 www.riverloire.com www.luxurytoursfrance.com www.riverloire-events.com

# **FBI Criminal Complaint:**

https://complaint.ic3.gov/#

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# **Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)**

Victim Information

Name:

Robert Leishear

Are you reporting on behalf of a business?

No

**Business Name:** 

Is the incident currently impacting business

operations?

Age: Address:

205 Longleaf Court Address (continued):

Suite/Apt./Mail Stop:

City: Aiken County: SC

Country:

United States of America

State:

South Carolina Zip Code/Route:

29803

Phone Number: 1118036416753 Email Address: leishear@aol.com

Business IT POC, if applicable: Leishear Engineering, LLC

Other Business POC, if applicable:

Financial Transaction(s) Transaction Type: WireTransfer

If other, please specify: Transaction Amount:

6500.00

Transaction Date:

3/31/2023

Was the money sent?

Yes

Victim Bank Name: Bank of America Victim Bank Address:

Aiken

Victim Bank Address (continued):

150 Aiken Mall Drive

Victim Bank Suite/Mail Stop:

Victim Bank City:

Aiken

Victim Bank Country: United States of America Victim Bank State:

South Carolina

Victim Bank Zip Code/Route:

29803

Victim Name on Account:

Robert A Leishear Revocable Trust

Victim Account Number:

Recipient Bank Name:

Cornerstone Community Federal Credit Union

Recipient Bank Address: 6485 S Transit Rd

Recipient Bank Address (continued): Recipient Bank Suite/Mail Stop:

Recipient Bank City:

Lockport

Recipient Bank Country: United States of America Recipient Bank State:

New York

Recipient Bank Zip Code/Route:

14095

Recipient Name on Account:

Brian Ceroky

Recipient Bank Routing Number:

222381293

Recipient Account Number:

232752501

Recipient Bank SWIFT Code:

## **Description of Incident**

Provide a description of the incident and how you were victimized. Provide information not captured elsewhere in this complaint form.

Luxury Tours, France (https://www.luxury-tours-france.com) was contracted to supply tourist services for my wife and I in Loire Valley, France. They were contracted to provide limousine service from De Gaulle International Airport, tour guide services from April 11-15, and transportation to a train for our return to the airport.

They defrauded us of more than \$4000, and tried to defraud us of much more than \$10,000. They claimed that they had problems processing our credit card payment, and requested that we send a wire transfer payment. We wire-transferred \$6500, which was the agreed contract price. Bank of America later confirmed that Luxury Tours withdrew the transferred funds to a bank specified by Luxury Tours staff, Claire Branscombe.

When we were in the Loire Valley at our hotel, a representative of Luxury Tours, Thierry Micalet, visited the hotel, stated that I did not pay, and that he would have me arrested if I did not take him to a bank, immediately give him an additional \$5,000. He cancelled our trip after two of four and half days, and he has kept the \$6500 payment. I was informed that such a transaction over \$1000 is also illegal in France.

His collection agency then demanded that I pay them \$9000, and that I should insist that my Bank of America release the funds to expedite the fraud claim. Bank of America agreed that such an action should not be taken. Bank of America has since honored more than \$35,000 in fraudulent claims against my credit card. I sent the following email to Thierry Micalet (thierry@riverloire.com), and cc'ed Claire Branscombe (claire@riversloire.com) and Tiffany Boussard (tiffany-boussard@laposte.com), who was our tour guide, and who we left a 200-euro tip for her two days of service.

Thierry did not respond to the following emails.

- 1) Again, do you plan to keep the \$6500 that you accepted on my behalf through a New York bank account wire transfer that your company specified even though you certainly did not earn this full payment? I agree that we owe money for two out of four and half days, but we lost more than half a day fixing problems created by your cancellation of our trip, even though you had been paid. Also, more than \$35,000 in charges plus transaction fees have been cancelled by my credit card bank for payments to your company, even though your credit representative sent an email demanding that I pay \$9,000 immediately to help resolve these credit card claims. Additionally, your demands for \$5,000 cash in Amboise, your cancellation of our trip, your statement that Claire's emails did not come from her on Sundays, our payment for hotel costs in Amboise, hiring another guide, and your threats to have me arrested in France for nonpayment were certainly unfounded.
- 2) Although payment was previously confirmed by you, and your company has illegally broken our contract, we will provide appropriate payments for services rendered [less than \$2400 of the paid \$6500]. I cancelled the payment that was previously paid by my bank to your company. I informed my bank that your company fraudulently charged the disputed amount, reported this payment as fraud, and cancelled this credit card. I owe you this money, and you will be paid. If a check will not work, I will send money via Western Union when we get home, since cash is required for a money order, and I cannot access this much cash in Europe. Again, if you had not delayed informing us of this problem between Monday and late Thursday when we flew to Europe, I could have easily sent a Western Union payment before we left for Europe. In other words, I complied with every request that you made, I was informed that payment was made, and I flew to Europe with this understanding. You also stated that you "cannot and will not cancel" this trip as I was preparing to leave for Paris from London. Also, Tiffany certainly deserves a tip for her extraordinary services. How can I pay her? [Again, we left a tip at the hotel].

#### **Information About The Subject(s) Who Victimized You**

Name: Business Name: Thierry Micalet Luxury Tours France

	7. 6.1.5
Address:	Zip Code/Route:
26 rue de la Concorde	29803
Address (continued):	Phone Number:
Suite/Apt./Mail Stop:	Email Address:
City:	thierry@riverloire.com
37400 Amboise Loire Valley	Website:
Country:	https://www.luxury-tours-france.com
France	IP Address:
State:	
Other Information	
If an email was used in this incident, please provide a	copy of the entire email including full email
headers.	-
On Monday, May 1, 2023, 11:39 AM, Robert A Leish	ear, Ph.D, P.E., PMP < leishear@aol.com > wrote:
Again, do you plan to keep the \$6500 that you accepte	ed on my behalf through a New York bank account
wire transfer that your company specified even though	you certainly did not earn this full payment? I
agree that we owe money for two out of four and half	days, but we lost more than half a day fixing
problems created by your cancellation of our trip, even	n though you had been paid. Also, more than
\$35,000 in charges plus transaction fees have been car	
company, even though your credit representative sent	an email demanding that I pay \$9,000 immediately
to help resolve these credit card claims. Additionally,	
cancellation of our trip, your statement that Claire's en	•
payment for hotel costs in Amboise, hiring another gu	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
for nonpayment were certainly unfounded. [Other ema	
Are there any other witnesses or victims to	
Janet D. Leishear	
If you have reported this incident to other law enforces	ment or government agencies, please provide the
name, phone number, email, date reported, report num	
The FBI in Columbia, South Carolina referred t me to	
resolve this issue.	and the p

# Check here if this an update to a previously filed complaint: $\Box$ Who Filed the Complaint

Were you the victim in the incident described above? Yes

# **Digital Signature**

By digitally signing this document, I affirm that the information I provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that providing false information could make me subject to fine, imprisonment, or both. (Title 18, U.S.Code, Section 1001)

Digital Signature: Robert A. Leishear, PhD, PE, ASME Fellow

Thank you. Your complaint was submitted to the IC3. Please save or print a copy of your complaint before closing this window.