

THOMSON AND FIRST CHOICE SHOPS OFFER HOLIDAYMAKERS 'REDUNDANCY COVER' AS EXPERTS PREDICT A FURTHER 250,000 JOB LOSSES IN 2010

Submitted by: TUI UK

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With unemployment figures set to break the three-million barrier this year, the UK's leading holiday companies offers a redundancy-proof money back guarantee exclusive to Thomson (<http://www.thomson.co.uk>) and First Choice (<http://www.firstchoice.co.uk>) Retail.

On 29th December 2009, the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD) warned in its Annual Barometer Forecast that there would be further job losses this year as the effects of the recession, heightened inflation and increased VAT bite. The organisation, which represents many of the country's human resources professionals, suggested that a slower than expected recovery could threaten to raise peak unemployment to at least three-million by the summer.

Thomson (<http://www.thomson.co.uk>) and First Choice (<http://www.firstchoice.co.uk>), whose holidays are financially protected under the Government backed ATOL scheme, are only too aware that in a world of economic uncertainty, customers will think twice before committing their money to a Summer holiday. However, with less capacity in the market and some fantastic holiday deals available for summer 2010, it is never the less the right time to snap up a bargain.

Therefore, the holiday companies have come together to offer Redundancy Protection on all holidays booked in their retail shops up to and including 28th February 2010, which will offer peace of mind to any customer looking to book a Thomson or First Choice package holiday (<http://www.thomson.co.uk>) this year. In what is traditionally the busiest month for holiday bookings, customers who want to make the most of the many early booking offers available can do so, knowing that if they lose their job and can no longer afford the holiday, their money will be refunded without penalty.

The offer is valid on all bookings for Thomson and First Choice branded summer 2010 package holidays (<http://www.firstchoice.co.uk>) made in Thomson or First Choice Shops nationwide up until 28th February 2010 for holidays departing between 1st May 2010 and 30th April 2011. When claiming a refund, customers need to show proof of two years employment and that it has been terminated. Those claiming will be entitled to a refund of their deposit and of the final balance up to one month before departure.

Among the fantastic holidays currently on offer are:

5T Sensatori Resort, Tenerife - Thomson

Thomson offers seven night holidays in Tenerife (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/destinations/europe/spain/tenerife/holidays-tenerife.html>) staying at the 5T Sensatori Resort (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/destinations/europe/spain/tenerife/guia-de-isora/hotels/sensatori-tenerife.html>), Tenerife with prices starting from £719 per person, based on two people sharing, staying on a full board plus basis, departing 7th May 2010 from London Gatwick Airport. For more information or to book this holiday, visit your local Thomson shop.

5 Sun Holiday Village Rhodes – First Choice

First Choice offers seven nights all-inclusive at the 5 Sun Holiday Village Rhodes (<http://www.firstchoice.co.uk/holidays/rhodes-holidays/kolymbia/holiday-village-rhodes>) from £959 per adult, £279 for the first child and £419 for the second, based on two adults and two children sharing, departing on the 22nd May 2010 from London Gatwick. For more information or to book this holiday, visit your local First Choice shop.

All holidays are subject to availability and booking terms and conditions. Prices include flights, fuel charge and air passenger duty and are correct at the date of issue.

- Ends –

NOTES TO EDITORS:

TERMS & CONDITIONS – Thomson Redundancy Protection

How Does The Scheme Work?

If you are made redundant after booking your trip and you let us know at least 28 days before your date of departure, then, subject to the terms and conditions set out below, we will allow you to cancel free of charge. This means that we will refund your deposit and/or the full balance of your holiday and will not charge you any further cancellation charges on your main holiday booking.

Who Can Qualify For The Scheme?

To qualify for the scheme, you must have been in full time employment with the same employer for a minimum of 2 years. The scheme is not applicable to anybody who is self-employed. You must not be under notice of redundancy when booking your holiday to qualify for this redundancy protection.

What Holiday Products Qualify For The Scheme?

The protection is only valid on new Thomson, First Choice, Skytours, Freestyle, 2wentys, Just, Thomson Cruises, Island Cruises, Thomson Airways flights, Thomson Villas & Pools, Simply and Falcon (Belfast departures only) bookings made between 24th December 2009 and 28th February 2010 and departing between 1st May 2010 and 30th April 2011.

It is not valid for any other product and therefore excludes accommodation only, Thomson Worldwide, Thomson Al Fresco, Thomson Lakes & Mountains, Thomson Ski, First Choice Ski, Hayes & Jarvis, Citalia, Sovereign, Meon, Jetsave, Crystal, American Holidays and other scheduled operator flights. The protection does not extend to foreign exchange, car hire, airport parking, travel insurance, additional accommodation or transportation and any other costs which you have paid or have agreed to pay under a contract and does not form part of your main holiday payment. This protection is not valid for anything booked with another tour operator or supplier.

How To Make A Claim

To make a claim you must notify us in writing and send in the required documentation within 7 days from being served your notice of redundancy. If you send us the required documentation outside of 7 days then we will not be able to process your claim. If you have a valid travel insurance policy, this protection will apply if you do not have redundancy cover within that policy. If your travel insurance policy does include redundancy cover, then you will need to make a claim from your travel insurance provider. Where a successful travel insurance claim has been made, TUI UK will reimburse any excess that the travel insurance company has deducted up to a maximum value of £75 per person. You will need to provide a copy of their claim settlement letter confirming the appropriate excess deductions.

To support a claim, we will need the following documentation:-

A copy of your travel insurance policy,

Travel agent / web receipt (e.g. invoices, travel tickets),

The original holiday booking confirmation with Thomson or First Choice qualifying brands above,

A letter from your employer to you confirming that your job role has become redundant and that you are entitled to a redundancy payment. Your dismissal must be by reason of redundancy as set out in s139 of the Employment Rights Act 1996,

Contact details from someone at your employer who will be able to confirm that you have been served with notice of redundancy.

If you have booked your holiday from a Thomson or First Choice Shop and you have questions regarding this protection or need to make a claim, you will need to return to the shop you have booked your holiday to begin the redundancy claim process. If you have booked your holiday with us direct via the telephone, you will need to contact the telephone number on the reverse of your documentation.