

Beware the Room Block Pirates



There's something arrrrfully shady happening on the hotel high seas. If no one is stationed in the crow's nest, you might not see them coming. By then it will be too late. Overnight, your ship's wheel will be taken over, and the next thing you know, you're sailing toward the Attrition Strait.

I'm talking about pirates. Specifically room block pirates.

Vanessa LaClair, CMP, wrote a great blog entry titled "Case of the Room Block Pirates" for the [Social Tables Blog](#), in which she offers a personal story of encountering pirates and how to fend them off with ease.

"Last week I was checking out the room block details for an event I plan to attend in July, when my phone rings," wrote LaClair, immediate past president of the [MPI Northeastern New York Chapter](#). "A representative (who I didn't know) from a company (I didn't recognize) was calling to tell me that the room block rate had been lowered and that they could get me all signed up—if I would just complete the form they planned to send me via email."

LaClair says she provided her email address so that she could check out who was calling her.

"Once I received the info, I passed along this story and the form to the people directly involved with planning the event," she wrote. "Come to find out, this so-called housing company that called me was actually a Room Block Pirate! Have you heard of this? I had seen stories floating around on Facebook recently, but this was the first I had ever been contacted by said Pirate."

Check out her [blog entry](#) for the full story, along with her thoughts on what to consider when booking room blocks. And please let us know in the comments if you've ever encountered room block pirates.

And while we're on the subject of "real" room blocks, be sure to check out the [registration page](#)

for the World Education Congress in Las Vegas. The rates at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino's Main Tower and THE Hotel at Mandalay Bay are now US\$150 and \$190, respectively.