

# Benefit cheat caught riding an elephant

A BENEFIT fraudster who said he was too sick to work has been jailed for 18 months after he was filmed riding an elephant while on a holiday in India.

Stephen Worton, 55, was caught out when investigators found photographs that showed him enjoying trips to Amsterdam, Turkey and Egypt during a 10-year benefit fraud deception.

Liverpool Crown Court heard yesterday that Worton, who was supposed to be destitute, owned a static caravan and a motor cruise boat moored at Lake Windermere and was earning around £60,000 a year as a builder for his own roofing company.

The fraud was exposed when police raided his home and found holiday albums featuring Worton in front of the Pyramids and the Sphinx in Egypt, riding a camel and a 4x4 buggy and washing an elephant on a beach in Goa.

Surveillance also showed



Worton was pictured riding an elephant on holiday in Goa

Worton, who arrived at court for his sentencing supported by two crutches, up a ladder supervising roofing work at his business, Aaron Roofing.

Worton was jailed for 18 months by Judge Graham Morrow QC, who told him: "This was a devious, cynical and brazen deception over many years.

"You ran a business and generated profit which provided an income [that] those legitimately on benefits could only dream of. Your nerve was breathtaking."