



# Be Your Own Travel Agent

## Using the Internet to Plan Your Next Trip

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#### Travel Blogs and Websites

*Expert traveler opinions and articles on current travel topics.*

New York Times Travel Page	<a href="http://travel.nytimes.com/">http://travel.nytimes.com/</a>
In Transit	<a href="http://intransit.blogs.nytimes.com/">http://intransit.blogs.nytimes.com/</a>
Frugal Traveler	<a href="http://frugaltraveler.blogs.nytimes.com/">http://frugaltraveler.blogs.nytimes.com/</a>
Wall Street Journal Travel Page	<a href="http://online.wsj.com/public/page/news-travel-vacation.html">http://online.wsj.com/public/page/news-travel-vacation.html</a>
The Middle Seat Terminal	<a href="http://blogs.wsj.com/middleseat/">http://blogs.wsj.com/middleseat/</a>

#### Travel Guide Sites

*Help to select destinations, plan activities and choose accommodation options.*

Trip Advisor	<a href="http://www.tripadvisor.com/">http://www.tripadvisor.com/</a> - View destination guides and traveler opinions.
Fodor's	<a href="http://www.fodors.com/">http://www.fodors.com/</a> - Online version of popular guide.
Frommer's	<a href="http://www.frommers.com/">http://www.frommers.com/</a> - Can download and print sections of popular guidebooks.
Lonely Planet	<a href="http://www.lonelyplanet.com/us">http://www.lonelyplanet.com/us</a> - Guide for the adventurous traveler.
Moon Guides	<a href="http://www.moon.com/">http://www.moon.com/</a> - Guide for the adventurous traveler.
Rick Steves	<a href="http://www.ricksteves.com/home.htm">http://www.ricksteves.com/home.htm</a> - Features European travel, excellent tips.

#### Metasearching Sites

*Search across multiple sites for low prices. Southwest Airlines is not included in these searches.*

Expedia	<a href="http://www.expedia.com/">http://www.expedia.com/</a> - Owns a multitude of other sites.
Travelocity	<a href="http://www.travelocity.com/">http://www.travelocity.com/</a>
Orbitz	<a href="http://www.orbitz.com/">http://www.orbitz.com/</a>
ITA Software	<a href="http://www.itasoftware.com/">http://www.itasoftware.com/</a> - Software other metasearching sites use. Not a booking site.
Kayak.com	<a href="http://www.kayak.com/">http://www.kayak.com/</a> - Not a booking site. Can create alert for fare changes.
Fly.com	<a href="http://www.fly.com/">http://www.fly.com/</a> - Not a booking site. Only checks airfares.
Bing Travel	<a href="http://www.bing.com/travel/">http://www.bing.com/travel/</a> - Includes fare predictor.
Yapta.com	<a href="http://www.yapta.com/">http://www.yapta.com/</a> - Tracks prices after you purchase, notifies you of fare drop.
Hipmunk.com	<a href="http://www.hipmunk.com/">http://www.hipmunk.com/</a> - Easy to use interface for flight searches.

#### More Tools for Flying

SeatGuru.com	<a href="http://www.seatguru.com/">http://www.seatguru.com/</a> - Airplane seat information.
FlightStats	<a href="http://www.flightstats.com/go/Home/home.do">http://www.flightstats.com/go/Home/home.do</a> - Flight tracking and airport information.
FlightArrivals.com	<a href="http://www.flightarrivals.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Flights">http://www.flightarrivals.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Flights</a> - Flight tracking plus seat information.

#### Additional Hotel Booking Sites and Tools

Priceline	<a href="http://www.priceline.com/">http://www.priceline.com/</a> - Name your own price for the flexible traveler.
Hotwire	<a href="http://www.hotwire.com/">http://www.hotwire.com/</a> - Name your own price for the flexible traveler.
Bidontravel.com	<a href="http://www.bidontravel.com/">http://www.bidontravel.com/</a> - Bidding strategies for successful use of Priceline and Hotwire.
Hotels.com	<a href="http://www.hotels.com/">http://www.hotels.com/</a> - Easy to use hotel booking site.
Room 77	<a href="http://www.room77.com/">http://www.room77.com/</a> - Personalized hotel room recommendations.

#### Local Travel Deals

*Find a deal at your destination. Must subscribe to participate.*

Yipit.com	<a href="http://yipit.com/">http://yipit.com/</a> - Daily deals in many cities. Searches other daily deal sites for discounts.
Dealery	<a href="http://dealery.com">http://dealery.com</a> - Daily deals in many cities. Searches other daily deal sites for discounts.
TravelZoo	<a href="http://www.travelzoo.com/">http://www.travelzoo.com/</a> - Travel entertainment & local deals. Recommends deals they can confirm.
The Dealmap	<a href="http://www.thedealmap.com/">http://www.thedealmap.com/</a> - Local deals, coupons and discounts on a map.

## **Restaurant Review and Reservation Sites**

*Find restaurants and reviews by locals at your destination. Or make reservations.*

Yelp <http://www.yelp.com/locations/> - Restaurant review site.  
Chow <http://www.chow.com/restaurants/regions> - Restaurant review site.  
Metromix [http://www.metromix.com/pick\\_your\\_city](http://www.metromix.com/pick_your_city) - Restaurant review site.  
Open Table <http://www.opentable.com/> - Make restaurant reservations at selected restaurants.  
Urban Spoon <http://www.urbanspoon.com/choose> - Restaurant review site.

## **Special Interest Sites**

CruiseCritic.com <http://www.cruisecritic.com/> - What travelers are saying about ships and cruises.  
National Park Service <http://www.nps.gov/index.htm> - Plan a National Park visit.  
Google Maps <http://maps.google.com/> - Map routes for driving, public transit, hiking, & biking.  
TripIt <http://www.tripit.com/> - Create a master itinerary using your e-mail confirmations.  
Explore Chicago <http://www.explorechicago.org/city/en.html> - Chicago neighborhood and event information.

## **Government Sites**

Department of State <http://www.state.gov/travel/> - Passport & visa information, travel warnings.  
Students Abroad <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/html-site/StudentAbroadHome.html> - Student advice.  
TSA <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/customer/index.shtm> - Air travel security rules.  
Traveler's Health <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/> - Health information & vaccinations for destination.