

Be Your Own Travel Agent



Travel Blogs and Websites - *Expert traveler opinions and articles on current travel topics.*

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

Travel Guide Sites - *Help to select destinations, plan activities and choose accommodation options.*

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

Luxury Travel

Luxurylink	http://www.luxurylink.com - Bid on resort stays and packaged luxury vacations at discounted rates
Jetsetter	http://www.jetsetter.com - High-end travel at great rates, exotic offerings

Budget Travel

Budgettravel	http://www.budgettravel.com - Busy, interactive social media connected site with great deals and links
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Major Travel Booking Sites - *Search across multiple sites for low prices. Southwest Airlines is not included in these searches.*

Travelocity	http://www.travelocity.com/ - Includes info plus booking ability, user reviews
Expedia	http://www.expedia.com/ - Owns a multitude of other sites.
Orbitz	http://www.orbitz.com/ - Does not include Southwest or American Airlines
Kayak	http://www.kayak.com/ - Well-known consolidator to compare airfares
Hipmunk	http://www.hipmunk.com/ - Easy to use interface for flight searches.

Flights

MSN Travel <http://www.bing.com/travel/>
ITA Software <http://www.itasoftware.com/> - Searches across sites. Not a booking site.
Fly.com <http://www.fly.com/> - Not a booking site. Only checks airlines.
WhichBudget.com <http://whichbudget.com> -Inexpensive overseas flight plan using local, budget Airlines

More Tools for Flying

Flatseats <http://flatseats.com> -Access first and business class flights, more than 60 airlines
SeatGuru <http://www.seatguru.com/> - Airplane seat information.
FlightStats <http://www.flightstats.com/go/Home/home.do> -Flight tracking and airport information.
Airwise <http://www.airwise.com> - Information on stores, terminals, restaurants and ground transportation, 67 airports

Track Prices

Yapta.com <http://www.yapta.com/> - Tracks prices after you purchase, notifies you of fare drop.

Fly vs. Drive

Be Frugal fly vs drive calculator <http://www.befrugal.com/tools/fly-or-drive-calculator/> - Calculates cost of travel by plane or car depending on your destination and number of travelers as well as other info [If the link doesn't work, go to <http://www.befrugal.com/> and put in fly or drive calculator in the search box. If there is a message saying "unsupported browser," click on "continue to site and do a search"]

Rental Cars

Autoslash <http://www.autoslash.com/> - Lock in lowest rental car rates

Accommodation – Hotels

Booking.com <http://www.booking.com/> - Includes smaller hotels. Good European coverage.
Hotels.com <http://www.hotels.com/> - Easy to use hotel booking site.

Bidding Sites

Priceline <http://www.priceline.com/> - Name your own price for the flexible traveler.
Hotwire <http://www.hotwire.com/> - Name your own price for the flexible traveler.
Bidontravel.com <http://www.bidontravel.com/> - Bidding strategies for successful use of Priceline and Hotwire

Alternative Accommodations

Vrbo <http://www.vrbo.com/> Vacation rental by owner
Airbnb <https://www.airbnb.com/> Community marketplace offering rooms to rent from over 34,000 people in 192 countries
Tripping <http://www.tripping.com/> Search engine for vacation rentals. Also includes community where you can meet up with locals for cultural exchange.
Homeaway <http://www.homeaway.com/> - Over 1 million listings of vacation properties
Parkervillas <http://www.parkervillas.com/> - Italian vacation villas. Certified villas, homes and apartments for vacation rental

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://chowhound.chow.com/> - Restaurant review site.

Urban Spoon <https://www.zomato.com/> - Restaurant review site.

Open Table <http://www.opentable.com/> - Make restaurant reservations at selected restaurants.

Helpful social media sites

Travelpod <http://www.travelpod.com/> - Travel blog website that has info on printing your blog as a book, linked with Facebook

Trippy <http://www.trippy.com/> - Interactive social media travel site for sharing travel tips with friends, family or other people with similar travel interests

Virtualtourist <http://www.virtualtourist.com/> - Travel advice from "people behind the places"

Couchsurfing <https://www.couchsurfing.org/> - Global network that allows you to meet locals, share information, stay in local homes

Road Scholar <http://www.roadscholar.org/> - Educational travel for seniors (previously known as Elderhostel)

Planning and Organizing

Tripit <https://www.tripit.com/> - Travel organizer that consolidates all your travel information

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.

Government Sites

Department of State <http://www.state.gov/travel/> - Passport & visa information, travel warnings.

Students Abroad <http://travel.state.gov/content/studentsabroad/en.html> - Student advice.

TSA <https://www.tsa.gov/> - Air travel security rules.

Traveler's Health <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/> - Health information & vaccinations for destination.

Skokielibrary.info.

Your library's website is an excellent resource for books, DVDs, audiobooks, and e-books. We also have thousands of items about travel and tourism around the world. From Frommer's and Fodor's travel guides to travelogues like *Eat, Pray, Love*.

In addition, there are free language learning resources available from the library's website. Check out Mango Languages (which includes a downloadable app) and Rosetta Stone (only level 1).