

Using the Internet to Book Travel and Plan Vacations

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Internet Travel Trends

- Travel booking engines and search engines continue to improve
- Most people use the internet for research but book their vacations (tours and cruises) with a Travel or Cruise Consultant.
- Good travel bargains aren't necessarily the lowest priced travel product (hotel, cruise, tour)
- Good travel bargains ARE vacations that meet or exceed your expectations and match your budget
- The cheapest hotel, cruise, or tour isn't necessarily the best deal.
- Determine what is most important, decide a realistic budget range and time period.
- Use the internet to research and compare prices. Be sure to compare "apples to apples" (same room type, room location, taxes/service fees included or not) Book your vacation flights, hotels, tours and cruises at reliable websites and/or with a knowledgeable Travel or Cruise Consultant.

Travel Search and Booking Engines (flights, hotels, cars, cruises, destination information)

www.kayak.com "Search with us, book with them" Engine searches many sources; when you select the option that you want, click on the link that takes you to the booking website.

<http://travel.yahoo.com> Very complete includes variety of tools, destination info, Message Board, create your own trip with Trip Planner, photo sharing (flickr), and more

www.orbitz.com Very good travel tools

www.expedia.com Corporate travel reservations and Cruise Critic

www.travelocity.com Very good travel tools. Reserve rail, tour packages, last minute deals & activities.

www.cheaptickets.com An old site (since 1986). Complete and works well.

Cruise Information

www.cruising.org CLIA, Cruise Lines International Association, "The official site of the cruise industry". Cruise line and ship profiles, cruise news, planning your cruise suggestions.

www.cruisecritic.com Travelocity's cruise critic has opinions and suggestions for booking online

www.cruise411.com and www.cruisesonly.com Sample booking engines with cruise information

Accommodations

www.bedandbreakfast.com Sample site for B & Bs

www.Hotelbook.com Official booking site of independent hotels. Very easy to use, also has travel guides.

Destination and travel information

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html CIA World Factbook

www.frommers.com Very detailed and complete. "How to get there", destination info, hotels, restaurants, attractions, nightlife, shopping, suggested itineraries, cruises, "Tips & tools", Message Boards, GREAT maps Frommer books. Also a booking engine.

www.fodors.com Fodors has a very wide variety of travel topics and bulletin board areas. Under Destinations tab you will find mini-travel guides. Fodors books available here.

www.lonelyplanet.com and www.roughguides.com Earthy destination information. Books available here.

www.tripadvisor.com "Unbiased views of hotels, resorts and vacations" Destination info, many photos of hotels and destinations, travel Forums on many topics, newsletter. Also a booking engine (Expedia).

Additional Information

www.geocities.com/thavery2000/ Airline Toll-Free phone numbers and airline websites

www.flightarrivals.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Flights Real-time flight arrival/departure & airport updates

www.state.gov/ Passport and Visa information