

PENNY PINCHING PAGES



PRICE COMPARISON SITES:

Nextag.com <http://www.nextag.com/>
Pricegrabber.com <http://www.pricegrabber.com/>
Shopping.com <http://www99.shopping.com/>
Yahoo! Shopping <http://shopping.yahoo.com/>

Finding the “best” price comparison search engine can be tricky. Each site uses its own formula to determine prices. Information about shipping and taxes may or may not be included. Some sites feature listings from “retail partners” or focus on certain kinds of products, such electronics. Searches sometimes include items related to what you’re searching for rather than (or in addition to) the actual item. For instance, a search for vacuum cleaners may also give you results for vacuum cleaner bags. The sites listed above are user-friendly and seem to consistently give the best prices.

COUPONS AND COUPON CODES

Coupons.com
<http://print.coupons.com/couponweb/Offers.aspx?pid=13306&zid=iq37&nid=10>
CouponCabin <http://www.couponcabin.com/>
CouponMom <http://www.couponmom.com/>
PromotionalCodes <http://promotionalcodes.com/>
RetailMeNot <http://www.retailmenot.com/>
SmartSource <http://coupons.smartsource.com//index.aspx?Link=5S2ZUA6PWPEPO>

Coupon websites offer coupons and promotional codes that help you when you shop online as well as providing printable coupons for food items, household products, toiletries, etc. In most cases, the coupons are free, though some ask you to complete a free registration form. Typically, you must download some kind of plug-in to be able to print the coupons. The sites have instructions to lead you through the process. Keep in mind that some retailers won’t accept Internet coupons and promotional codes don’t always work. On some sites, like RetailMeNot, users indicate whether a coupon code worked for them. Sites also offer extras like signing up to receive e-mail alerts when new codes are posted for your favorite retailer (RetailMeNot) or e-mail alerts for specific items (CouponMom). Several sites have discussion forums users can join.

Be sure to check out individual retailers' websites for deals. For instance, coupon codes sometimes provide free shipping, but you can often find that offered on a specific retailer's site.

AUTOMOBILES: ONLINE HELP

Autobytel <http://www.autobytel.com/>
CarBuyingTips <http://www.carbuyingtips.com/>
Cars.com <http://www.cars.com/>
CarsDirect <http://www.carsdirect.com/home>
Edmunds <http://www.edmunds.com/>
Kelly Blue Book <http://www.kbb.com/>
Trader Online <http://www.traderonline.com/>

Sites abound that will help you do online research before you buy a car; in fact, you can purchase a car online. You can find invoice prices, option prices, car comparisons, and much more on multiple sites.

TRAVEL SAVINGS

BestFares <http://bestfares.com/>
BiddingforTravel <http://biddingfortravel.yuku.com/>
CheapTickets <http://www.cheaptickets.com/>
Cruise.Com <http://cruise.com/>
Expedia <http://www.expedia.com/default.asp>
FareCompare <http://www.farecompare.com/>
Hotwire <http://www.hotwire.com/>
Kayak <http://www.kayak.com/>
Orbitz <http://www.orbitz.com/>
Priceline <http://www.priceline.com/>
Travelocity <http://travelocity.com/>

There are many, many sites to help you find travel deals on airline tickets, lodging, cruises, and car rentals. Some of the sites above have unique features. For instance, the "Buzz" feature on Kayak helps you generate ideas for a vacation destination based on criteria you provide. Kayak also allows users to sign-up for daily e-mail alerts to track fares to specific destinations. Priceline is best known for its "Name Your Own Price" feature. Before bidding on Priceline, take a look at BiddingforTravel to find out what bids have and have not been accepted recently. Hotwire seems especially well-known for hotel deals. FareCompare collects daily pricing information from more than 500 airlines worldwide. It includes information from Southwest Airlines, whose fares and schedules are not included on other websites such as Expedia. FareCompare also sends e-mail alerts to users and

provides statistics on which month is the cheapest (or most expensive) to fly between certain cities. It is also a good idea to look at specific airline and hotel websites for deals.

LOCAL SAVINGS

Movie savings: Kerasotes Theatre Five Buck Club <https://www.fivebuckclub.net/>

Retail stores: Sign-up for e-mail notices, newsletters, etc. and receive discount coupons: Borders <http://www.borders.com/online/store/Email?catalogId=10001>; Michaels <https://www.michaels.com/art/online/registrationForm>;

Restaurant deals: Red Robin e-club <http://apps.fishbowl.com/a/redrobin/eclub/agegate.aspx>

Variety of local coupons: Riverbender.com <http://www.riverbender.com/coupons/local.cfm>

These are just some examples of places that offer coupons and other incentives. If there are stores or restaurants you frequent, check out their website and see what you can find.

BUYING AND SELLING

Craigslist <http://www.craigslist.org/about/sites>

This site is essentially classified ads for more than 550 cities worldwide. Select your city and you'll find items for sale/trade, job, housing, and personal ads, and more. Check out the Fact Sheet for more details about Craigslist.

eBay <http://www.ebay.com/>

Ebay is one of the ultimate shopping and online auction websites. It may or may not be a site to visit if you're trying to pinch pennies!

BUDGET ASSISTANCE

CNN Money http://cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/budget101/budget_101.jsp

Kiplinger Magazine <http://www.kiplinger.com/tools/budget/>

Living a Better Life <http://www.betterbudgeting.com/budgetformsfree.htm>

There are a variety of sites with information about the importance of tracking where you spend your money and having a realistic budget. The sites above all provide worksheets to help you accomplish that.

