



# Travel Resources on the Web

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## RESEARCHING YOUR DESTINATION

### **Desert USA** (<http://www.desertusa.com/>)

This monthly Internet-based magazine is devoted to providing information about virtually any topic related to North American deserts. There are stories, pictures, virtual reality tours, movie and audio clips, and much factual information about desert animals, plants, cultural and natural history, recreation opportunities, parks, and travel.

### **Europe for Visitors** (<http://europeforvisitors.com/>)

Travel Europe with "nearly 5,000 pages of articles, photos and links." There are country and city guides, information on accommodations and transportation, and practical advice on topics such as insurance, money, packing, smoking, travel with pets, and contact information for European national tourist offices.

### **Fodors.com** (<http://fodors.com/>)

This travel publisher's web site delivers an abundance of information for most, if not all, of your travel needs. Their destination overviews include sights and activities, hotels, restaurants, nightlife, the arts, shopping, itineraries, and smart travel tips. Additional travel resources include feature articles, tipping guides, language aids, photography tips, and travel talk forums where users post questions and share opinions.

### **Lonely Planet** (<http://lonelyplanet.com/>)

This online companion to Lonely Planet's travel guidebooks lets you explore destinations around the world including some exotic and out-of-the-ordinary places. You can subscribe to a free monthly e-newsletter, *Comet*, participate in *Thorn Tree*, a discussion forum for travelers, and check out travel classifieds. Visit the *Bluelist* portion of the website to find out what travel experiences and destinations are recommended by fellow travelers and Lonely Planet staff. The site also features *Haystack*, which allows you to book reviewed and recommended accommodations online.

### **Mobil Travel Guide** (<http://www.mobiltravelguide.com/mtg/>)

The online version of these popular travel guides contains information on lodging, restaurants, and attractions across the United States and Canada.

### **ParkNet: The National Park Service** (<http://www.nps.gov/>)

The official site of the U.S. National Park Service offers a listing of all National Park properties with a direct link to each park's web site. You'll find all of the information you need to visit any one of the parks, along with links to other relevant sites.

### **Rough Guides** (<http://www.roughguides.com/>)

Visit this site for more worldwide country and city travel information from another well-known publisher of travel guides. You can choose your destination and read content from the relevant print Rough Guide. In most cases, you can click on "Basics" off to the side and get a list of additional topics (i.e., accommodation, eating and drinking, getting around) with more information and links to other sites.

## **ShawGuides (<http://www.shawguides.com/>)**

If you're interested in combining travel and education check out this site. ShawGuides offers free online access to a database of more than 5,800 "career and recreational cooking schools, wine courses, golf & tennis schools & camps, high performance programs, writers conferences, photography, film & video workshops & schools, art & craft workshops, language vacations, cultural travel programs, and artists' and writers' residencies & retreats."

## **Specialty Travel Index (<http://www.spectrav.com/>)**

This site offers tour and contact information for over 500 adventure tour operators around the world. Tours run the gamut from penguin viewing in the Arctic to covered wagon trips in Wyoming. You can search by destination and activity.

## **Trip Connect (<http://www.tripconnect.com/tripconnect/>)**

Trip Connect is an online service that allows users to get travel advice and reviews from fellow travelers. The site can be searched by destination or hotel name. An added bonus are digital photos that some travelers post with their reviews. If you wish to post a review, you need to sign up for a free membership to the site.

## **WHO'S TRAVELING?**

### **Kids--**

#### **Travel for Kids (<http://www.travelforkids.com/>)**

Explore cities around the world that are enjoyable to visit with kids. Discover fun things to do, interesting food to try, stores to shop for souvenirs, and good kids' books to read about the cities you visit. *Travel Essentials* will tell you about packing (including traveling with stuffed animals!), medicine, safety issues, and much more.

#### **Travel with Kids (<http://travelwithkids.about.com/>)**

Here's another site with ideas for traveling with kids. There are family vacation ideas, money-saving deals, travel games you can print off, and articles and links for more information on specific destinations.

### **Seniors--**

#### **Elderhostel (<http://www.elderhostel.org/>)**

Elderhostel offers short-term learning experiences in more than 90 countries for individuals 55 and over. Visit this web site to learn about the extraordinary variety of programs they offer. Elderhostel fees are all inclusive, and the organization prides itself on offering "high quality learning experiences at remarkable value."

#### **Travel Tips for Older Americans**

#### **([http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures\\_1226.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1226.html))**

The U.S. State Department offers important advice for seniors traveling abroad. There's information on passports, visas, health, safety precautions, money and valuables, and prohibited souvenirs.

### **Students--**

#### **Students Abroad.com (<http://www.studentabroad.com/>)**

Lots of ideas for the student traveler—party places, concerts abroad, cyber café locations, budget air, bus, car and rail information, study abroad, and more.

## **Travelers with Disabilities--**

### **Access-Able Travel Source (<http://www.access-able.com/>)**

This site is an information source "dedicated to aiding travelers with disabilities and the mature traveler." There are links to destination information, travel agents, cruise ships, organizations, and travel tips for the disabled traveler.

### **World on Wheels: Accessible Travel Information**

#### **(<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/6295/>)**

Travelers using wheelchairs will find reports from site editors and other travelers on a destination's accessibility. There are reports from places in the United States, Canada, Mexico, England, France, Iran, India, and Australia.

## **HOW ARE YOU GETTING THERE?**

### **Planes--**

#### **Air Travel Consumer Report**

##### **(<http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/reports/index.htm>)**

This monthly report from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation provides statistics on flight delays, mishandled baggage, overbookings, and consumer complaints.

#### **Airlines of the Web (<http://flyaow.com/>)**

Use this site to access links to 500 scheduled airlines around the world. Users can also book travel here through various travel companies.

#### **Airwise Airport Guide (<http://www.airwise.com/airports/index.html>)**

There's lots of useful information here about airports around the world. Find out about transportation to and from the airport, parking, car rental facilities, terminal information, and much more.

#### **Expedia (<http://www.expedia.com/>)**

Expedia is an online travel service for checking and booking flights, accommodations, car rentals, cruises, and vacation packages. A variety of travel deals are featured.

#### **FlightArrivals.com (<http://www.flightarrivals.com/>)**

Find the current status of any flight operating to/from/within the United States. You can search by airline and flight number, by city/airport in a 2-hour period, by airline/airport in a 6-hour period, and by airline with departure and arrival airports in a 16 hour period. You can also check airport status, which gives information on general delays and weather conditions at 71 U.S. airports.

#### **Kayak (<http://www.kayak.com/>)**

Kayak is a travel search engine that searches hundreds of other travel websites in real time looking for the best travel deals. You can sign up to receive free fare alerts via e-mail.

#### **Orbitz (<http://www.orbitz.com/>)**

Orbitz searches for the lowest airfares available for your itinerary, as well as offering deals on hotels, car rentals, cruises, and vacation packages. Free registration is only required at the point you make a reservation. "Orbitz' inventory now includes more than 400 airlines, more than 65,000 lodging properties worldwide, and 13 rental car brands."

## **Travelocity.com (<http://travelocity.com/>)**

You can use this site to check airfares and schedules, make airline and train reservations, and book hotel rooms, cruises, and rental cars. There are destination guides with information from Frommer's guidebooks, as well as travelers' reviews of hotels and cruise ships. The site offers a variety of money-saving deals.

## **Trains—**

### **Amtrak (<http://amtrak.com/>)**

This is the website for U.S. passenger rail travel. You can check schedules and fares, make reservations, search savings and promotions, get baggage policies, and research destinations.

### **Railpass.com (<http://www.railpass.com/>)**

A comprehensive source for European rail information. Various ticket plans are described along with prices and any special promotions. There is some schedule information available online and you receive a free Eurail timetable if you order a Pass online, but for complete scheduling information you'll need to check printed schedules such as the *Thomas Cook European Timetables*.

## **Cars—**

### **America's Byways: National Scenic Byways Online (<http://www.byways.org/>)**

If you're interested in finding the most scenic road trips in America, check out this site. You can search by state or road name to find interesting and beautiful roads to travel. There's an overview of each byway along with photos, maps and directions, places to visit, information about lodging, camping, food, gas stations, etc., and links to related sites. Check out the free map offer, too!

### **Mapquest (<http://www.mapquest.com/>)**

Use this site to get driving directions in North American and Europe. You can generate maps by address, by city, by zip code or by airport. Mapquest no longer offers a road trip planner.

### **Rand McNally (<http://www.randmcnally.com/>)**

This site allows you to get driving directions in the U.S., find a map, and plan a road trip. The road trip planner includes such useful features as things to do, places to stay, and a list of road construction projects in the U.S. and Canada that may affect your trip. Some maps on this site are available only with a paid Road Explorer membership.

### **Road Trip USA (<http://www.roadtripusa.com/>)**

This online version of the book with the same name lets you **choose route numbers or names "to access driving tours across more than 35,000 miles of classic blacktop."** Learn **about the towns and attractions (some very unique) along the way.**

## **Buses—**

### **Greyhound (<http://www.greyhound.com/>)**

Visit Greyhound's virtual bus terminal to get fare and schedule information, information on special discounts, route maps, on-board information, links to Greyhound Canada and Greyhound Mexico, and more.

## **Boats—**

### **Cruise Web (<http://cruiseweb.com/>)**

Cruise Web is an official travel agency for the cruise industry. You can get lots of information about cruise lines, individual ship descriptions, photos and itineraries, port descriptions, price quotes, etc. Once you've selected your trip, you can book it online.

## **WHERE ARE YOU STAYING?**

### **BedandBreakfast.com (<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/>)**

Search this worldwide listing of bed and breakfasts, historic hotels, small resorts and inns. Information includes address, phone number, photograph, and amenities. The site also includes recipes, hot deals, and message boards for reviews.

### **Lodging Guide World Wide (<http://www.lgww.com/>)**

Billing itself as the "ultimate guide to lodging and accommodations," this comprehensive site allows you to search for hotels, motels, resorts, bed and breakfasts, and other lodgings worldwide. Search by city, postal code, and amenities.

## **BARGAIN TRAVEL: CAN YOU SAVE SOME MONEY?**

### **Budget Travel (<http://budgettravel.about.com/>)**

This site has useful tips for budget travelers and links to the latest discount travel offers.

### **Best Fares Online (<http://www.bestfares.com/>)**

Check here for bargain airfares; the deals don't last long (some are only available to subscribers). There's a nice travel resource area that includes features such as ATMs worldwide, sites to check for travel scams, etc.

### **Hostelling International USA (<http://www.hiayh.org/>)**

This organization is the largest network of hostels in the U.S. Their site offers help planning your trip, links to other resources, and information about specific hostels including address and contact information, available facilities, prices, and nearby attractions. Hostels can be searched by location, and there's a link to Hostelling International (<http://www.hihostels.com/>) for hostels overseas.

### **Hostels.com (<http://www.hostels.com/>)**

Visit this very thorough site for information on hostelling, a Worldwide Hostel Directory, first hand travel tales, a message board for hostellers, and links to many other sites.

### **Let's Go Travel Guides (<http://www.letsgo.com/>)**

Well-traveled students research and write these guides for anyone with an eye to frugal travel. You can explore destinations around the world, get ideas for alternative travel opportunities, post and read comments from other travelers.

### **Priceline (<http://www.priceline.com/>)**

Name your own price for airline tickets, hotel rooms, cruises, vacations, and rental cars, and then see if your bid will be accepted.

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

**Foreign Languages for Travelers** (<http://travlang.com/languages/>)

Get help with commonly used words and phrases for shopping and dining, directions, times and dates, and numbers in more than 80 languages.

**Travel Warnings** (<http://travel.state.gov/>)

The U.S. Department of States lists any travel warnings by country that may affect the safety and security of travelers.

**Travelers' Health** (<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm>)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provide vaccination requirements, food and water precautions, information on disease outbreaks and health issues in specific countries, cruise ship inspection reports, and much more valuable assistance at this site.

**Universal Currency Converter** (<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>)

The Universal Currency Converter "allows you to perform interactive foreign exchange rate calculations...using live, up-to-the-minute currency rates."

**Universal Packing List** (<http://upl.codeq.info/index.jsp>)

"Generate a custom packing list for any journey." You'll also get reminders for things to do at home before you leave.

**Yahoo! Weather** (<http://weather.yahoo.com/>)

Get weather reports and forecasts from around the world.

