

Be Your Own Travel Agent



Travel Blogs and Websites

Expert tips, articles, photographs, and insider guides. Mark these tabs on your web browser!

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/>

Fathom: Way to Go

<http://fathomaway.com/> - Travel site w/focus upon inspiring stories, listicles, videos, consolidated guides, and more

Fresh Off the Grid

<http://freshoffthegrid.com/travel/> - For enthusiasts seeking experienced knowledge on navigating the great outdoors (U.S. focus)

Travel Guide Sites

Figure out where to stay, and get inspiration on how locals live and work.

Carnets de Traverse

<http://www.carnets-de-traverse.com/blog/articles> - More ideas on what to see, do, and experience, plus tips on getting the perfect photo while doing so! (in French, so use the "translate" button by right clicking)

Fodor's

<http://www.fodors.com/> - Online version of popular guide

Frommer's

<http://www.frommers.com/> - Download and print sections of popular guidebooks.

Lonely Planet

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/us> - A guide for adventurous travelers

Petite Passport

<http://petitepassport.com/guides/> - City guides for design minded travelers looking for the coolest spots

Scandinavia Standard

<http://www.scandinaviastandard.com/category/travel/> - What's what in Scandinavia so you don't miss out

Travelfish

<http://www.travelfish.org/> - An independent travel guide for Southeast Asia, with pre-trip info, things to see and do, and transport details

Trip Advisor

<http://www.tripadvisor.com/> - View destination guides and traveler opinions.

Luxury & Budget Travel

Whether you're living the high life, or planning to rough it, these sites will help you find your groove.

Budget Travel

<http://www.budgettravel.com> - Busy, interactive social media connected site with great deals and links

Jetsetter

<http://www.jetsetter.com> - High-end travel with exotic offerings

Lost with Purpose

<http://www.lostwithpurpose.com/> - Back country and dirt-cheap traveling from a backpacking duo curious about unexplored places

Major Travel & Flight Booking Sites

Search across multiple sites for low prices, and get to know airports before you arrive.

Airwise	http://www.airwise.com - Information on stores, terminals, restaurants, ground transport, covers 67 airports
Flatseats	http://www.flatseats.com/ - Access first & business class flights, 60+ airlines
Expedia	http://www.expedia.com/ - Owns a multitude of other sites.
FlightStats	http://www.flightstats.com/go/Home/home.do - Flight tracking and airport details
Hipmunk	http://www.hipmunk.com/ - Easy to use interface for flight searches.
Kayak	http://www.kayak.com/ - Well-known consolidator to compare airfares
Orbitz	http://www.orbitz.com/ - Does not include Southwest or American Airlines
SeatGuru	http://www.seatguru.com/ - Airplane seat information
Travelocity	http://www.travelocity.com/ - Book your flight + read user reviews

Accommodations, Rental Cars & More

Find your place among a wide array of options for staying at and traversing around your destination.

Airbnb	http://www.airbnb.com/ - Community marketplace offering rooms to rent from 34k people in 192 countries
Autoslash	http://www.autoslash.com/ - Lock in lowest rental car rates
Booking.com	http://www.booking.com/ - Includes smaller hotels w/European coverage
Homeaway	http://www.homeaway.com - Over 1 million listings for vacation properties
Hotels.com	http://www.hotels.com/ - Easy to use hotel booking site
Meraviglia	http://meravigliapaper.com/en/category/sleep/ - Guide focused upon western Europe
Mr. & Mrs. Smith	http://www.mrandmrsmith.com/ - Global luxury accommodations await you with this curated list of where to stay and what to see, with extensive customer service and booking support
Tripping	http://www.tripping.com/ - Search engine for vacation rentals, including community section for meeting locals and cultural exchange

Restaurant Reviews & Good Eats

Everybody eats, and these are a pick of some of the better options.

Chow	http://chowhound.chow.com/ - Restaurant review site
Culinary Backstreets	http://www.culinarybackstreets.com - Get to know the hidden local spots with this organization dedicated to small group food tours in cities all over.
Open Table	http://www.opentable.com - Make restaurant reservations at select spots.
Roads & Kingdoms	http://roadsandkingdoms.com/series/know-before-you-go/ - From the independent journal of food, politics, travel, and culture, their award-winning city travel guides are a must for places off the beaten path
This Is the Place	http://www.thisistheplaceiwastellingyouabout.com/new-page-1/ - NYC-based duo traversing the globe and documenting some of their fave munchies.

Eye-Candy, Go Explore

Sometimes, the best part of traveling is dreaming of all the places you could go.

Cereal	https://readcereal.com/category/travel/ - Gorgeous photos and essays from a U.K.-based travel & style magazine
Roam	http://roam-magazine.co/ - Image, text, and video illustrating the beauty found while traveling
Our Wild Abandon	http://ourwildabandon.com/journal/ - Life on the road with a couple, an old trailer, and all the things in their path, with lush images and stories to make you want to wander.

Planning, Organizing, Specializing

Here are some resources for plotting your travels and gaining insights on where to stay.

CruiseCritic.com	http://www.cruisecritic.com/ - What travelers are saying about ships & cruises.
Google Maps	http://maps.google.com/ - Map routes for driving, public transit, hiking, & biking
National Park Service	http://www.nps.gov/index.htm - Plan a National Park visit.
Tripit	http://www.tripit.com/ - Travel organizer that consolidates all your travel information

Official Things

Find out the official word on all things travel using these 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	http://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.

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.