

BOOKING TRAVEL ONLINE



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How do I find the best airfare deals online?



1. Book in advance.
2. Fly on a weekday.
3. Check multiple websites. Today's best deal may be found on one site one day, and another site the next.
4. Check sites often (but not for too long!), if booking far in advance.
5. Subscribe to email alerts, podcasts or RSS feeds.

How do I find the best hotel deals online?

1. Book in advance.
2. Read hotel reviews from online guides.
3. Read personal hotel reviews from other travelers.
4. Check prices on various search sites, including the hotel's site.



Popular Travel Guides Available Online

The following popular print travel guides can be found online. While the online content is an edited version of the print guide, the majority of the online guides below offer users the ability to write and read comments on hotels and destinations. The sites also generally offer email news, RSS feeds, etc.

The online guides typically offer guides for hotels, restaurants,

Fodor's Travel: <http://www.fodors.com>

Lonely Planet: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com>

Lonely Planet also offers a website for travel videos published by them or uploaded by users: <http://www.lonelyplanet.tv>

Time Out Travel: <http://www.timeout.com/travel>

Frommer's Travel Guides: <http://www.frommers.com>

Rough Guides: <http://www.roughguides.com>

Rick Steve's Europe: <http://www.ricksteves.com>

Eyewitness Travel Guides: <http://www.travel.dk.com>

Conde Nast Traveler: <http://www.concierge.com>

Travel and Leisure: <http://www.travelandleisure.com>

A helpful user-uploaded and edited travel information site is:
WikiTravel Worldwide Travel Guides: <http://wikitravel.org>



Air, Hotels, Car Rental Sites

These sites typically offer air, hotel, cruise, and car bookings separately or as vacation packages. Seat previews are available from some sites before booking once you choose your flight or package. Popular sites include:

Expedia

<http://www.expedia.com>

Opodo (Europe)

<http://www.opodo.com>

Orbitz

<http://www.orbitz.com>

Zuji: (Asian/Pacific Travelocity)

<http://www.zuji.com>

Travelocity

<http://www.travelocity.com>

Hotels.com

<http://www.hotels.com>

Some websites act as mega-search engines that allow you to search Expedia, Orbitz, Travelocity, and individual airline sites simultaneously.

Sidestep

<http://www.sidestep.com>

Kayak

<http://www.kayak.com>

Last Minute Vacation Deals: <http://www.site59.com>

Airfare and Vacation Auctions



Priceline

<http://priceline.com> – Allows you to bid on hotels and airfare, based upon a price you quote. If price quoted is at or below your amount, you must purchase and cannot cancel. There is also a forum that allows Priceline users to post which bids worked for them:

<http://biddingfortravel.com>

Luxury Link: auctioned and fixed-price luxury vacations
<http://www.luxurylink.com>



Accommodations

Boutique hotels

<http://www.boutiquehotelsandresorts.com>

Bed and Breakfasts

<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com>
<http://www.bnbfinder.com>

Hostels

<http://www.hostels.com>
<http://www.hostelworld.com>

Europe Hotels:

<http://www.otedis.com>
<http://www.opodo.com>
<http://www.fastbooking.com>
<http://en.venere.com>
<http://www.laterooms.com>
(includes cottage rental)

Asia/Pacific Hotel Reservations:

<http://www.precisionreservations.com>
<http://www.asiarooms.com>

Airfare



In addition to using multi-airline search sites above, you can always search the site for the specific airline you prefer. Normally, [www.\[name of airline\].com](http://www.[name of airline].com) works just fine!

Airfare Watch Dog: Tracks unpublished low fares, offers RSS feeds.
<http://www.airfarewatchdog.com>

Discount European Airlines:

http://wikitravel.org/en/Discount_airlines_in_Europe

Includes links to websites for **Easyjet**, **Ryanair**, **Germanwings**, **FlyBe**, **jet2**, etc.

Around-the-world airfare:

<http://www.airtreks.com> - offers interactive planning map

<http://www.aroundtheworldtickets.com>

<http://www.airbrokers.com>

Useful info on around-the-world tickets:

http://wikitravel.org/en/Round_the_world_flights

First class around the world tickets:

http://www.1st-air.net/world_specials.cfm



Tip: Join frequent flyer program before you go and rack up enough points for another trip!

Alliances

Airline alliances exist in order for airlines share costs and keep prices low. If you belong to a frequent flyer program with one airline, you can use the points on any other airline within with alliance. The major alliances include:

Star Alliance: <http://www.staralliance.com>

SkyTeam: <http://www.skyteam.com>

oneworld: <http://www.oneworld.com>



Travel Advice and Reviews

Real Travel:

<http://realtravel.com>

Trip Advisor:

<http://www.tripadvisor.com>

Virtual Tourist

<http://www.virtualltourist.com>

Travel Tools



What's on When?: a calendar of international events

<http://www.whatsonwhen.com>

World Airport Codes: includes information on airports, contact information, and a distance between airport calculator.
<http://www.world-airport-codes.com>

Currency Converter: <http://www.xe.com>

Aircraft and seat information: <http://www.seatguru.com>
Seat Guru on-the-go for mobile phones: <http://mobile.seatguru.com>

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs – offers extensive information on foreign visa requirements and other entrance requirements by country, updated travel warnings, as well as registration forms for US Citizens wishing to register their stays abroad at foreign US embassies.
<http://travel.state.gov>



Travel Alerts

Sign up for travel deal emails. Although the two sites below are popular, most travel search sites also offer an email option.

<http://www.smartertravel.com>

<http://www.shermanstravel.com>



Tip: Create a separate email account for all your emailed travel deals and other online shopping related email.

Final Tip: When all else fails, never forget to simply type your destination or hotel name in a search engine such as Google. You may be surprised by what comes up!