

Introduction



Have you ever stopped to think about the role of technology in your life? There's no doubt that today's younger generations will benefit from current and future technological advances, but today's older generations are already seeing the biggest lifestyle improvements ever. We are living longer, more active lives than our parents and grandparents. Our ancestors went from youth to middle age to old age. We, with a new mentality and the help of technology, have added an entire epoch to our lives—the Great Age!

Everyone knows that the term *baby boomer* refers to individuals born after World War II. This group is generally recognized as encompassing everyone who was born between 1946 and 1964. The boomers' older siblings don't have a moniker associated with their generation, but along with the boomers, they are often called “zoomers” because they are not ready to be relegated to a rocking chair. Boomers and zoomers are zooming into the latter

part of their lives, zooming into technology, and zooming into everything they do. They are vibrant individuals who deal enthusiastically with all aspects of their lives. They are ready to sit back and enjoy the Great Age they have created.

About Sandy Berger's Great Age Series

It's about time someone addressed the issues that face those of us who did not grow up with computers. We are not technologically impaired. We are not dummies. And we are not about to be overlooked.

It's just that we didn't learn about computers in school, so we sometimes approach the newfangled digital world with a bit of trepidation. Can someone please tell us just what we need to know without any mumbo jumbo?

That is exactly what this series does. It is geared toward the needs and wants of baby boomers and beyond. It tells you just what you need to know—no more and no less. It uses the winning formula of need-to-know information, along with easy-to-understand explanations.

Over the past decade I have helped many boomers and their older siblings learn how to use computers and technology to enhance and improve their lives. I understand the needs and wants of this generation. After all, I am enjoying the Great Age myself. So I am eager to help guide you into the world of technology, where the "Great Age" is full of enjoyment and anticipation.

Guide to Online Travel

Many of us have watched our parents and grandparents retire and grow old. They grew old gracefully. We want to grow old magnificently. We want our latter years to be happier, more exciting, and livelier than those of our ancestors.

To that end, we are not willing to pass our time sitting in a rocking chair—unless we find a rocking chair overlooking a golf course in North Carolina, a mountain pass in Switzerland, or a stream in Mississippi during one of our many adventures. We are hopping onto planes, trains, ships, motorcycles, automobiles, and even kayaks to explore America and the rest of the world.

The Internet and other high-tech tools can help us plan our trip, get the best prices, and even keep us from getting lost during our journey. This book is filled with information to help us make our adventures easier, more exciting, and more fun.

What's Inside

There are no special instructions for using this book. Start at the beginning, or jump around as you please. It doesn't matter if you're using a PC or a Mac. Much of this book pertains to both. If there are differences, they are noted.

Each chapter begins with a quote, because we can always learn from others. I've also included several special features to help you in your quest for knowledge:



Sandy's tip

Sandy's Tips give you my personal tips, tricks, and shortcuts to make life in the digital world a little easier.



LINGO

Lingo boxes explain high-tech terms in easy-to-understand language.



BLOOPER ALERT

Blooper Alerts help you avoid pitfalls. By telling you about some of the places where most people stumble, these alerts allow you to stay out of trouble and feel a whole lot smarter.



Trivia

Trivia boxes are just for fun. They are tidbits of fascinating information—little things including factoids and details from the good old days.

How This Book Is Organized

- Chapter 1, “The Internet: An Amazing Travel Tool,” will help you to understand and utilize available Internet tools to make your travel and travel planning easier and more fun.
- Chapter 2, “Planning Your Trip,” is easier than ever before. Internet resources will give you ideas and help you plan your trip.
- Chapter 3, “Bargains Galore,” Comparison-shopping for travel bargains can save you money if you know where to look.
- Chapter 4, “Tips for Air and Sea Travel,” You can not only get the best price on tickets but you can also get tips on air and sea travel in this chapter.
- Chapter 5, “On the Road Again,” More than 80% of Americans vacation by car, motorcycle, or RV. This chapter will help you get the most out of high-tech tools and Internet resources to make that vacation a winner.
- Chapter 6, “Distinctive Travel Adventures,” Hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, space travel...if your pleasure is something offbeat, this chapter will help you find the resources you need.
- Chapter 7, “International Travel,” Leaving the country requires a new level of preparation. This chapter gives you the essentials of travel abroad.
- Chapter 8, “Healthy Travel and Special Needs,” Don’t let special travel needs keep you at home. Internet resources and high-tech tools can help you make travel enjoyable.
- Chapter 9, “Traveling with Pets,” Can’t leave Rover at the kennel? No problem. You can bring pooch or kitty along. The Internet will help you find places to stay and provide other amazing resources.
- Chapter 10, “Stay Online on the Go,” Don’t get out of touch. Internet cafés, laptops, hotspots, and high-tech gadgets offer many ways to stay online while you are traveling.

- Chapter 11, “Don’t Leave Home without ’Em,” High-tech devices can make traveling easier and more comfortable. From heated clothing to language translators, there is something for everyone.
- Chapter 12, “Sharing Memories from Your Travels,” There are many new ways to share your travel experiences with others. Travel blogs, photo journals, email postcards, and other great ideas are detailed here.

My fondest wish is that you enjoy this book and let technology make your life better!

Sandy Berger

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