

2009 Internet Directory



Websites

Web 2.0 Edition



Wikis



Podcasts



Forums



Videos



Blogs



Virtual Worlds



Social Networking

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The 2009 Internet Directory: Web 2.0 Edition

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INTRODUCTION

The Internet has changed dramatically in the past few years. It used to be that when someone said they found something online, they meant a static website, and most Internet directories were essentially just website directories. Nowadays, many more sources of information and entertainment exist online, including blogs, podcasts, videos, social networking, and virtual worlds.

The trouble is that there's no consolidated directory of all this diverse content. There are Web directories, blog directories, podcast directories, and so on, but what if you don't care what format the information comes in? What if you just want the best listings, regardless of the type?

That's where the *2009 Internet Directory: Web 2.0 Edition* comes in. This book is a one-stop directory covering hundreds of subjects, spanning multiple content types. In this book you'll find listings for the following:

- **Websites:** Traditional Web pages containing static information
- **Blogs:** Personal or corporate Web logs, which are web-based but are frequently updated with new content
- **Videos:** Media clips containing both sound and moving video, such as archives of TV shows or content prepared exclusively for online distribution

- **Podcasts:** Audio presentations and archived radio shows you can play on your computer or download to a portable digital music player
- **Wikis:** Web-based collaborative knowledge bases, like encyclopedias for the masses
- **Social Networking:** Discussion groups on social networking sites such as MySpace, LiveJournal, and Facebook
- **Forums/Discussions:** Web-based bulletin board systems where you can exchange public messages with others
- **Virtual Worlds:** Areas of online "worlds" such as Second Life

EASY BROWSING BY TOPIC

Some Internet directories organize the entire book alphabetically by topic. That is okay in most cases, but it can be frustrating when you are trying to look up a subject that is known by more than one name. For example, suppose you want to build a deck for your house. Would that be under "C" for construction, "H" for home, "R" for remodeling, or "D" for deck? You could be flipping through the book for hours looking for it.

This book does things differently. It organizes the listings by broad topic, with one topic per chapter, grouping the listings together logically. So if you're looking for home improvement, you turn to Chapter 11, the "Home" chapter. Much simpler, isn't it? And if you still can't find the listings you want, you can look up the topic in the index in the back of the book.

The book is organized into the following chapters and topics:

Chapter 1, "Business": Everything you need to start and manage a business or advance your career. Includes sections on patents and trademarks, office management, international business, and customer service.

Chapter 2, "Computers and Electronics": Topics for the gear and gadget enthusiast, including home stereos, computers, and TV/video recording.

Chapter 3, "Current Events/Political/Science/News": Here you'll find the best news and information sources for national, international, political, and scientific events and discoveries.

Chapter 4, "Education": This section provides resources for students of all ages, for teachers, and for home-schooling parents, as well as for lifelong learners who want to know more about academic subjects for their own personal benefit.

Chapter 5, "Entertainment": Here you'll find topics such as movies and music, games, celebrities, science fiction, and theaters—everything you need to keep yourself (and others) entertained.

Chapter 6, "Family/Parenting": This chapter focuses on family roles and parenting, with sections on adoption, pregnancy and childbirth, single parenting, teens, and child custody.

Chapter 7, "Food and Drink": In this chapter, you'll find resources for special diets, restaurants, cooking and recipes, and all kinds of beverages, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic.

Chapter 8, "Going Green/Environment": Here you'll find all the information you need about environmental protection, energy savings, alternative fuels, and other Earth-friendly topics.

Chapter 9, "Health": In the Health section are resources for getting and keeping healthy and fit, researching disease symptoms, finding good deals on health insurance, and providing first aid and emergency care.

Chapter 10, "Hobbies": The Hobbies section contains resources for pursuing your passions, whether that means reading, stamp collecting, antiques, or any of dozens of other pursuits.

Chapter 11, "Home": This chapter covers topics related to home ownership, including insurance, mortgages and real estate, landscaping, decorating, and maintenance.

Chapter 12, "Religion/Philosophy": Whether you are shopping for a religion or firm in your current beliefs, this chapter provides resources for understanding a variety of spiritual practices and beliefs, including Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, New Thought, and Atheism.

Chapter 13, “Shopping/Fashion”: Love to shop or make your own clothes? This chapter provides the links for your hobby, with sections for high fashion, bargain hunting, shoes, accessories, sewing, lingerie, and more.

Chapter 14, “Sports”: Whether you’re looking for the latest cricket scores, tickets to a hockey game, or a good scuba diving instructor, this chapter can hook you up, with links for almost every sport you can imagine.

Chapter 15, “Travel”: Planning a trip? In this chapter you’ll find resources for making your reservations, deciding where to go and what to see, and locating the best discounts, guides, and bargains.

SPECIAL HELPS

Throughout this directory, the following icons indicate special features or restrictions:



The Best of the Best icon marks the authors’ picks for top-quality sites.



This icon marks sites where you must pay to access the content. It also marks the sites that you would visit primarily with the intent to purchase something.



These sites require you to register to use their content (but not necessarily pay).



This Not for Kids icon marks sites that contain content that may not be suitable for children.

ENJOY THE DIRECTORY!

We hope that this directory points you toward lots of interesting and informative content, whatever your interests. We are always interested in hearing your feedback and learning what additional categories or sites you think we should add to future editions.

The Internet has made the world a smaller place—and made travel a whole lot easier. The sites listed in this chapter help you find the best fares and fees, get recommendations from in-the-know travelers, make reservations, and buy tickets online. Whether you're looking for a cruise, an eco-vacation, a theme park, or a luxury hotel, you'll find it here. Or if you're in the mood to take a trip without leaving home, check out some of the videos, social networks, and virtual travel sites, perfect for armchair travelers.

AIR TRAVEL

WEBSITES



Federal Aviation Administration

www.faa.gov

It's the job of the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure safe air travel in the United States. Learn about what the FAA does, get news and updates, find out about flight delays and airport closings, research aviation data and statistics, get tips for travelers, and so on.

FlightAware

<http://flightaware.com/>

FlightAware is a free, real-time flight tracker that lets you follow the progress of planes in the air. Here you'll also find airport information—arrivals, departures, and activity.

FlightStats

www.flightstats.com

Frequent flyers (or even occasional ones) will find this site helpful, whether planning a trip or en route. Before you go, check flight availability, published fares, and promotions. When you're on your way, learn about airport information and delays, parking, and security wait times. Get flight reports and even check ratings of particular flights based on their history. Track flights in progress, get alerts on your cell phone, and download widgets to put FlightStats info on your desktop.

Transportation Security Administration: Air Travel

www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/index.shtm

Here, the TSA gives security-related information and updates related to air travel. To avoid delays while going through security, take a few minutes to read this site before you fly.

BLOGS



The Airline Blog

<http://theairlineblog.blogspot.com/>

An anonymous blog that offers insightful analysis of airline industry news.

Boarding Area

www.boardingarea.com

Focusing on business travelers, Boarding Area hosts several travel blogs of interest to frequent flyers, including The Cranky Flyer, Points Wizard, and View from the Wing.

WIKIS

FlyerGuide

<http://flyerguide.com/wiki/>

Create and edit pages in this resource for frequent travelers. Topics include airlines, airline programs, airline alliances, and airport transportation, as well as credit card and hotel programs that offer frequent-flyer points.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

FlyerTalk

www.flyertalk.com

Billing itself as “the world’s most popular frequent flyer community,” FlyerTalk offers discussion forums on travel-related topics, including frequent-flyer programs, reviews, budget travel, and more. Create a profile, chat in real-time, and upload photos from your travels.

AIRLINES

WEBSITES

Aer Lingus

www.aerlingus.com

Aeromexico

www.aeromexico.com

Air Canada

www.aircanada.com

Air France-KLM

www.airfrance.us

AirTran Airways

www.airtran.com

Alaska Airlines

www.alaskaair.com

Alitalia

www.alitalia.com

American Airlines

www.aa.com

Austrian Airlines

www.aua.com

British Airways

www.britishairways.com

Cathay Pacific Airways

www.cathaypacific.com

China Airlines

www.china-airlines.com

Continental Airlines

www.continental.com

Delta

www.delta.com

EgyptAir

www.egyptair.com

EL AL

www.elal.com

Frontier Airlines

www.frontierairlines.com

Hawaiian Airlines

www.hawaiianair.com

Icelandair

www.icelandair.com

Japan Airlines (JAL)

www.jal.com/en/

Jet Blue

www.jetblue.com

Korean Air

www.koreanair.com

Lufthansa

www.lufthansa.com

Malaysia Airlines

www.malaysiaairlines.com

Mexicana Airlines

www.mexicana.com

Midwest Airlines

www.midwestairlines.com

Northwest Airlines

<http://nwa.com/>

Qantas

www.qantas.com.au

Ryan Air

www.ryanair.com

Scandinavian Airlines (SAS)

www.flysas.com

Singapore Airlines

www.singaporeair.com

Southwest Airlines

www.southwest.com

Spirit Airlines

www.spiritair.com

Turkish Airlines

www.thy.com

United Airlines

www.united.com

US Airwayswww.usairways.com*Virgin America*www.virginamerica.com*Virgin Atlantic*www.virgin-atlantic.com*Zoom Airlines*www.flyzoom.com

BLOGS

**American Airlines AA Conversation**<http://aaconversation.blogspot.com/>

American Airlines' official blog answers readers' questions and posts announcements.

Nuts About Southwestwww.blogswsouthwest.com

A variety of Southwest Airlines employees, from customer service agents and flight attendants to executives, have their say about working for Southwest, current policies, and other travel-related topics.

Today in the Sky<http://blogs.usatoday.com/sky/>

This USA Today–sponsored blog, updated several times daily, reports on airlines and air travel.

Under the Wing (Delta)<http://blog.delta.com/>

A behind-the-scenes blog from Delta covering destinations, planning and booking tips, history, operations, and so on.

AMUSEMENT PARKS AND THEME PARKS

WEBSITES

**Busch Entertainment Corp. Worlds of Discovery**www.worldsofdiscovery.com

This site brings together the theme parks operated nationwide by Busch Entertainment Corp.: Discovery Cove, Aquatica, SeaWorld, Busch Gardens, Adventure Island, Water Country USA, and Sesame Place. Links take you to individual parks' sites, where you can get more information and buy tickets.

California's Great Americawww.pgathrills.com

In Santa Clara, California, this park offers thrill rides, rides for kids, and live shows. Nickelodeon Central features characters from the popular kids' channel, such as Dora the Explorer, SpongeBob Squarepants, and the Wild Thornberrys. Boomerang Bay is an Australia-themed water park.

Canada's Wonderlandwww.canadaswonderland.com

Canada's Wonderland has more than 65 rides, including a dozen roller coasters; concerts, shows, and other attractions; and a 20-acre water park. It's located north of Toronto.

Canobie Lake Park

www.canobie.com

Located 30 miles north of Boston in Salem, New Hampshire, Canobie Lake Park has more than 85 rides, games, and other attractions. Rides range from an antique carousel and other kiddie rides to four roller coasters. Rides' thrill levels are graded Green Circle (mild), Blue Square (moderate), or Black Diamond (high). Preview Black Diamond rides by taking a video "virtual ride."

Cedar Point

www.cedarpoint.com

Like roller coasters? Cedar Point has 17 of them—the most, it claims, of any amusement park on Earth. The 364-acre park in Sandusky, Ohio, boasts a total of 75 rides, ranging from mild to wild. The park includes a water park, four resort hotels, a campground, two marinas, and an entertainment complex.

Disney.com: The Official Home Page for All Things Disney

<http://disney.go.com/>

This site offers information about Disney parks around the world and, as it promises, all things Disney, including movies, videos, games, and music. You can also read about Disney vacation packages and its cruise line. Disney-themed items are available for purchase in the gift shop.

Dollywood

www.dollywood.com

Dollywood, named for country singer and co-owner Dolly Parton, is located in the Great Smoky Mountains near Gatlinburg, Tennessee. In addition to rides, Dollywood has stage shows (featuring music from bluegrass and country

to rock 'n' roll from the 1950s and 1960s) and demonstrations of traditional crafts such as candle- and soapmaking, wood-working, and glass-blowing. The park features five festivals each year: Festival of Nations, KidsFest, Barbeque & Bluegrass, Harvest Celebration, and Smoky Mountain Christmas.

Hard Rock Park

www.hardrockpark.com

This rock-themed park opened in spring 2008 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Its different areas celebrate different aspects of popular music, such as the British Invasion (English-style rock), Lost in the '70s (folk, punk, disco, and glam rock), Born in the USA (American rock), and Cool Country. Hard Rock Park has a variety of rides, including five roller coasters, and music venues, including a 10,000-seat amphitheater for daily shows and special events.

Hersheypark

www.hersheypark.com

Hersheypark, in Hershey, Pennsylvania, has more than 60 rides, including 11 roller coasters, 13 water rides, and 26 rides just for kids. Use the Ride Search to find the rides you'll like best: you can search rides by height requirements, type of ride, and thrill level. Its Fahrenheit rollercoaster has a 97-degree drop—the steepest, the park claims, in the U.S. Hersheypark also stages shows, concerts, talent shows, and other entertainment.

Kings Island

www.visitkingsisland.com

With a variety of thrill rides and family rides, this Mason, Ohio, park boasts the most kid-friendly roller coasters anywhere. Its Nickelodeon Universe area has been named Best Kids Area by trade paper *Amusement Today* for seven years in a row. Get acquainted with the park's rides and shows, and then buy your tickets online.

Knott's Berry Farm

www.knotts.com

Once upon a time, this really was a berry farm. Now this Buena Park, California, park has six themed areas: Ghost Town, Fiesta Village, the Boardwalk, Camp Snoopy, Wild Water Wilderness, and Indian Trails. Each area has rides, shows, and places to eat. Use the Fun Finder to plan your day according to your interests and how much time you can spend.

LEGOLAND California

www.legoland.com/california.htm

As its name suggests, LEGOLAND is a LEGO-themed park, featuring 50 rides and attractions in nine themed areas: The Beginning, Land of Adventure, Dino Island, Explore Village, Fun Town, Pirate Shores, Castle Hill, Miniland USA, and Imagination Zone. Watch videos taken in the park, explore shopping and dining options, and buy tickets online.

SeaWorld

www.seaworld.com

One site covers three SeaWorld parks: Orlando, San Diego, and San Antonio. View a gallery of visitor-contributed SeaWorld photos, and upload your own. Learn more about shows and programs, and buy tickets online.

Six Flags Theme Parks

www.sixflags.com

Six Flags Inc. operates more theme parks than any other company in the world, with 20 parks in the United States and others in Canada, Mexico, and the United Arab Emirates. In 2007, Six Flag parks worldwide had nearly 25 million visitors. This site is the hub for any Six Flags park you want to investigate; pick a park to learn about its rides, shows, and special events.

Theme Park Insider

www.themeparkinsider.com

A guide to the world's most popular theme parks, praised by *Forbes* and *Travel + Leisure* magazines, Theme Park Insider includes reviews of rides, shows, and hotels. The site also lists safety data by park and by recent incidents. There's a searchable discussion forum where you can ask questions of experienced park goers.

Theme Park Review

www.themeparkreview.com

Packed with information, Theme Park Review serves up photos, videos, reviews, and other information for theme parks all over the world. Read reviews, look at photos and videos, and discuss your favorite parks and rides in the forum. The site also organizes theme park tours and events.

Universal Orlando

www.universalorlando.com

If you're visiting Orlando, don't forget to check out the *other* theme park there. Universal Orlando is a world-class complex of parks (Islands of Adventure, Universal Studios Orlando, and Wet 'n' Wild), hotels, and entertainment venues. Explore the parks, buy tickets or vacation packages, and compare Universal and Disney.

Universal Studios Hollywood

www.universalstudioshollywood.com

Located just north of downtown Los Angeles, Universal Studios Hollywood offers a plethora of entertainment opportunities: a theme park, studio tours, Citywalk (a shopping/dining/entertainment complex), movie theaters, and concerts. This site tells you what's new and gives an overview of all the attractions. You can buy tickets online.

BLOGS



Arthur's Theme Parks Blog

<http://themeparks.about.com/>

The Theme Parks section of About.com has lots of great information about theme parks, water parks, and more. Guide Arthur Levine's blog presents news, info, and advice for theme-park goers.

PODCASTS



The Season Pass

www.seasonpasspodcast.com

This weekly podcast features interviews and information relating to amusement parks, rides, and theme-park attractions.

A Walk in the Park

<http://awalkinthepark.podomatic.com/>

Pat McCabe's video podcasts take you to amusement parks and water parks across the United States, highlighting the best rides and attractions.

AQUARIUMS

WEBSITES



Aquarium of the Pacific

www.aquariumofpacific.org

Located in Long Beach, the Aquarium of the Pacific is southern California's largest aquarium, with a mission to educate people about the Pacific Ocean. Here you'll find information about the museum and its exhibits, news and events, and conversation and education programs. Watch videos (the site has both video and audio podcasts) and read the aquarium blog.

Aquariums Around the World

www.world-aquariums.com

This site provides a guide to aquariums throughout North America and around the world. Click a region to see a list of aquariums in that area, each with a brief introduction. Click the name of any aquarium to open a page with a description, photos, a link to the aquarium's site, and a map.

Florida Aquarium

www.flaquarium.org

This colorful, kid-friendly site gives you a virtual tour of the Florida Aquarium, located in Tampa. Preview the aquarium's galleries (Wetlands, Bays and Beaches, Coral Reef, and Sea Hunt) as you plan your visit. Find out about its educational and conservation programs and learn how to become a member.

Georgia Aquarium

www.georgiaaquarium.org

The world's largest aquarium, which opened in Atlanta in 2005, features all kinds of aquatic life swimming in eight million gallons of water. Explore the aquarium and its many programs, watch beluga whales via webcam, get visitor information, and buy tickets.

National Aquarium in Baltimore

www.aqua.org

With more than 10,500 animals from 560 species, the National Aquarium provides a fascinating glimpse into the world under the water. This educational site has sections titled Animals, Exhibits, and Conservation, and each contains pages of interesting content. Buy tickets and get directions, learn about volunteering or making a donation, and check out the aquarium's special programs.

New England Aquarium

www.neaq.org

The New England Aquarium is one of Boston's most popular attractions. Founded in 1969, the New England Aquarium combines education and entertainment to inform about conservation. Learn about the thousands of animals that live at the aquarium, from

penguins and seals to whales and giant octopi. There are also sections about conservation and research, education, planning your visit, and getting involved.

VIDEOS



Monterey Bay Aquarium Video Library

www.montereybayaquarium.org/efc/video_library/video_library.aspx

California's Monterey Bay Aquarium has an extensive collection of videos showing the aquarium's animals, exhibits, and projects. Take a virtual visit to a great aquarium.

BED AND BREAKFASTS

WEBSITES



Bed and Breakfast Center

www.bedandbreakfastcenter.com

This directory lists thousands of B&Bs around the world. Search by region or amenities, browse the Top 100 list, or peruse favorite recipes. Click the name of a B&B to visit its site.

Bed and Breakfast Inns Online

www.bbonline.com

With more than 5,200 listings, this international directory will help you locate the perfect B&B. You'll find recipes, featured inns, a monthly contest, a free newsletter, and even inns for sale.

BedandBreakfast.com

www.bedandbreakfast.com

Whether you're looking for a B&B, an inn, a lodge or cabin, or a farm or ranch vacation, this directory has it. Search by inn name or location, read travelers' reviews (or write your own), check out specials and favorite recipes, or buy a gift card accepted at nearly 4,000 inns. The BedandBreakfast.com Report is a newsletter you can subscribe to or read online.

BnB Finder.com

www.bnbfinder.com

A well-organized and comprehensive directory of B&Bs, packed with information. Find a B&B anywhere in the world and see the 25 most popular location searches. Read B&B-related articles, from traveling with pets to planning a B&B wedding. Besides gift certificates, recipes, and reviews, the site also has an excellent blog.

BLOGS

Innkeeper's Blog

www.campbellhousebnb.com/blog/

Ever wonder what it would be like to run a charming Victorian bed-and-breakfast in a quaint, historical town? Patti Campbell, innkeeper at the Campbell House Bed & Breakfast in Ligonier, Pennsylvania, tells you all about it in this blog.

FORUMS/DISCUSSIONS

Bed & Breakfast Forum

www.bedandbreakfastforum.com

An online discussion board for B&B lovers and owners alike.

BUDGET TRAVEL

WEBSITES

11th Hour Vacations

www.11thhourvacations.com

You can book flights, hotel rooms, car rentals, and vacation packages, but where the site really excels is in finding last-minute bargains.

Airfare Watchdog.com

www.airfarewatchdog.com

This site lists budget airfares from all major airlines, including Southwest (which often doesn't show up on other budget sites). Type in your local airport and see today's great fares (includes nearby airports), or subscribe to free airfare alerts. Search airfares, see today's 50 best fares, read the site's blog, and ask or answer a question on the message boards. There's a widget you can put on your own website and a section for international fares.

Backpack Europe on a Budget

www.backpackeurope.com

To see Europe cheaply, try backpacking. This site prepares you for your trip, with advice about packing, clothes, lodging, transportation, and taking care of tired feet.

BestFares.com

www.bestfares.com

This discount travel site monitors airfares and reports on travel news, cruises, tour packages, hotel rates, car rentals, destinations, and last-minute vacations. To be first to hear about the best deals, subscribe to Hot Deals by email.

Budget Travel

www.budgettravel.com

The online home of *Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel* magazine, this excellent site is indispensable to the budget-minded traveler, with articles on destinations, shopping, travel news and advice, and more—all geared to saving you money. Sections include This Just In, Real Deals, Destinations, How-to Handbook, Trip Ideas, Tips & Experts, My Budget Travel, and Magazine (where you can subscribe).

European Low Fares Airline Association

www.elfaa.com

The mission of the ELFAA is “to ensure that European policy and legislation promote free and equal competition to enable the continued growth and development of low fares into the future, allowing a greater number of people to travel by air.” Visit the site to learn about the organization’s work and read its newsletter, find out about member airlines, and read up on current issues.

Eurotrip

www.eurotrip.com

This site for budget-minded travelers focuses on backpacking in European countries. Get tips on all aspects of travel, from packing to safety, learn about destinations, make travel arrangements online, and listen to podcasts. Register for a free account, and you can talk with 17,000 other travelers in the site’s forums.

Hostels.com

www.hostels.com

Hostels offer basic accommodations at bargain prices, and this site lists more than 23,000 hostels and other budget lodgings around the world. Read travel guides and hostel reviews and join in the forum discussions.

Hotwire.com

www.hotwire.com

If you’ve got some flexibility in your travel plans, Hotwire offers an easy way to get better deals on airline tickets, hotel reservations, and car rentals. Working with leading travel companies, Hotwire resells unsold airfare, hotel rooms, rental cars, and vacation packages. Some bookings are “opaque,” meaning that you don’t know the name of the hotel or car rental company until after you’ve paid, but you do get limited information, such as a hotel’s location and number of stars, before you buy.

Last Minute Travel

www.lastminutetravel.com

If you can pack up and go on a moment’s notice, visit this site to find the best last-minute deals: flights, hotels, cruises, cars, and packages. There’s a discount travel club, newsletter, and blog, as well.

Let’s Go

www.letsgo.com

Generations of college students have set out to discover the world by relying on this budget travel guide. The Let’s Go website gives you budget advice and insider tips on worldwide destinations and has a store where you can buy *Let’s Go* books and gear.

Priceline.com

www.priceline.com

This discount travel service lets you search for a flight, hotel, car, cruise, or vacation package, and then compare prices to find the deal you want. If you're flexible, you can try naming your own price. Tell Priceline.com what you want (flight info, hotel or car rental location, dates, and so on) and the maximum you want to pay. Within hours, you'll find out whether any company has accepted your bid.

Reserve America

www.reserveamerica.com

Specializing in campground reservations, Reserve America can help you find an RV site, tent site, or cabin. View campgrounds on a map and reserve your site online. Also has featured campgrounds, a store, and a newsletter.

SkyAuction.com

www.skyauction.com

Bid on travel products—plane tickets, hotel rooms, vacation packages, travel gear, and more—in auctions that begin at just \$1.

STA Travel

www.statravel.com

Students can find great deals on this site by taking advantage of special student rates that other travel companies don't know about. Here you'll find bookings (flights, lodging, vacations), rail passes, and discount cards—everything young people need to start exploring the world.

Related Site

<http://statravelers.com/>

Travelzoo

www.travelzoo.com

Twelve million people subscribe to Travelzoo's free Top 25 newsletter, a weekly compendium of the best deals in travel. The website offers travel information and deals.

BLOGS



Cheapest Destinations

<http://travel.booklocker.com/>

Travel writer Tim Leffel reports on affordable destinations, bargain vacations, and international travel deals.

PODCASTS



Amateur Traveler

<http://amateurtraveler.com/>

More than a thousand people regularly listen to this podcast by Chris Christensen, whose shows are all about "travel for the love of it."

The Indie Travel Podcast

www.indietravelpodcast.com

If you'd rather travel on your own terms than join a group or tour, you'll enjoy this weekly podcast about traveling independently.

CAR RENTALS

WEBSITES



Advantage Rent A Car

<http://arac.com/>

Alamo

www.alamo.com

Avis

www.avis.com

Budget

www.budget.com

Dollar

www.dollar.com

Enterprise

www.enterprise.com

Europcar

www.europcar.com

Fox Rent A Car

<http://foxrentacar.com/>

Hertz

www.hertz.com

National

www.nationalcar.com

Payless Car Rental

www.paylesscarrental.com

Rent-A-Wreck

www.rentawreck.com

Thrifty

www.thrifty.com

CRUISE LINES

WEBSITES

*American Cruise Lines*

www.americancruiselines.com

Carnival Cruise Lines

www.carnival.com

Celebrity Cruises

www.celebritycruises.com

Crystal Cruises

www.crystalcruises.com

Cunard Cruise Lines

www.cunard.com

Disney Cruise Line

<http://disneycruise.disney.go.com/>

EasyCruise.com

www.easycruise.com

Holland America Line

www.hollandamerica.com

Norwegian Cruise Line

www.ncl.com

Oceania Cruises

www.oceaniacruises.com

Princess Cruises

www.princess.com

Regent Seven Seas Cruiseswww.rssc.com*Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines*www.royalcaribbean.com

CRUISES

WEBSITES

**About.com: Cruises**<http://cruises.about.com/>

Whether you're planning your first cruise or your fiftieth, you'll find helpful information here: news, cruise line profiles and reviews, destinations and activities, helpful lists (from what to pack to the best cruise lines for families or for romance), a glossary, and recommended reading.

Bargain Travel Cruiseswww.bargaintravelcruises.com

Find the best cruise at the lowest price on this site, which specializes in travel bargains for cruise lovers. Check out the Specials section to find the hottest deals.

Cruise Criticwww.cruisecritic.com

Visit this site before you book a cruise to get the scoop on cruising, with cruise-line profiles, ship reviews, a guide for first-time cruisers, the latest news, and the best deals. You can find a cruise by "cruise style" (family, expedition, romance, senior, and so on), current specials, or searching (by destination, cruise line, lifestyle, or price). There are sections on luxury cruises, planning, ports, and other special features.

Cruise Value Centerwww.mycruisevalue.com

News, special offers, and last-minute bargains—check out this site for cruise information and deals.

Cruise.comwww.cruise.com

Cruise.com's low-price guarantee makes this a must-visit when you're shopping for a cruise. Its gigantic database holds information about thousands of cruises, and you can also learn about cruise lines, ports and shore excursions, special cruises, and more.

Freighter World Cruiseswww.freighterworld.com

If you're looking for a different kind of cruise, consider a freighter. Informal and uncrowded, freighter travel can also save you money. To learn more, visit this site, which specializes in booking passengers on freighters.

icruise.comwww.icruise.com

This site offers hand-picked specials, last-minute deals, and five ways to search for a cruise: by destination, departure port, sail date, cruise line, or cruise ship.

VIDEOS

**Fox World Travel Cruise Videos**www.gofox.com/cruises/videos.php

This travel agency features promotional videos you can watch online from six major cruise lines.

VIRTUAL WORLDS

**SS Galaxy**

<http://world.secondlife.com/place/c1951272-685e-76d1-af0a-4a891dfb0a8a>

The virtual Galaxy Cruise ship is much like any real-world cruise ship with tons of activities such as pools with water-slide, ice skating rink, spa and fitness center, and bars.

ECOTOURISM

WEBSITES

**Ecotour**

www.ecotour.org

This site is maintained by Conservation International (CI) to promote travel that conserves the environment and respects local inhabitants. Here you can read about CI's ecotourism work, biodiversity and tourism, destinations, and resources.

Planeta.com

www.planeta.com

Planeta.com describes itself as "a global journal of practical ecotourism," so if you're interested in traveling in an earth-friendly way, visit this site. Sections include Places, Events, Guides, Travelers, Ecotourism, and Headlines. Includes a wiki you can help build and maintain.

ResponsibleTravel.com

www.responsibletravel.com

Promoting "holidays that give the world a break," this site offers hand-picked eco-friendly vacations from 270 travel companies. The site is British but also works with American travelers. Whatever your travel interests—beaches, culture, honeymoon, luxury, cycling, walking, and more—you'll find an environmentally responsible version here.

TIES: The International Ecotourism Society

www.ecotourism.org

Founded in 1990, TIES promotes travel that "conserves the environment and supports the livelihoods of the local populations." Learn about what TIES does, apply for membership, get facts and statistics about ecotourism, and find an ecotour for your next trip.

FAMILY TRAVEL

WEBSITES

**Family Travel Forum**

www.familytravelforum.com

This site's motto is "Have Kids, Still Travel!" There's lots of free content, from advice for making car trips easier to ideas for different age groups to recommendations for family friendly hotels, cruises, and activities. When you join the site (it's free), you get access to discounts and last-minute travel deals, as well as twice-a-month email travel alerts. For a small fee (\$5.95), you can get custom help planning your trip from the site's experts.

Related Sites

www.familytravelboards.com

www.kidtravels.com

www.tinytravelers.net

Family Travel Network

www.familytravelnetwork.com

This award-winning site is brimming over with resources for family travel: great destinations, travel tips and news, current deals, favorite activities for families, links to relevant sites, and tons more. A great place to start planning your family's vacation.

FamilyFun: Travel

<http://familyfun.go.com/family-travel/>

Let the fun begin! The Travel area of the FamilyFun website has lots of tips and suggestions for creating a fun and memorable trip. Sections include Destinations, Activities & Attractions, Disney Vacations, Camping Trips, and Your Great Vacations (travel stories and ratings from readers).

FamilyTravel.com

www.familytravel.com

Aiming to make travel fun (and affordable) for the whole family, this site has numerous city guides written with kids in mind, as well as activity guides, travel bargains, family travel books for sale, and general travel advice.

Pamela Lanier's Family Travel

www.familytravelguides.com

This attractive site has lots of info for families who travel. Highlights include Road Food (recipes for on-the-go food that kids will eat), Great Outdoors (ideas for active families), Travel Destinations, and Travel Tips. You can also search for accommodations and sign up for the site's newsletter.

Travel for Kids

www.travelforkids.com

This free family travel guide provides fun ideas and the resources to make them happen. Start by browsing Fun Things to Do (in destinations all over the world), and then check out the site's Trip Planner, Travel Tips, and Family Hotels section.

BLOGS

Family Travel

<http://blogs.bootsnall.com/Seafarer/>

Freelance writer Sheila Scarborough and guests blog about seeing the world with kids in tow, with informative posts about specific countries, cities, and destinations.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

WEBSITES

Fodor's Travel Guides: Living Language

www.fodors.com/language/

Learn the basics of the local lingo before you travel. This site covers common expressions useful to travelers—from sightseeing and finding your way to health care and personal services—in French, German, Italian, and Spanish.

ShawGuides: Language Vacations

<http://language.shawguides.com/>

Turn your vacation into an education by combining travel with learning a language where it's spoken. Find language vacations by searching this directory by language, month, or location.

Tours.com: Language Tours and Vacation Packages

www.tours.com/tours_vacations/language.htm

Use the directory here to find a vacation that focuses on learning the local language while you see the sights.

Travlang

www.travlang.com

Choose a language (the site lists dozens, from Afrikaans to Zulu) and learn useful words and phrases for traveling where it's spoken: basic words, numbers, shopping/dining, travel, directions, places, and time and dates. Also has a currency converter, translation tools, information about visa requirements, and user forums.

GENERAL

WEBSITES



Expedia



www.expedia.com

This online travel agency helps you find the best deals, fares, and vacation packages. Browse today's top travel deals or build your trip by searching for fares and value packages. Has a rewards program for repeat customers.

Fodor's Travel Guides

www.fodors.com

Here you'll find a world of travel information from the publisher of these popular travel guides: destinations, hotels, restaurants, cruises, travel news, forums, and a link to book your trip on Expedia. Sign up for Fodor's weekly newsletter or browse previous issues. Buy Fodor's books in the online store.

Frommer's

www.frommers.com

More than 50 years ago, Arthur Frommer published *Europe on \$5 a Day*, and since then the series has grown to more than 300 popular travel guides. The official Frommer's website is packed with travel tips, advice, ideas, and destinations. Besides articles, forums, a store, a database of hotels, and a link to book your trip, you'll find podcasts and a blog.

Hotels.com



www.hotels.com

As its name implies, Hotels.com helps you find a place to stay when you travel. When you search, you can narrow results by setting a price rating, star rating, or guest rating, and then locate hotels on a map. You can shop for flights and vacation packages here.

Kayak



www.kayak.com

Kayak is a super search engine that searches more than 140 travel sites, so you can compare results and find the best deal. Even better, you can filter and sort the results in various ways—for example, narrow your price range or the time window for a flight. Also offers last-minute deals, comparisons and statistics, and a free account so you can keep track of your searches. Kayak is not a travel agency; when you choose to make a reservation, you go directly to the site of the company making the booking.

Mobissimo

www.mobissimo.com

When you search for something here, Mobissimo scours scores of travel sites to find you the best deals. Search for flights, hotels, cars, deals, or activities (like golf or wine tasting). Has a blog that's updated each weekday.

Orbitz



www.orbitz.com

This online travel agency lets you research, plan, and book a trip, whether for business or pleasure. Find up-to-the-minute rates, fares, packages, and deals.

Travelocity



www.travelocity.com

A full-service online travel site where you can book vacation packages, flights, hotels, cars, rail, cruises, last-minute deals, and activities. Sign up for the Fare Alert service for notification when fares drop between your home airport and your favorite destinations.

Tripso.com

www.tripso.com

A travel news and commentary site that's been around since 1998, Tripso.com offers a blog, columns, and forums for travelers.

BLOGS



TravelBlog

www.travelblog.org

TravelBlog hosts hundreds of blogs journaling travelers' voyages, photos, adventures, and musings. You can read the blogs on the site or create your own. You can search for blogs by region, which is helpful when you're planning a trip and want to read others' experiences with that destination.

PODCASTS



JourneyPod Luxury Travel

<http://journeypod.libsyn.com/>

For those who like to live the good life as they travel, this podcast focuses on luxury hotels, gourmet restaurants, and see-and-be-seen hotspots.

PodGuides.net

www.podguides.net

PodGuides combine a map (PDF or JPG) with a series of audio tracks (mp3) that relate to numbered spots on the map, which you can download to your video iPod or similar device. On this site, you'll find free PodGuides to interesting sites around the world. You can also create and submit your own.

Travelography

<http://podcasternews.com/travelography/>

Get commentary on travel-related news from Alan A. Lew's podcasts.

Related Sites

<http://travelgeography.blogspot.com/>

WIKIS

Wikitravel

<http://wikitravel.org/>

This wiki offers free travel guides to destinations around the world, written and edited by travelers. Do some research, or jump in and contribute.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Driftr

www.driftr.com

Driftr is a community where travelers get together to share experiences, advice, photos, reviews, and tips. Research your destination before you go—where to stay, where to eat, what to see, and how to get around—and share your trip after you're back home.

IgoUgo

www.igougo.com

When you join this travel community, 350,000 strong, you can connect with others who share your travel interests. Create a travel journal and submit reviews and photos; this earns points toward frequent flyer miles, so you can travel some more. If you want to research a destination, IgoUgo has more than 5,500 of them covered. A bonus: the site's editors check reviews and other content submitted by members, so you can trust the info you find here.

Travellerspoint Travel Community

www.travellerspoint.com

With more than 150,000 members, this large community of travel enthusiasts is a great place to swap travel stories, make like-minded friends, remember past trips, and plan future ones. Create a blog, upload photos, map your trips, ask questions, share advice, and help build the sites' Wiki Travel Guide.

FORUMS/DISCUSSIONS

Extravigator

<http://extravigator.com>

Extravigator is an open forum for those who enjoy the good life to discuss luxury travel. Membership is free.

HOTELS

WEBSITES

Best Western International Hotels

www.bestwestern.com

Clarion Hotels

www.clarionhotel.com

Club Med

www.clubmed.com

Comfort Inn

www.comfortinn.com

Days Inn

www.daysinn.com

Doubletree

<http://doubletree1.hilton.com/>

Econo Lodge

www.econolodge.com

Embassy Suites

<http://embassysuites1.hilton.com/>

Extended Stay America Hotels

www.extendedstayamerica.com

Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts

www.fourseasons.com

Hampton Inn

<http://hamptoninn1.hilton.com/>

Hilton Hotels

www.hilton.com

Howard Johnson

www.hojo.com

Hyatt Hotels and Resorts

www.hyatt.com

InterContinental Hotels and Resorts

www.ichotelsgroup.com/intercontinental/en/gb/home

Knights Inn

www.knightsinn.com

La Quinta Inns and Suites

www.lq.com

Marriott Hotels and Resorts

www.marriott.com

Motel 6

www.motel6.com

Novotel

www.novotel.com

Outrigger Hotels and Resorts

www.outrigger.com

Peninsula Hotels

www.peninsula.com

Radisson Hotels and Resorts

www.radisson.com

Ramada Worldwide

www.ramada.com

Red Roof Inn

www.redroof.com

Relais & Chateaux

www.relaischateaux.com

Ritz-Carlton Hotels and Resorts

www.ritzcarlton.com

Rodeway Innwww.rodewayinn.com*Sheraton Hotels and Resorts*www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/*Super 8 Motel*www.super8.com*Travelodge*www.travelodge.com*Westin Hotels and Resorts*www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/*Wyndham Hotels and Resorts*www.wyndham.com

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

WEBSITES



100% Pure New Zealand

www.newzealand.com/travel/

You can learn a lot about New Zealand as you plan your trip by visiting this site. Explore the country's history, nature, and culture; check out destinations and maps; view scenic highlights and find out about popular activities and attractions; find a booking service to help you plan your trip.

About.com: Africa Travel

<http://goafrica.about.com/>

Lots of information here about traveling to Africa, including maps, when and where to go on safari, the top 10 destinations, and much more. There are separate sections for different African countries.

About.com: South America Travel

<http://gosouthamerica.about.com/>

Essential information for anyone planning a trip to South America: planning, most popular destinations, festivals and holidays, history, cuisine, wildlife—and that's just scratching the surface of this informative site.

Australian Travel and Tourism

www.australia.com

This well designed, highly interactive site introduces travelers to all that Australia has to offer. Explore different areas of the country; learn about events attractions, climate, and wildlife; find out about visas and other entry requirements; locate a travel agent.

Canada.travel

www.canada.travel

The website of the Canada Tourism Commission helps you plan a trip to Canada. Its Explore section has these categories: Natural Wonders, Seasonal Sensations, Luxury Escapes, Refresh & Rejuvenate, Cultural Discoveries, Urban Retreats, and Mountain Tops. There are separate sections for travelers, meeting planners, media, and those in the travel trade.

China Travel

www.chinatravel.com

A place to learn about traveling to China and meet others who've been there or want to go, China Travel serves up news and facts about China, its cities, and its culture. View photos, read travelers' stories, and find hot travel deals.

Cool Antarctica

www.coolantarctica.com

All about Antarctica: facts, news, and amazing photos. The site's Antarctica Cruise and Travel Guide is a great source of information for those planning a trip, covering everything from the basics of Antarctica travel (when to go, what to pack, how much it's likely to cost) to information about specific tours.

Egyptian Tourism Office

www.egypt.travel

The Egyptian Tourist Authority has put together an in-depth site about the country to help you plan your trip. With videos, news, an events calendar and travel planner, an Arabic phrasebook, the LovEgypt Club newsletter, and more, this site will fascinate Egyptophiles.

Eurotrotter

www.eurotrotter.com

A comprehensive directory packed with links to travel sites covering all aspects of European travel, from individual countries to culture to transportation and accommodation.

Related Sites

www.africatrotter.com

www.americatrotter.com

www.asiatrotter.com

www.australiatrotter.com

France.com

www.france.com

One of the world's most popular tourist destinations, France has something to please nearly everyone. France.com highlights the best the country has to offer, with news, forums, and information about regions, getting there, lodging, and tours.

Germany Travel Guide

www.justgermany.org

If you're planning a trip to Germany, be sure to stop here first. Here you'll find general information about the country, as well as information about culture, destinations, business, and activities.

International Travel Maps & Books

www.itmb.com

It's always a challenge for international travelers to find their way around a new city or country. Be prepared with detailed travel maps of countries and regions around the world, published and sold here by ITMB Publishing.

International Travel News

www.intltravelnews.com

A monthly magazine published since 1976, *International Travel News* provides international travelers with valuable news, tips, articles, and advice. Whether you're traveling on a shoestring or looking for luxury, you'll find excellent information in this site's articles and forums.

Israel Wonders

www.goisrael.com

This site organizes its information by traveler interest in Israel: general travelers, those who want to visit Christian holy sites, and those interested in Jewish sites. Whichever area you choose, you get information about places, attractions, and accommodations, as well as planning your trip.

Italy Travel Guide

www.justitaly.org

Here's everything you need to plan a trip to Italy: destinations, a general travel guide, activities, culture, and doing business.

Japan National Tourist Organization

www.jnto.go.jp

The Japan National Tourist Organization has put together this attractive and informative site to promote travel to Japan. Learn about destinations, make travel arrangements, prepare for your trip, and get in-depth information about Japanese history, culture, attractions, events.

Lonely Planet

www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/

The World Guide of this popular series of travel books is your gateway to international travel. Choose a region and country to go to a page loaded with information about that destination: photos, videos, maps, itineraries, fun facts, travel articles and podcasts, information about getting there, what to do, and where to stay.

Mexico Travel Guide

www.go2mexico.com

To plan a trip south of the border, head for this site. Here you can get travel tips, brush up on Spanish, explore different regions, learn about Mexico's history and culture, and read the latest travel news.

Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door

www.ricksteves.com

Bestselling travel writer and television/radio host Rick Steves guides you through Europe. Plan an independent trip or sign up for a tour, read travel news and events, buy Rick Steves guidebooks, or get info about his shows. Has podcasts and a blog.

Spain Tourism

www.spain.info

Going to Spain? The official website for Spain tourism helps you decide where to go and what to do, assists you in planning and booking your trip, and offers a multimedia section (video, audio, photos, guides, maps) to whet your appetite.

Steve Kropla's Help for World Travelers

<http://kropla.com/>

Will your blow-dryer work in Belize? How about your electric razor in Istanbul or your cell phone in Moscow? This site offers practical electrical and telephone information for international travelers.

Travel Turkey

www.travelturkey.com

Advice, tips, and practical info about visiting this popular tourist destination. Whether you're traveling independently or looking for a tour, this site tells you what you need to know—before you go and during your trip. Use the site's free Concierge feature to email questions and get expert answers.

Travelers' Health

www.cdc.gov/travel/

International travelers need to be aware of health risks in various parts of the world. This site, maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, explains about diseases, vaccinations, safe food and water, and so on. Has sections on traveling with children and pets, studying abroad, and concerns related to travel by air and cruise ship.

U.S. State Department: Travel

<http://travel.state.gov/>

The U.S. State Department's Travel site has information for international travelers: passports, travel tips, health information, and alerts and warnings about world trouble spots.

Universal Currency Converter

www.xe.com

To find out how many euros, pounds, rubles, yuan, or pesos your dollar can buy, check out this site, which converts between dozens of currencies. The currency converter is free, but you can use your credit card to buy foreign currency online.

VisitBritain.com

www.visitbritain.com

This is a wonderful site to discover all that Britain has to offer. Explore London or other cities and regions of the country, find things to see and do and places to stay, learn how to get around, check out vacation deals, and use the Trip Planner to get the most out of your trip. The site's unique Friends section presents bloggers from all over the country, writing about their region. Read a local's impressions and favorite places, and respond with questions and your own thoughts.

MUSEUMS

WEBSITES



American Museum of Natural History

www.amnh.org

This museum, located in New York City, has more than 40 exhibition halls, a library, and research labs. Its website lists highlights of the museum (including past, current, upcoming, and permanent exhibitions), visitor information, children's programs, and much, much more. You can buy tickets, become a member, and shop the museum store online.

British Museum

www.britishmuseum.org

No trip to London is complete without a visit to the British Museum, and this site is an excellent introduction to the museum and its collections. Explore through online tours and featured galleries and objects, find out about current and future exhibitions, and get directions and opening hours. You can also join the museum and shop in the online store.

Curious Collections: America's Weird Museums

www.infoplease.com/spot/weirdmuseums1.html

This directory highlights out-of-the-ordinary museums, from the whimsical to the scary to the downright odd. From the Museum of Bad Art to the International UFO Museum, from a museum that showcases Pez memorabilia to another that has more than 2,000 specimens of barbed wire, you'll find crazy collections listed here.

Louvre

www.louvre.fr

Possibly the world's most famous museum, the Louvre has a website that lives up to its reputation. Take a virtual tour, view some of the world's greatest works of art, find out about exhibitions, plan your visit, and purchase tickets online. When you sign up for a free account, you can create personalized albums of your favorite items and articles.

Metropolitan Museum of Art

www.metmuseum.org

On this site, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art features a work from its permanent collection each day, or you can search its database of more than 50,000 items. Browse the museum by its departments, special exhibitions, virtual tours, articles, and more. Creating a free My Met Museum account gives you special features, such as a virtual gallery to store your favorite artworks and a customizable calendar of Met events.

MuseumLink

www.museumlink.com

A "Museum of Museums," this directory lists U.S., Canadian, and international museums, with links to each museum's official site. Also has a list of virtual, online-only museums.

Museums USA

www.museumsusa.org/museums/

This directory lists more than 15,000 museums and 3,000 museum-sponsored events. Includes some smaller museums that you may not find in other directories.

MuseumSpot.com

<http://museumspot.com/>

This directory helps you find a museum or a particular artist's works. It also lists the most popular museums, current exhibits, offbeat museums, and news and articles of interest to museum lovers.

National Civil Rights Museum

www.civilrightsmuseum.org

In 1991, this Memphis museum opened its doors at the site of the Lorraine Motel, site of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Here, you can trace the history of the civil rights movement in the United States and watch video interviews with those who lived the struggle.

National Gallery of Art

www.nga.gov

The nation's art museum, located in Washington, DC, shares information about its collection, exhibitions, and events. Its video and audio podcasts give behind-the-scenes information and in-depth looks at items in the collection. Plan your visit, or simply take an online tour.

Smithsonian Institution 

www.si.edu

The Smithsonian, in Washington, D.C., is the world's largest museum, made up of 19 individual museums, nine research centers, and the National Zoo. Its website reflects its size and diversity: the Encyclopedia Smithsonian section provides hundreds of articles related to Art & Design, History & Culture, and Science & Technology—and that's just for starters. Find out about exhibitions, events, research, individual museums, and visiting the Smithsonian and becoming a member.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

www.ushmm.org

This Washington, DC museum strives to inspire people to “confront hatred, prevent genocide, promote human dignity, and strengthen democracy” through remembrance of the Holocaust. This site explains about the museum and its programs, acquaints visitors with the history of the Holocaust, and offers resources for educators, students, and activists.

PARKS

WEBSITES

GORP.com

<http://gorp.away.com/>

This travel site specializes in national parks. Check out the Park Top 10 lists to find the best parks to see wildlife, go fishing or biking, or get off the beaten path. You can find a park by region; learn about national forests, wilderness areas, and monuments; find a campground and the gear you'll need; book an adventure vacation; and more.

National Park Service

www.nps.gov

The U.S. National Park Service (NPS) has done an outstanding job putting together this guide, which covers the NPS, its parks, and educational resources. Follow links to pages for individual parks, including the most popular ones, such as Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, Denali, Acadia, the Everglades, Bryce Canyon, Big Bend, Yosemite, and hundreds more. Find a park by name, location, activity (camping, boating, hunting, and so on), or topic (Civil War, fossils/dinosaurs, caves, for example).

National Parks Conservation Association

www.npca.org

The stated mission of the NPCA is “to protect and enhance America’s National Parks for present and future generations.” You can learn about the work of this organization, receive Action Alerts about important issues, find out how to support the NPCA, explore national parks, and subscribe to *National Parks* magazine.

U.S. Forest Service

www.fs.fed.us

Learn about National Forests and Grasslands (including where to find them and get maps/brochures), get information about passes and fees, read about the history of the Forest Service and its current work. Has a Just for Kids section featuring Smokey Bear and Woody Owl.

BLOGS

Backcountry Ranger's Blog

<http://trailpatrol.blogspot.com/>

This blog of a self-described “middle-aged park ranger, backcountry trails volunteer, and dyed-in-the-wool winter person” who writes about his job and thoughts about life.

RESTAURANTS

WEBSITES

Fodor's World Restaurant Reviews

www.fodors.com/world/restaurant-reviews.html

Fodor's Travel Guides dish up restaurant reviews for destinations all over the world. Reviews are by Fodor's staff and, when available, by diners like you.

Happy Cow's Vegetarian Guide

www.happycow.net

If you're a vegetarian, use this directory to find restaurants serving up cruelty-free food, whether in your home town or during your travels. With more than 8,000 listings covering more than 100 countries, Happy Cow is an indispensable guide for vegetarians who want to eat out.

Healthy Dining Finder

www.healthydiningfinder.com/site/

When you're watching what you eat, travel can be difficult, but the Healthy Dining Finder helps you find on-the-road food that's good for you. Restaurants that join the site submit nutritional information, which is analyzed by Healthy Dining's nutritionists and published on the site. Search by location, price range, and other criteria (such as take-out or delivery) to find restaurants, and then click View Nutrition Information for the restaurant you want.

Restaurants.com

www.restaurants.com

This site offers restaurant reviews from all over the world. Search by location, then browse restaurant listings and user reviews.

ZAGAT



www.zagat.com

Zagat Guides are famous for directing readers to the world's best restaurants, and ZAGAT Online continues that tradition. When you open a free account, you can read user reviews and post your own, make reservations online, look at photos or take a virtual tour of restaurants, and get weekly emails. For a

couple of bucks a month, premium members get access to Zagat's own reviews and ratings and a discount in the online store. The Zagat Buzz is the site's blog.

PODCASTS



The Restaurant Guys

www.restaurantguysradio.com

Restaurateurs Francis Schott and Mark Pascal bring you this hour-long show each weekday, featuring conversations and interviews with famous chefs, restaurant operators, and wine and food critics.

SOCIAL NETWORKING



Menuism

www.menuism.com

A social network for foodies, Menuism lets members share restaurant reviews and photos, make friends with other food lovers, and create a list of your favorite restaurants. You don't have to be a member, though, to search for and read reviews.

U.S. TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

WEBSITES



Atlantic City Tourism

www.atlanticcitynj.com

If you're yearning for the excitement of Atlantic City, visit this site, where you can watch videos, learn about the casinos and resorts, check out upcoming events, and more. Register to create a personalized trip plan, and then book online.

California

www.visitcalifornia.com

California is one of those places that seems to have something for everyone, and you can plan your own California vacation here. Explore the state and the California lifestyle, find things to do, and use travel tools to plan and book your trip.

Hawaii: The Islands of Aloha

www.gohawaii.com

Whether you're looking for the bustle and energy of Oahu's Waikiki, the serene beauty of Kauai, or the mind-blowing volcanoes of the Big Island, Hawaii's official tourism site lets you explore the many facets of the Aloha State. Learn about the different islands, find vacation ideas, and plan your trip.

I Love New York

www.iloveny.com

From the bright lights of Broadway to the roar of Niagara Falls, this site covers everything you need to plan a trip to New York. Main areas of the site include Things to See & Do, Getaways, Where to Stay, Cities & Towns, Outdoors, and About New York State; each area has helpful articles, information, and tools for travelers. Download maps, make reservations online, or order a customized brochure that addresses your specific interests.

Myrtle Beach

www.mbchamber.com

Calling itself "America's Beach Playground," Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, offers 60 miles of sandy beaches and more than 89,000 accommodations, as well as golf courses, shopping, amusement and water parks, and

more. Take a video tour or peruse the photo gallery, learn about lodging and events, and request a free vacation guide.

Only Vegas

www.visitlasvegas.com

The official tourism site for Las Vegas helps you find all the exciting things to see and do in this city that is visited by nearly 40 million people each year. Whether you're interested in casinos, shows, golf, dining, shopping, nightlife, or a wedding, this site has everything you need to plan your trip. Watch Vegas videos, find a hotel, check upcoming attractions, browse special deals, and make reservations online.

Orlando Travel & Visitors Bureau

www.orlandoinfo.com

This site is a must-visit for anyone planning a trip to Orlando. You'll find places to stay, things to do, other visitor info, discounts and promotions, an event calendar, and the like.

Travel Alaska

www.travelalaska.com

The Alaska Travel Industry Association has put together an excellent website to help you plan your trip to America's last frontier. Sections include Discover Alaska, Destinations, Things to Do, Getting Around, and Places to Stay. Sample itineraries, such as Destination Anchorage, Inside the Inside Passage, and The Great Alaska Road Trip, and show possibilities for your trip.

TravelTex

www.traveltex.com

If you're planning a trip to the Lone Star State, this site will get you started with information about cities and regions, activities and events, and places to stay. Check out the interactive map of Texas, watch videos, and read articles on everything from shopping to ranches and rodeos to birding to Texas music. You can sign up for free newsletters and a travel guide.

VisitFlorida

www.visitflorida.com

Whatever you want to see, do, or experience in Florida, this site can help you plan your trip. It's packed with articles and features about the Sunshine State, including events and attractions, regions, beaches, sports, weather information, romantic getaways, tours, and deals. A nice feature is a series of blogs from ten local experts in these areas: Arts & Culture, Boating & Fishing, Shopping & Nightlife, Beach & Surf, Family, Authentic Florida, Smart Travel, Golf, Outdoors, and Adventure—so you've got an insider's guide to the activities that interest you.

PODCASTS



Hawaii Vacation Connection

www.hawaii-aloha.com/podcast/

Whether you're planning a trip to Hawaii or just dreaming about one, you'll enjoy this blog and podcast of Hawaii vacation tips and news.

VACATIONS

WEBSITES



Abercrombie & Kent



www.abercrombiekent.com

Specializing in luxury vacations, Abercrombie & Kent offers small-group and independent vacation packages to more than 100 countries on all seven continents.

Adventure Center



www.adventurecenter.com

Those who like active vacations should take a look at this online travel agency, which specializes in adventure vacations: safaris, hiking or cycling tours, overland expeditions, tall-ship sailing, and more. Also offers family adventures designed with kids in mind.

Away.com

<http://away.com/>

If you're looking for vacation ideas, check out this site. It's packed with insider information and tips on destinations, interest guides, and travel photos and articles. Offers blogs and newsletters.

Golf Vacation Insider

www.golfvacationinsider.com

When you register with your email address, this site sends you free reports on any of the dozens of different golf courses. The site provides daily tips for those considering a golf vacation, and there's a free newsletter.

Golf Vacations



www.golfvacations.com

Avid golfers eager to spend their vacation on the links should take a look at this site, which can help you put together a golf vacation package.

Gordons Guide: Adventure & Active Travel

www.gordonsguide.com

Want to spend your next vacation chasing tornadoes or diving with sharks? How about a dog-sledding, archeological, or wagon-train vacation? Gordons Guide finds dozens of exciting, offbeat, educational vacations and compiles them for you here. Also lists resorts, spas, and retreats.

The International Kitchen

www.theinternationalkitchen.com



Have you ever returned home wishing you could re-create the wonderful food you enjoyed on vacation? If so, you might be interested in a trip that combines fun, travel, and cooking lessons. Travel to Italy, France, Spain/Portugal, Morocco, Mexico/the Caribbean and learn to cook the local specialties.

Ski Vacations



www.ski.com

If your idea of fun is shussing down powdery white slopes, this travel agency can help you plan your vacation. Get information about resorts (including some videos), talk with other skiers in the forums, play with the cool interactive 3D maps of top ski spots, and book online.

SpaFinder

www.spafinder.com

Consult this directory's "Getaway Spas" to find a relaxing or energizing spa vacation in hundreds of locations around the world.

Volunteer Vacations

www.charityguide.org/volunteer/vacations.htm

This site lists vacations that make a difference, ranging from 1–4 weeks. Causes for which you can volunteer are sorted into these categories: Animal Welfare, Children's Issues, Community Development, Health & Safety, and Poverty. Choose a cause, and the site offers links so you can find out more.

ZOO'S

WEBSITES



Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)

www.aza.org

The AZA accredits zoos and aquariums to make sure they meet high standards of animal care, wildlife conservation, science, and education. Visit this site to learn more about the AZA or find an accredited zoo.

Bronx Zoo

www.bronxzoo.com

This zoo has more than 4,000 animals and emphasizes conservation. Here you can explore such exhibits as the Congo Gorilla Forest and the Himalayan Highlands Habitat (plus a lot more). Get information to plan your visit, including hours, rates, events, and directions, and listen to behind-the-scenes podcasts.

Denver Zoo

www.denverzoo.org

With more than 4,000 animals from 700 different species, this popular zoo receives about 1.6 million visitors each year. Learn about animals and plants, as well as the zoo's education and conservation programs, activities for kids, and planning a visit.

San Diego Zoo

www.sandiegozoo.com

The coolest thing about this informative site is its live Web cams, which let you observe animals in real-time: pandas, polar bears, apes, and elephants. But there's a lot more to explore, too, in these sections: Visit, Calendar, Animals & Plants, Kids, Education, Get Involved, and Donate. The site offers videos, free postcards, online ticket sales, and a store.

Smithsonian National Zoological

Park

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/>

The National Zoo's site offers a world of information about animals and conservation. Twenty Web cams let you watch what animals are doing right now, and the Photo Gallery offers tours of the zoo's different areas and exhibits. From backyard biology to rare and endangered species, you can learn about your favorite animals (and some you've never heard of). Find out about zoo events and activities, support the zoo with a donation, or shop in its online store. You can even buy animal-sound ringtones!

Toronto Zoo

www.torontozoo.com

An information-filled site from one of the world's largest zoos, with more than 5,000 animals living on a 710-acre site. The Animals section offers videos and fact sheets on dozens of animals from all over the world. There's also information about events and programs, adopting an animal, zoo camp, conservation, and education, as well as an online store.

BLOGS



Zoo News

<http://blog.syracuse.com/zoo/>

Written by the staff of Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, New York, this blog talks about interactions with animals, what it's like to work at a zoo, and zoo-related news.

VIDEOS



Oregon Zoo Video Archive

www.oregonzoo.org/Gallery/video.htm

The Oregon Zoo has put lots of animal and exhibit videos online for you to watch.

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