

What a Site: 36 Web Addresses You Should Know

Using the Internet to book travel is here to stay. In the past year, nearly 45 million booked their travel plans through the Web, up nearly 6 percent from the previous year, according to a survey by the Travel Industry Association. In this chart, we've updated our annual guide to travel sites, including new spins on old standbys and new sites worth perusing. We've also added a category on aggregators, sites that basically scan direct booking sites for the best deals and then point you there to purchase. One constant remains: Compare prices on two or more sites to make sure you're getting a fair deal. And, yes, there are plenty of other worthwhile sites out there—these are our admittedly subjective top picks.

-Carol Sottili

	SITE	PROS	CONS	NEW & NOTABLE
LAST-MINUTE & AUCTION	www.skyauction.com	The eBay of the travel world. You bid against other travelers for packages. Some top-notch deals can be had (e.g., \$175 for a night at the Marriott Resort Coronado Island, while other booking sites charge at least \$208). Taxes clearly stated.	It's possible to get caught up in a bidding war and spend too much on a package. You must register with credit card info in order to bid.	Each month, new travel packages featuring different providers are added to the menu.
	www.11thhourvacations.com	Site's "Ideal Vacation Finder" IDs potential getaways based on answers to a questionnaire, where users can check such interests as shopping, water sports and relaxing.	Not up to date. Example: You can book a room for October in a Florida resort damaged by Hurricane Charley that's closed until Christmas.	Can sign up to have weekly deal list e-mailed to you.
	www.site59.com	Simple search engine bundles flight and hotel, flight and car, or hotel and car. Can search for packages by departure city, destination or date. "Ideas" feature recommends packages based on such criteria as "sun and beach." No hidden costs.	Sometimes packages aren't the best deals, so you need to price out the options separately to make sure you're saving money. Few deals are truly last minute.	Recently upgraded its search engine to allow more open-ended planning.