

Search for Travel Information Online

The Internet is a fantastic resource when it comes to booking holidays. You can book flights, trains, buses, accommodation, car hire online and you can often find great deals available when you book via the Internet.

You can also research holiday destinations by reading reviews, checking out hotel websites, visiting tourism websites and looking at photographs before you travel!

What are the benefits?

- **Good deals** – you can often find lower prices online because companies cut their overheads significantly by taking a booking directly over the Internet rather than having you book through a travel agent in a shop or over the phone
- **Choice** – when you browse for holidays on the Internet you literally have the world at your feet! You can search for accommodation, flights, and package holidays from any one of hundreds if not thousands of companies from all over the world
- **Know before you go** – having access to the Internet means you can research your holiday destination before you go. You can read other traveller's reviews, see photos of where you are going and find out about interesting things to do when you are there!

A small word of caution!

When booking travel online we need to apply the same guidelines as we do to online shopping:

- Only book with a reputable company
- When using your credit card ensure that you are on a secure website (see the shopping handout for more information on using your credit card securely)
- Keep an eye on the terms and conditions
- Be aware that flight prices quoted often do not include taxes and charges so might work out more expensive than you first think!

Using GOOGLE to find travel information

Using Google is a great way to find information on your holiday destination, hotel, etc

For instance, if you were going on holidays in Tenerife and were interested in hill walking while you were there – a simple Google search for “Tenerife hill walking” returns lots of useful results.

If you were travelling to Prague and wanted to find some nice restaurants to eat in you could search for “Prague restaurants” and you will find lots of reviews, photos etc to help you find what you are looking for.

Try it yourself – enter in some keywords about the holiday destination you are planning (or dreaming!) of visiting and let Google do the searching for you!

Travel Websites for you to visit

There are hundreds of travel websites out there - here are a few suggestions to try out

Flights:

www.aerlingus.com

www.ryanair.com

www.skyscanner.ie

Accommodation in Ireland:

www.accommodation.ie

www.goireland.com

Package holidays:

www.holidaysonline.ie

www.budgettravel.ie

Many websites will search out the best deals for you, so you can just enter your travel dates and let them do the work -

www.orbitz.com

www.gohop.ie

www.ebookers.ie

Many of the well known travel guide book companies have excellent websites

www.fodors.com

www.lonelyplanet.com

You can also ask read reviews on hotels, destinations etc on travel review websites

www.tripadvisor.com

www.virtualtourist.com

Travel forums are handy places to post up your questions, or read questions posted by other travellers

www.lonelyplanet.com/thorntree/index.jspa

www.travelblog.org/Forum/

www.fodors.com/community/

Activity 1

Visit the Louvre in Paris

You have decided to take a trip to Paris and would like to visit the Louvre

You want to:

- Find out the opening times of the Louvre
- Find a hotel near the Louvre
- Find a restaurant near the Louvre

Find out the opening times of the Louvre

- 1 Go to the Google and search for **Louvre**
- 2 Scroll down the results page and find a link to a page where you might find information about Louvre opening times

What are the opening times of the Louvre? _____

Find a hotel near the Louvre

- 1 Go to the Google and search for 'Hotels near Louvre'
- 2 Explore the links on the results page

What is the name of the hotel you have chosen? _____

Can you make a booking online? _____

Find a restaurant near the Louvre

- 1 Go to the Google and search for 'restaurants near Louvre'
- 2 Explore the links on the results page

What is the name of the restaurant you have chosen? _____

Can you make a booking online? _____

Now you have found out the opening times of the Louvre, a hotel to stay in and a restaurant to eat in, all you need to do is book your flight – see lesson - **Book a Flight Online**