



Travel Planning on the Web

The web offers a plethora of resources on travel from travel communities to booking tools. Searching the web makes it easy to find out where you want to go, what you want to do, and how you want to get there but refining your search and finding what you really want requires know-how.

After this workshop you should be able to:

- Generate ideas for refining travel related searches
- Identify useful web tools for travel planning
- Create a fun itinerary with Travefy!

Locations and activities

We all travel for different reasons. Maybe it's because a particular location has always intrigued you. Maybe you have a hobby or interest that is best explored in new locations. You can use the web to search by location or by interest.

Think about keywords when searching such as "travel" or "tour."

TASK: Search for "Belgium" and refine for travel results, look for patterns in your results, find a site or article of interest to you

Notice patterns in your search results:

- Frequent sites
- Site types (government sites, blogs, etc.)
- Google tools (maps, reviews, news, etc.)
- "Top..." or "Best..." articles

Choosing a vacation to indulge in particular interests can bring you to places you'd never thought to go with a simple search.

TASK: Search for "Hiking" and refine for travel results. Note patterns and find a unique location

TASK: Search for "Wine tasting" and refine for travel results.

What keywords worked and what didn't, how did you refine? Write down some keywords that helped in your search?

Discovery sites

You may have noticed some websites that came up frequently in your google search. Sites like TripAdvisor, LonelyPlanet, and WikiTravel have a lot of useful travel information in one place and can be great places to discover new and exciting ideas for your next trip.

- **TripAdvisor.com** focuses on finding hotels, flights, restaurants, and so on and includes customer reviews and price comparison. They also have articles about best places and best activities and a community forum so you can discuss with other travelers what their experiences have been.
- **LonelyPlanet.com** is similar to TripAdvisor but is more focused on exploration, tours, activities, and alternative travel (budget, family, adventure, etc.). You can still find booking resources but LonelyPlanet is geared toward inspiring you. They also have basic information about weather and insurance that can be helpful in preparing your trip.
- **Wikitravel.org** is another great site for exploration and preparing for your trip. It has a lot of best travel articles and features, current news and travel alerts, and even lists interesting events happening all over the world that might provoke you to travel. There is also a section for learning phrases in different languages. You can get a lot of good ideas and learn about your destination before you go.

Itinerary

Maybe you use calendar tools online to put together your itinerary but now there are tools specifically designed for you to plan your vacation. Planning like this assures that you can get the most out of your experience. You can find them through simply searching the web which is how I found Travefy.com. You can use it as a discovery tool, like with TripAdvisor and LonelyPlanet, but with Travefy you take it a step further and add the places and activities you find into a calendar, budget for each event, and even invite, share, and discuss your plans with your travel buddies.

TASK: Use travefy.com to choose one flight, one restaurant, and one activity in the destination of your choice!

Booking

There are so many ways to find the best deals and book flights and accommodations online. With all the places and activities you have in mind you can start thinking about how to get there, where to stay, and how to get around. Here are some useful sites for booking:

Getting there:

wanderu.com
skyscanner.net

Staying there:

airbnb.com
homeaway.com

Both/Packages:

expedia.com
priceline.com
kayak.com