




## 10 travel websites that can save you money

Article

Published On Fri Jun 11 2010

Email | Print | Republish | Add to Favourites | Report an error | Share Share 42

Arthur Frommer  
 Special to the Star

Travel websites come and go—hundreds of new ones emerge each year—but 10 remain unchallenged, in my view, for their ability to save you large sums of money on nearly any vacation trip:

1. [Momondo.com](#) for the lowest air fares: Created by Danish techies and headquartered in Copenhagen, of all places, it has an uncanny ability to find better rates for your next flight, even for purely local trips within North America. That's because, it's claimed, its program surveys all sources of airfares—some 800 of them, even those that pay no commission to Momondo for getting them a customer. Next time



Couchsurfing.org has gear for those travellers looking to park themselves on a stranger's furniture for a few days.

PHOTO/COURTESY OF COUCHSURFING.COM

you book a flight to anywhere, give these enterprising Danes a look.

Ads by Google

[Houston Coupons](#)

1 ridiculously huge coupon a day.

It's like doing Houston at 90% off!

[www.Groupon.com/Houston](http://www.Groupon.com/Houston)

for business on a particular day.

3. [Hotelscombined.com](#) for reduced hotel rates: Here's a site that scans dozens of other hotel websites around the world and then produces the best rates for particular dates. If there's a sale going on, or a hotel slashing rates temporarily, Hotelscombined.com will find the bargain, saving you a great deal of money. GetaRoom.com is among its competitors, but it finds hotels in only a handful of heavily visited cities.

4. [Homeexchange.com](#) for swapping apartments and homes: It apparently has become the most widely used service for vacation exchanges, as a result of its prominent mention in a recent Hollywood film. Its tens of thousands of home or apartment listings enable you to quickly and effectively find a person eager to exchange his or her home or apartment for yours during the time of your respective vacations, enabling both of you to enjoy free lodgings.

- Advertisement -

Flights Vacations Hotels Cars

Round Trip:  One way:

From:

To:

18.07.2010	Adults	1	+ -
25.07.2010	Children	0	+ -

powered by Show Recommended Sites

Parenting news, education and school info and more.

### See for Yourself »

	Sleeping Around Like a Sailor
	Sleeping Around at the Sugar Shack
	Sleeping Around in a Horror Novel
	Fun Family Day Ideas

5. [Homeaway.com](#) for renting vacation homes and apartments: After acquiring several smaller home-rental companies, Homeaway has become the largest source of such rentals, and appears to operate efficiently and reliably. Numerous travelers currently are substituting homes or apartments for hotel rooms, spending less and enjoying more spacious accommodations than a hotel would provide. (Rentalo.com, specializing in apartments, is among its competitors.)

6. [Cruisesonly.com](#) (whose main competitors are [VacationsToGo.com](#) and [OnlineVacationCenter.com](#)) will snare discount rates for most sailings of most major cruise ships. Nearly every cruise line discounts the rates appearing in its catalogues and brochures, and the smart cruise passenger always seeks out these reductions in price.

7. [Xe.com](#) for currency-exchange rates: This strange, two-letter website supplies you with up-to-the-minute exchange rates for all the world's currencies, enabling you to know the dollar equivalent of foreign prices. (Smart travelers obtain their foreign currencies from the ATM machines in all foreign cities of any size; they do much better at ATM machines than from exchange kiosks and counters.)

8. [Hostelz.com](#) for low-cost hostels throughout the world. For the most cost-conscious of all travelers (seeking to pay no more than \$25 a night), Hostelz provides you with photographs and texts describing many thousands of hostels offering low-cost beds to people of all ages, sometimes in hotels that were recently converted into hostels by ambitious entrepreneurs.

9. [Couchsurfing.org](#) for young people seeking free hospitality and [Servas.org](#) for older ones. Both organizations maintain massive lists of generous people around the world who are willing to put up guests in their homes free of charge for short stays (usually two or three nights). Servas has been in existence since 1948 and has a mainly mature membership; the more-recently founded Couchsurfing caters to a more youthful set.

10. [Airbnb.com](#) for those occasions when all hotels in a particular city are sold out because of large conventions or trade shows. For numerous cities in the U.S. and Canada, Airbnb.com lists and rents moderately priced rooms in private homes for special use at the time of political conventions or like events.

Runners-up to the Top 10: Though they don't deserve the supreme accolade, a number of other websites are helpful in a broad number of instances:

- [Privatemotorhomerental.com](#) for renting an RV directly from its owner, at a considerable savings.
- [Biketoursdirect.com](#) for its listings of inexpensive group bicycle tours departing from throughout North America and abroad on numerous dates
- [Womenwelcomewomen.org.uk](#) for providing hospitality to female travelers, ranging from a spare cot or room to simply meeting them for a drink.
- [Viamigo.com](#) or [Rentalocalfriend.com](#) for acquiring a local guide in various out-of-town or foreign cities.
- [Theatermania.com](#), [Stubhub.com](#) or [Ticketsnow.com](#) for obtaining discount theatre tickets in numerous cities.
- [Shoretrips.com](#) for inexpensive port visits on cruises, in small-van groups.

*Arthur Frommer is the pioneering founder of the Frommer's Travel Guide book series. He co-hosts the radio program, The Travel Show, with his travel correspondent daughter Pauline Frommer. Find more destinations online and read Arthur Frommer's blog at*

*frommers.com.*

© 2010 by Arthur Frommer

Distributed by King Features Syndicate

#### Also see:

[Storming of the Chateau as Bastille Day nears](#)

[Letters: Searching for Jacques Cartier, finding tributes to Canadian soldiers overseas](#)

[The liquid gold that begat a New Zealand festival](#)

[More Photos and Videos »](#)

#### Ads by Google

##### Ally Checking & Savings

Open a Checking & Savings Account.

Use Any ATM Nationwide - No Fees

[www.Ally.com](#)

##### Remit Money to India

Get more INR for every USD

Compare and Remit Money Now!

[Citi.com](#)

##### The Ritz-Carlton Club®

Discover world-class luxury with

The Ritz-Carlton Destination Club®

[www.RitzCarltonClub.com](#)

##### Foreign Money

Quickly Find Info on World Currency

Trading in Our Directory Today.

[www.business.com](#)