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Trivago book and go reviews

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Hotel search engines can be unpredictable, with past performance not guaranteeing future success. Our research has shown that top-performing sites from last year have declined in quality, while new entrants have risen to the top. Three established players were dropped from our list, including Priceline, Expedia, and Hotels.com, which were surpassed by newcomers like a site that had never before earned a Top 10 spot after eight years of trying. Meanwhile, a previously struggling booking engine has rebounded strongly this year. To understand the playing field, there are three main types of websites: online travel agencies (OTAs), hotels' own websites with special deals, and aggregators or meta-search engines that trawl both to return results. We recommend testing both OTAs and aggregators and double-checking rates against hotel sites. Despite the existence of aggregators, some don't thoroughly search booking engines. Our research found an OTA was our champion for total hotels found in most cities due to algorithmic limitations. Be cautious when booking through aggregator sites that display low prices from unverified companies. Always check reviews and reputation before booking and be aware of fees, which are unregulated in the US. Don't rely on user reviews, as AI can make them fake. We looked at several websites to see which ones could find the lowest prices and most options for us. We used normal member rates for all our tests and only considered prices from trustworthy resellers when testing aggregators. First, we counted how many hotels each site could find in four price categories across six major cities: San Francisco, Philadelphia, Rome, Paris, Hong Kong, and Buenos Aires. Then, we searched for the lowest rates each site could find at four specific downtown hotels on a mid-week stay three months ahead. This ensured a fair comparison on the same date, ignoring high-season spikes and last-minute discounts. We gave points to hotel websites that found the lowest rates and penalized those that returned higher prices than others. We also looked closely at how honest websites were about disclosing mandatory added fees. If sites try to make rooms seem cheaper than they really are, we warn you. So, who performed well on best prices and who didn't? Read on... Trip.com was the winner for finally making it into our Top Ten after eight years of testing! However, its results were inconsistent, and it only excelled at finding good prices in Paris (and to a lesser extent, Rome). We were impressed that it includes full prices with taxes and fees included on its results page. On the other hand, it committed some errors, like telling us one Philly hostel was sold out when all others showed availability. Pros: Displays and sorts by total cost; performs decently in Europe Cons: Inconsistent results TripAdvisor.com also aggregates hotel rates, but it didn't fare well. It impressed in Hong Kong but had average prices elsewhere. Its results often favored Expedia.com or came from sketchy third-party sites that we wouldn't use. While it sometimes included direct hotel prices, they weren't always cheaper than quotes from booking agencies. In North America and Europe, TripAdvisor frequently displayed rates higher than those on Booking.com. Booking.com was too easy to beat by simply going directly to their website. However, we found Tripadvisor's filters to be subpar, letting some questionable booking sites slip through. The positives: user reviews were on point, and most prices were decent-to-good. On the downside, filters didn't always work right for us, links to sketchy sites were a red flag, average prices were just that, and sometimes it missed out on the lowest available rate. Trivago.com fell from third place to the middle of our rankings. While it occasionally found the best price directly from the hotel, its performance in Buenos Aires was abysmal, returning fewer hotel results than anyone else. It even struggled to find a quote for one of our test properties that other sites found easily. What's more, Trivago tends to favor its partners over customers, pushing results from Booking.com and not always showing the lowest price it found. This is concerning because Trivago sometimes hid the best prices or led with suspiciously low rates from unvetted third-party sites. In fact, on our test of a Paris hotel, it initially said there were no rooms available, only to find one when we searched again. This inconsistency was frustrating, and having to search twice is not ideal. While Trivago has improved its filters, making them more granular, it's still the most annoying site to use in our top 10. It also failed to indicate taxes and fees upfront, requiring us to click over to the booking site for that information. Pros: simple interface; fast refreshes; decent filters; can deliver direct searches on hotels' own sites Cons: ignores taxes and fees; not very transparent; featured rates were sometimes unavailable or came from shady OTAs Skyscanner.com, known for its solid airfare aggregations, also built a good hotel search engine. It debuted in our top 10 with solid results, only once failing to find the best price. Skyscanner was particularly strong in Europe and had decent filters. However, it didn't offer an option to calculate full rates with taxes and fees, but at least it acknowledged when they weren't included. Its downfall? Mostly middling price discoveries, often getting its lowest rates from less-than-reliable sources. Momondo.com is a middle-of-the-pack aggregator for hotels that offers average-to-better rates, particularly in Europe, along with good filters. It acknowledges when taxes and fees aren't included and provides direct bookings from reputable third-party sites like Trip.com. One drawback is that the lowest lead prices are often unobtainable or by disreputable sellers, and it doesn't calculate missing taxes and fees upfront. On the other hand, Momondo never shows higher prices than average and includes cleaning fees in its results even when rates come from third-party sites. Momondo's filters include "Neighborhood" and "Distance from" options as well as a "Booking Provider" filter to weed out questionable sites. However, it needs to improve on pricing. While it never overcharged us, it only found the best price one time. Another aggregator, Agoda.com, seems to have settled into the middle of our results but still ranks high for reservations outside North America and Europe. It excels in Asia, although Tripadvisor comes close, and its prices are often better than others. However, Agoda fails in Europe, providing worse prices across the board. Kayak and HotelsCombined are leading travel aggregators, offering competitive prices and convenient features. For Asia and South America, Kayak consistently provides low pricing, along with decent filters and a map view that distinguishes hotels from rentals. However, it has some drawbacks, such as omitting taxes and fees until the last moment and showing unfair results in Europe. Another issue is the limited search functionality, which only allows city-level searches. The site also overemphasizes marketing tactics, highlighting "missed" hotels that aren't available on your dates. On the other hand, HotelsCombined shines with its excellent set of filters, including a fill-in window for location and an option to see rates inclusive of taxes and fees. It even offers a "Booking Provider" filter to eliminate shady sites. Despite some minor issues, both Kayak and HotelsCombined demonstrate impressive reliability, consistently providing better results than their corporate counterparts. They also offer additional features, such as the ability to see prices with or without taxes. However, both sites have room for improvement. While Kayak provides competitive pricing, it sometimes favors Expedia in the listings. HotelsCombined's filter options are particularly useful, but its results list is shorter than that of top OTA sites. Booking.com has made a notable comeback, returning to the upper echelons with its best features and reliable performance. Booking.com dominated our ranking by finding the cheapest city-center properties, including a hostel for under $100 in Philly and five other places that cost even less. However, its game was weak outside of North America and Europe, and it didn't account for full prices inclusive of taxes and fees on its U.S. results pages. The site's user reviews were a plus, as they came from actual guests who had completed their stays. Our main complaint with Booking.com was that it doesn't include taxes and fees in its calculations until the final booking page, which can lead to misleading results. Despite this flaw, no other hotel reservation site could match Booking.com's ability to find the best prices on a long list of lodgings. A hotel search tool was tested by seeing how many properties it could find, and the results were mixed. The service initially presented misleading prices that didn't include taxes and fees until users started booking a specific lodging. The filters available were limited, with no option to sort by neighborhood or distance from a particular location. Google's performance in this test was surprising, as it trailed behind Booking.com and Kayak in terms of the number of properties found, but excelled when it came to finding the lowest prices. This led to Google being crowned the "King of Internet Hotel Search". However, the platform had some drawbacks, including sponsored results from partners that were displayed first and a lack of an option to calculate taxes and fees until deeper in the booking process.