

AFFORDABLE AMERICA

Cover story

Continued from 1D

Share your favorite money-saving websites and strategies at travel.usatoday.com.

Online tips help stretch your travel dollar

ACCOMMODATIONS

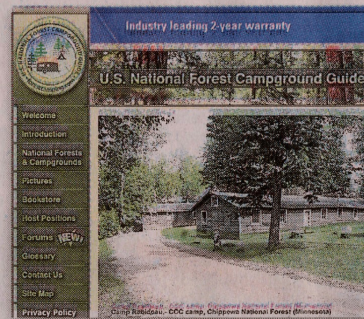
Airbedandbreakfast.com: Whether it's a spare futon, blow-up mattress (hence the name) or private apartment, the options at recently launched AirBed&Breakfast target adventuresome, cost-conscious travelers. The site lists hosts in more than 250 U.S. cities and 60 countries who rent space in their homes; credit card bookings are automated and rates average \$102 per night, plus transaction fees of 5%-12%. **Also worth clicking:** Couchsurfing.com; Roomorama.com

Betterbidding.com: Dedicated to helping travelers score the best deals on "blind booking" sites Hotwire and Priceline, this message board posts overall strategies, lists of hotels by zone and quality level, and winning and losing bids. **Also worth clicking:** BiddingForTravel.com; BidOnTravel.com; Re-Bidding.com

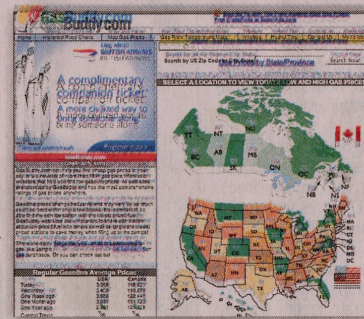
Forestcamping.com: Aimed at car, RV and tent campers, Fred and Suzi Dow's site posts reviews of campgrounds in more than 150 U.S. national forests (all visited by the authors) with fees ranging from free to \$25 per night. **Also worth clicking:** FreeCampgrounds.com

Hostelworld.com: Once catering largely to backpackers in bunk beds, many of the 600 North American hostels listed on Hostelworld.com offer private rooms, fresh linens, flat-screen TVs, free Internet access, meals and transportation at rates ranging from \$18-\$35 per person a night. **Also worth clicking:** HostelBookers.com

Hotwire.com: In exchange for discounts off published hotel rates, Hotwire doesn't reveal the name or specific address until you pay. Unlike "blind booking" rival Priceline, it lists its non-refundable prices up front, plus such amenities as airport shuttle, pool or free breakfast.



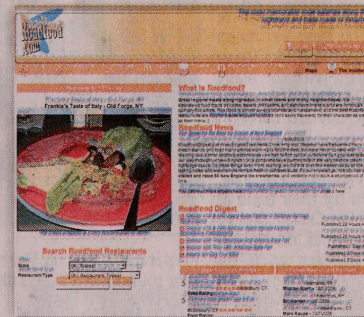
Accommodations: ForestCamping.com.



Getting around: GasBuddy.com.



Deals: BudgetTravel.com.



Dining: Roadfood.com.

GoLoco.org: Created by the co-founder of the car-sharing service Zipcar, this social-networking site connects would-be carpoolers across North America. Members post desired trips and arrange the details online; riders and drivers typically split travel expenses equally, based on a cost of 50 cents per mile traveled. **Also worth clicking:** eRideShare.com; PickupPal.com; Zimride.com

Google Transit: (google.com/transit) Recently expanded to metropolitan New York, Google Transit targets budget and eco-minded travelers with point-to-point trip planning, displaying public transit stops and locations in 60 U.S. cities and 10 foreign countries. A "My Location" feature on Web-enabled mobile phones uses GPS or nearby cellphone towers to zero in on your starting point. **Also worth clicking:** HopStop.com

DINING

Roadfood.com: Foodies Jane and Michael Stern and their team of reviewers spotlight "sleeves-up food" from noteworthy diners, BBQ joints and other restaurants across the USA, most of which cost under \$10 per meal. **Also worth clicking:** Hollyeats.com

Restaurant.com: The site sells discounted gift certificates (most commonly \$10 for a face value of \$25), good at 8,500 restaurants in 248 U.S. cities. Diners can search by ZIP code, city or state; minimum purchase and other restrictions apply. **Also worth clicking:** KidsMealDeals.com

priceline
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