Today's Topic

Using Technology to Make Your Vacation Travel Better







The World of Travel



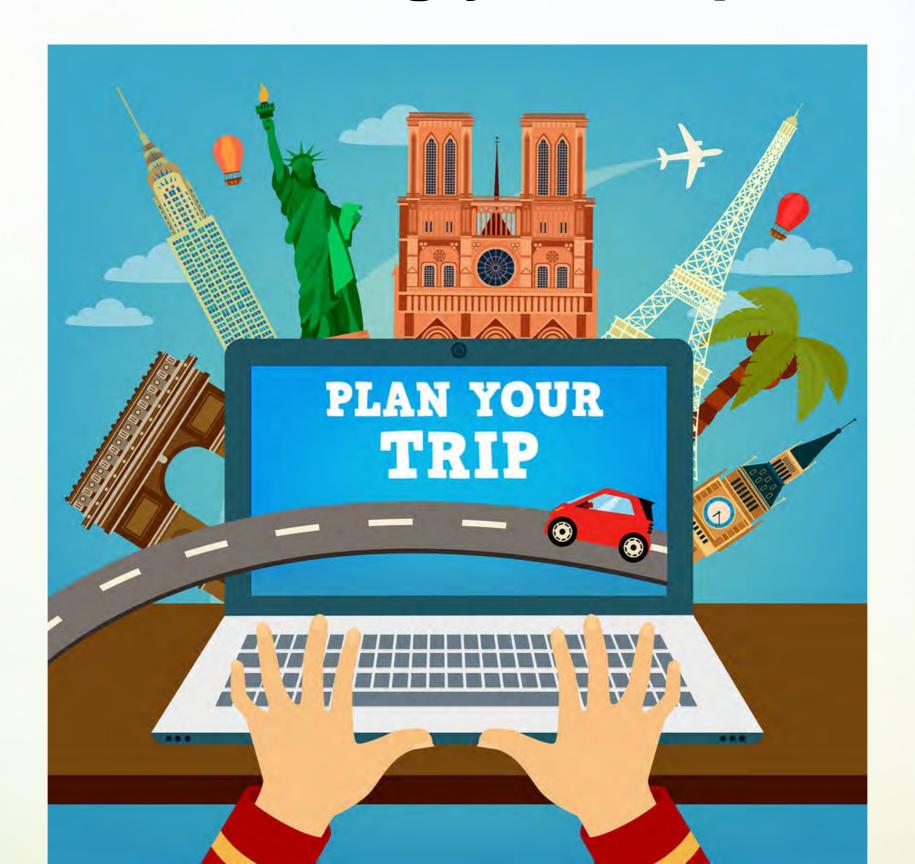
The World of Technology

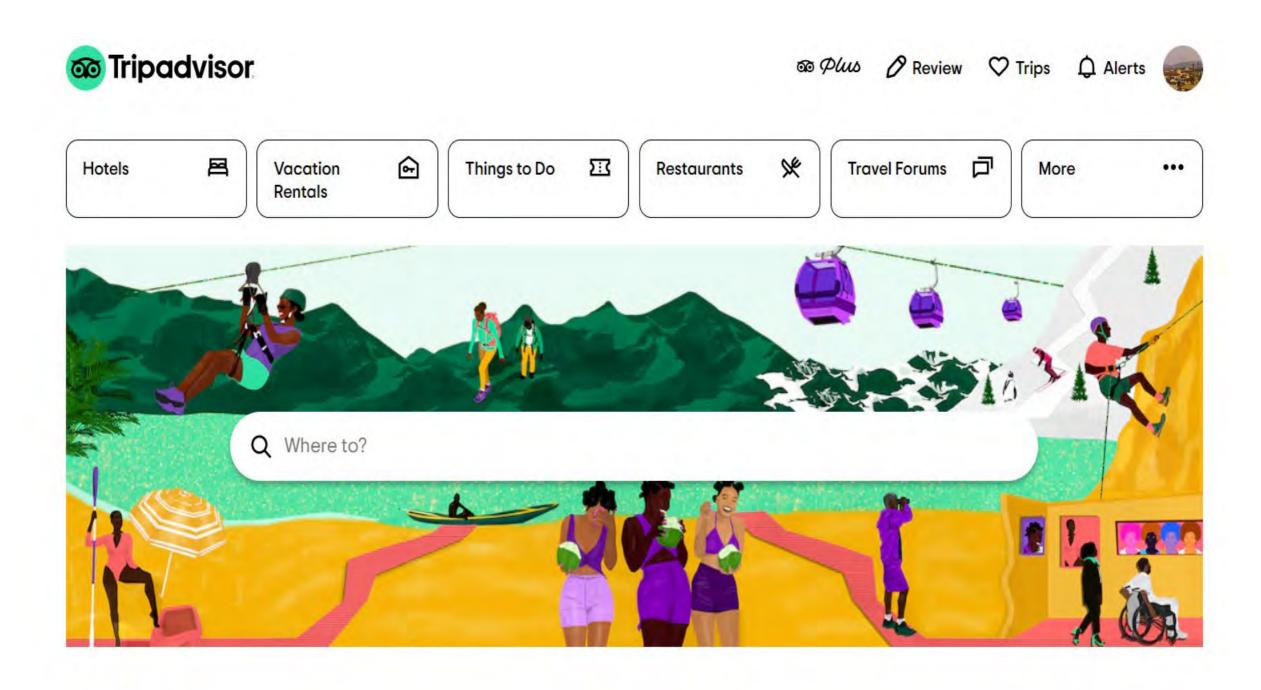


Agenda

- Planning your trip
 - Using well-known websites/apps (Tripadvisor, Google Earth, YouTube, etc.)
 - Using AI (Bing, ChatGPT, Bard)
- Other helpful sites and apps
- Making Reservations
- Wrap up

Planning your trip





This is a great site and/or app with which to get started on your trip planning

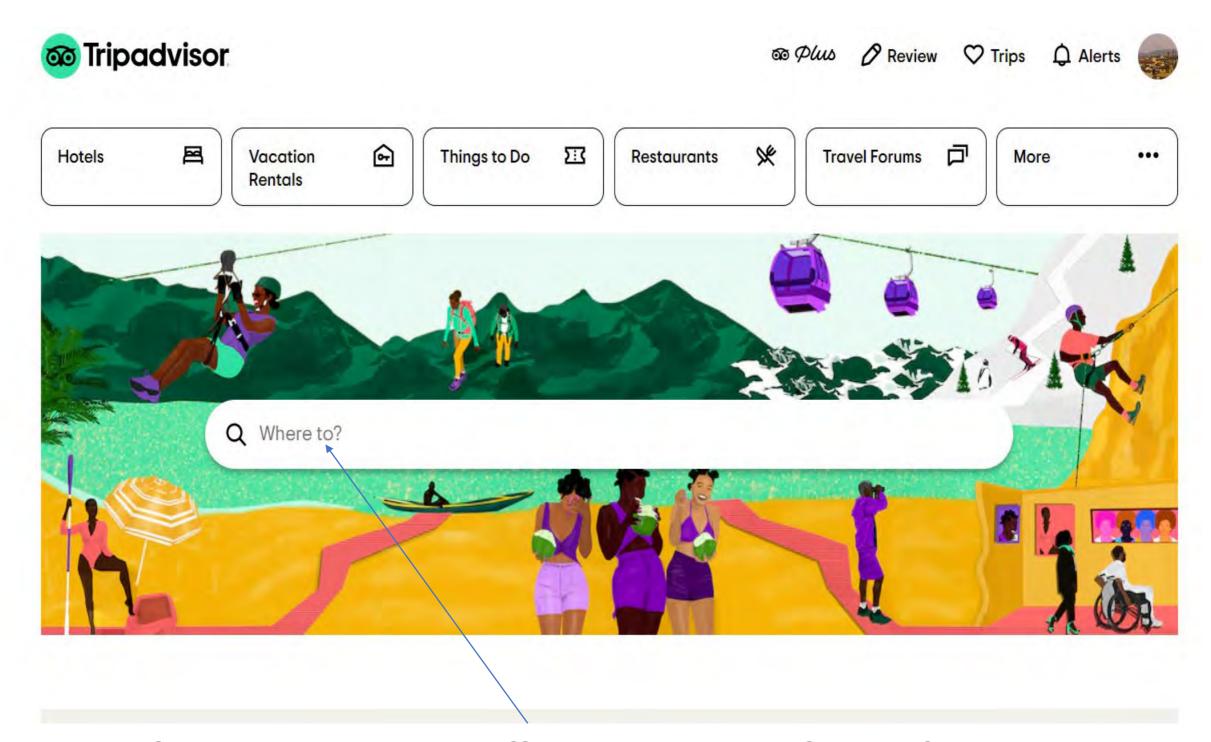
Here is some info about TripAdvisor

TripAdvisor

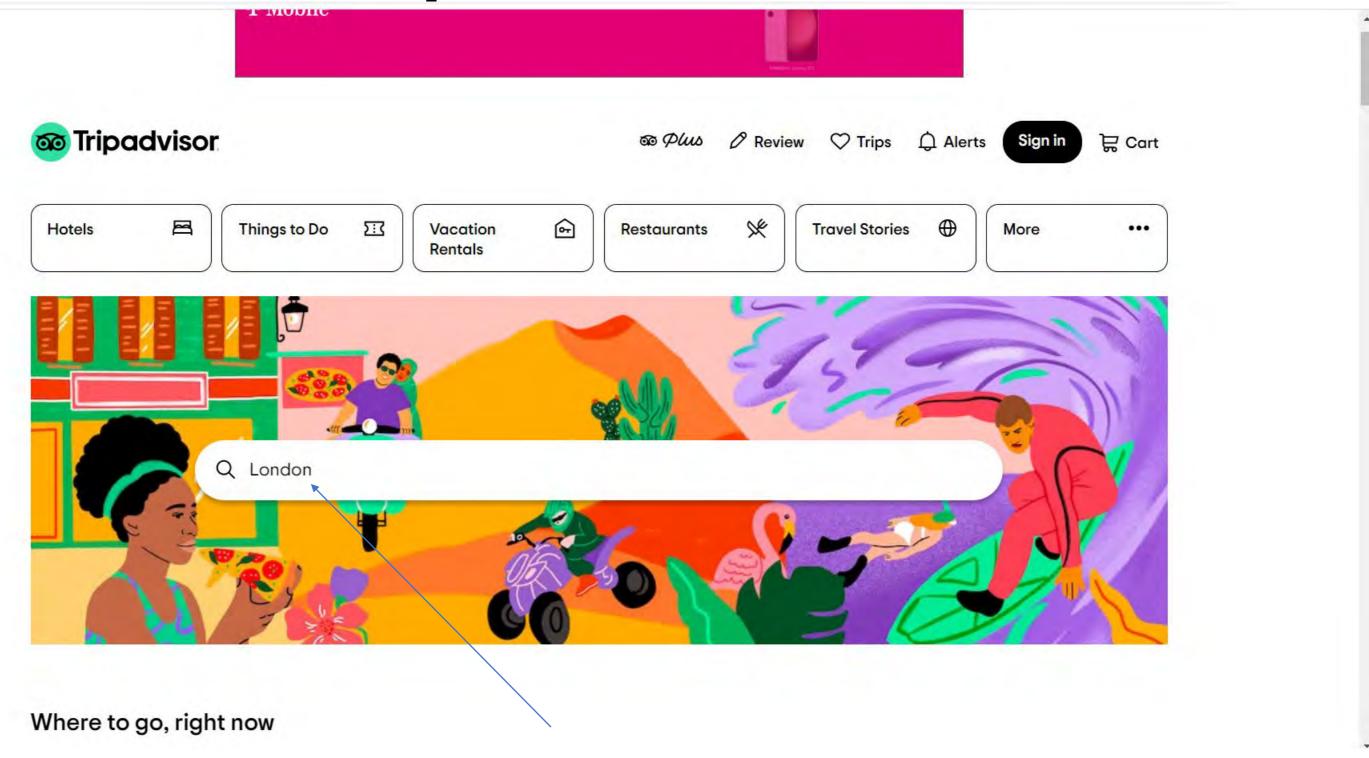
TripAdvisor.com is a travel website that assists customers in gathering travel information, posting reviews and opinions of travel-related content and engaging in interactive travel forums. TripAdvisor was an early adopter of user-generated content. The website services are free to users, who provide most of the content, and the website is supported by an advertising business model.

And more information

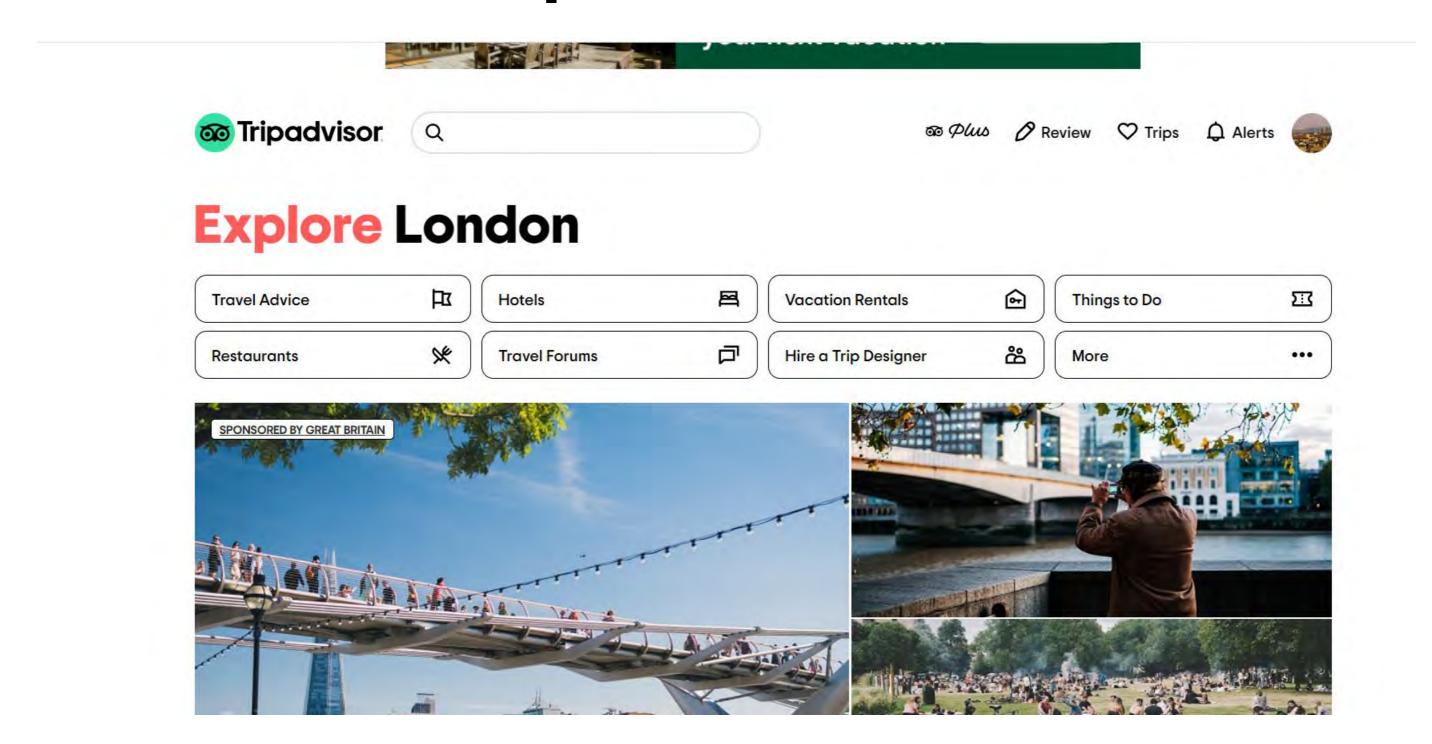
Tripadvisor, Inc. is an American internet-based travel company headquartered in Needham, Massachusetts. Its branded sites and forums operate as online travel guides offering free user generated reviews of travel-related content. Founded in 2000, Tripadvisor has grown to become one of the most popular travel destination and accommodation websites in the United States. As of 2021, Tripadvisor's total number of user reviews and opinions reached approximately one billion, covering listings for restaurants, hotels, vacation rentals, and attractions.



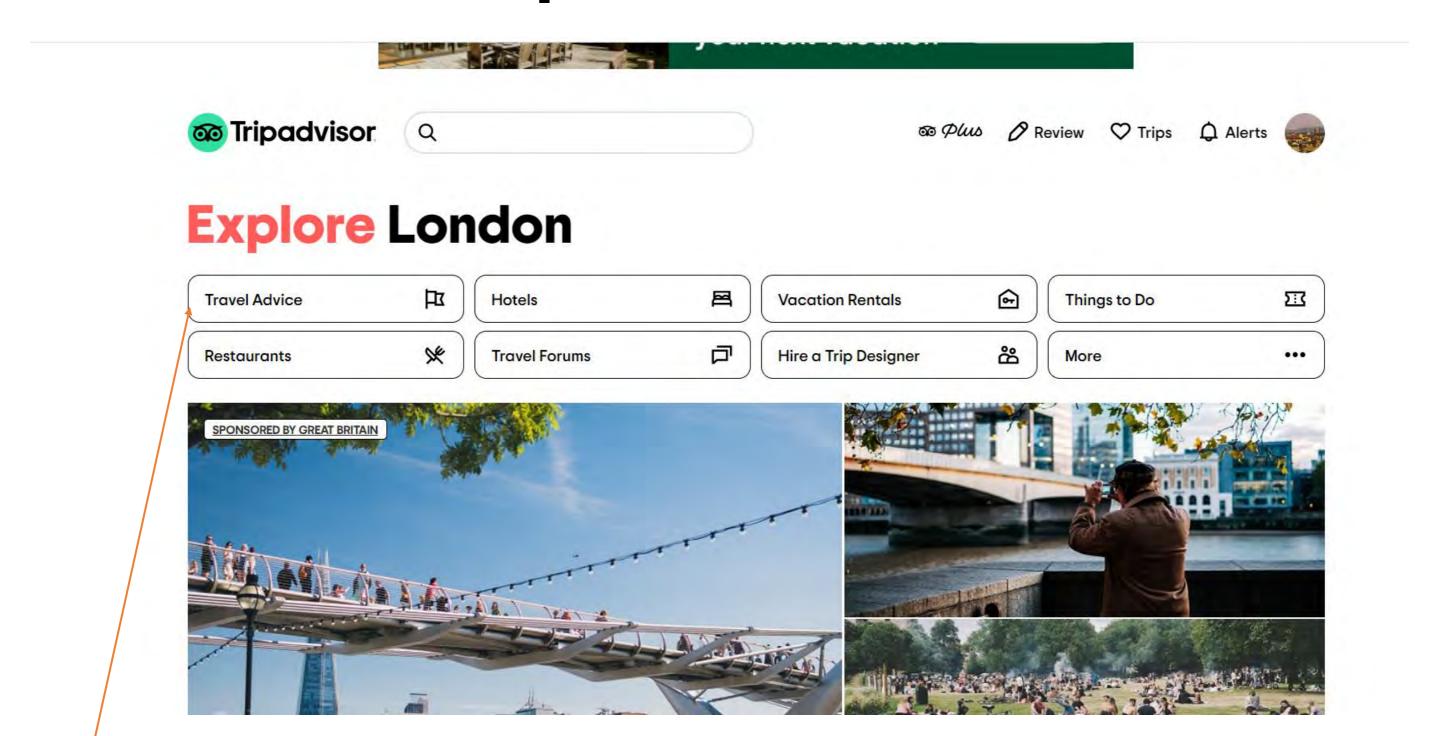
The starting page allows you to select a location



Let's say you are interested in traveling to London and I type that in



Here is what shows up – you can see several different choices re London



Assume I just want some general travel advice about London

What you need to know

London



There is this nice picture, but if you scroll down

Get read

Get there

Get around

Get ready

Travelers' pro tips for experiencing London



Trockie

BE PREPARED: Regardless of the weather report, always have an umbrella and/or rain jacket on hand!



robbelcher

Don't use the hop-on-hop-off buses. Get an Oyster card each and use the normal buses and tubes, it is so much cheaper.



joannstringer

Walking tours ... are a great way to see the city and the neighborhoods for a very reasonable cost (tip the guide at the end of the tour).

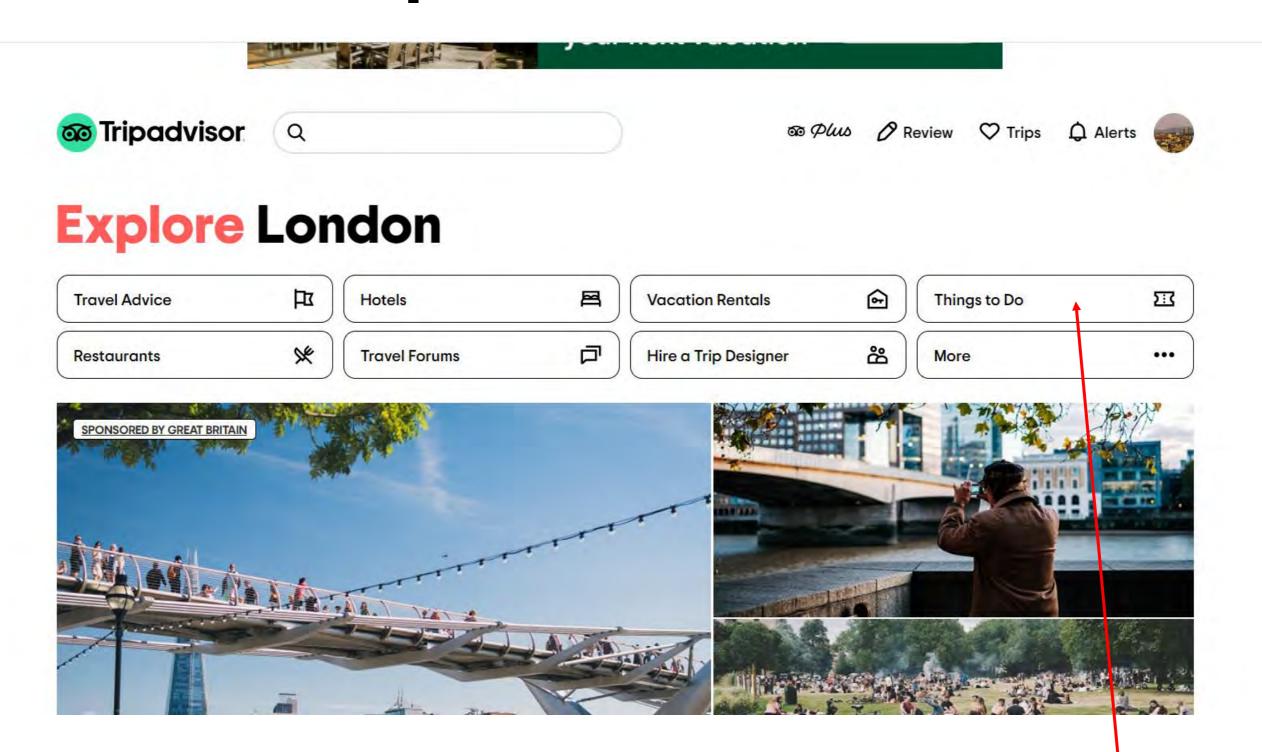
In the words of those who've been there before ...



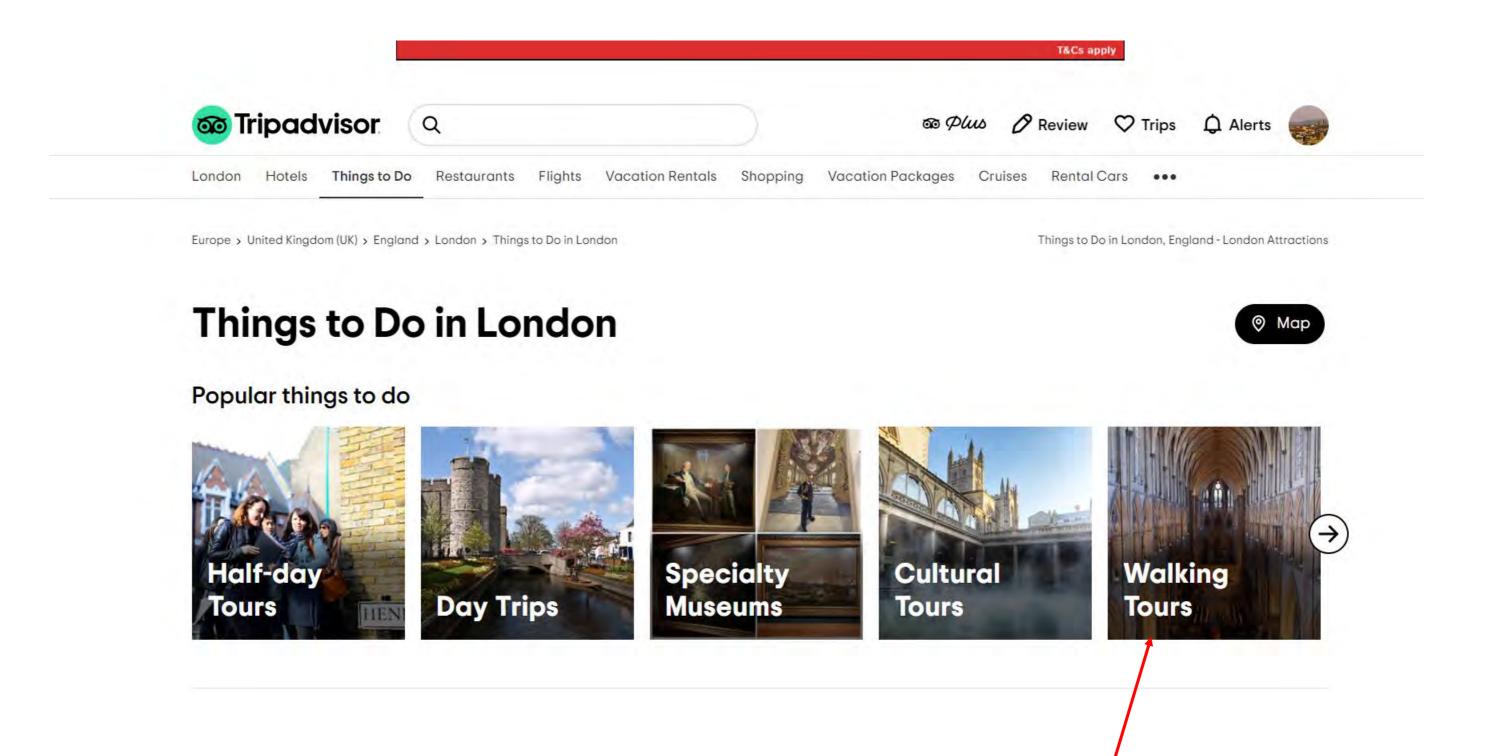
PMQuestions

The World City, both dynamic and historic; both multicultural and cultural;

You see ideas, recommendations, and tips from experience travelers



If you want some ideas on things go to do – click this

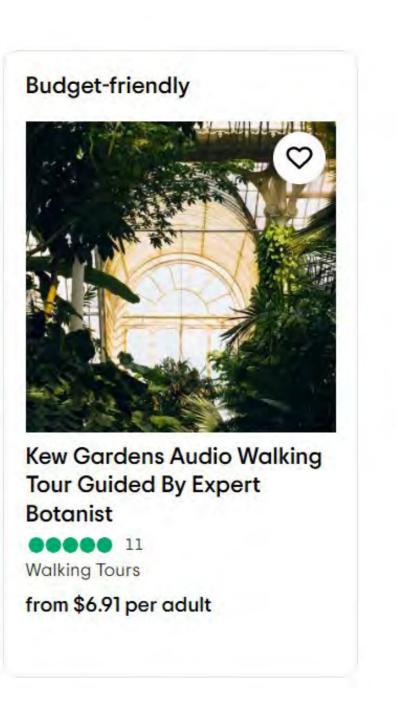


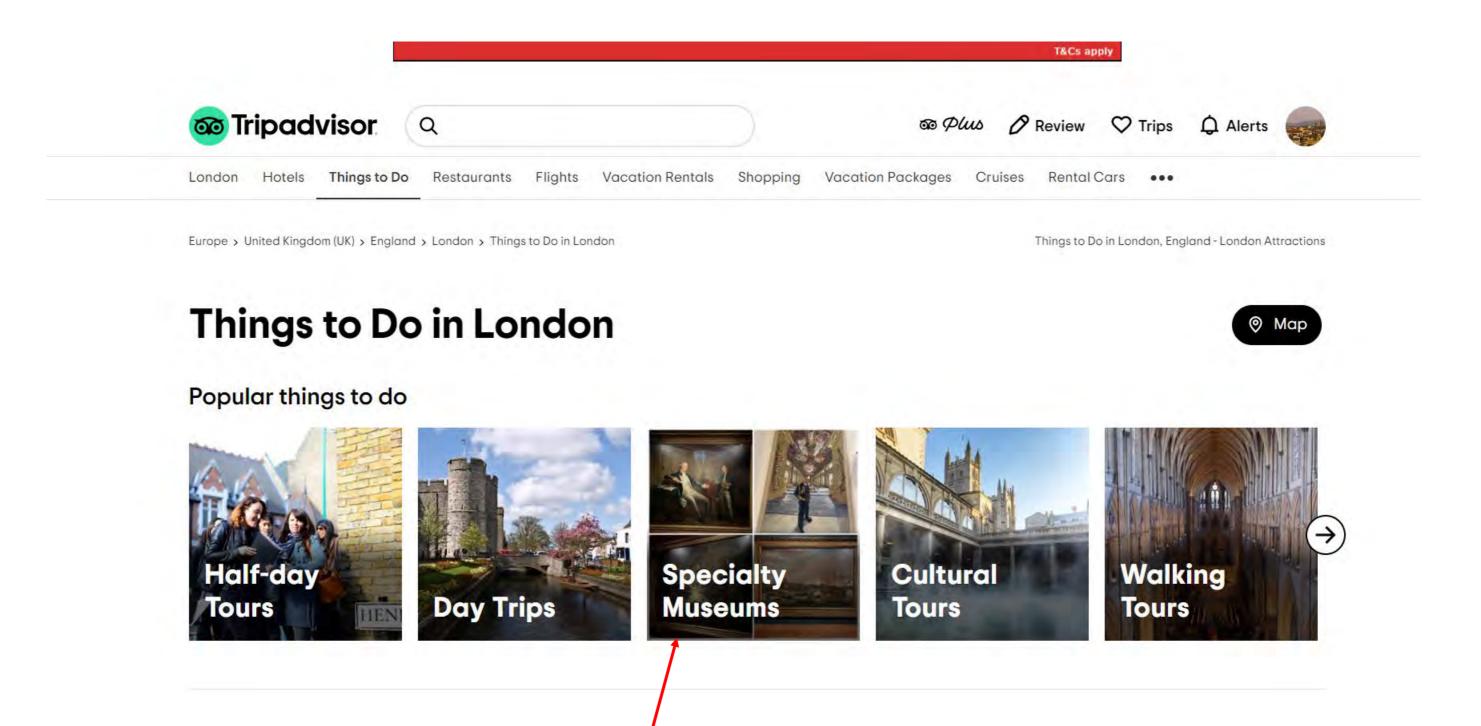
This gives you some choices – let's try Walking Tours

Experiences you don't want to miss



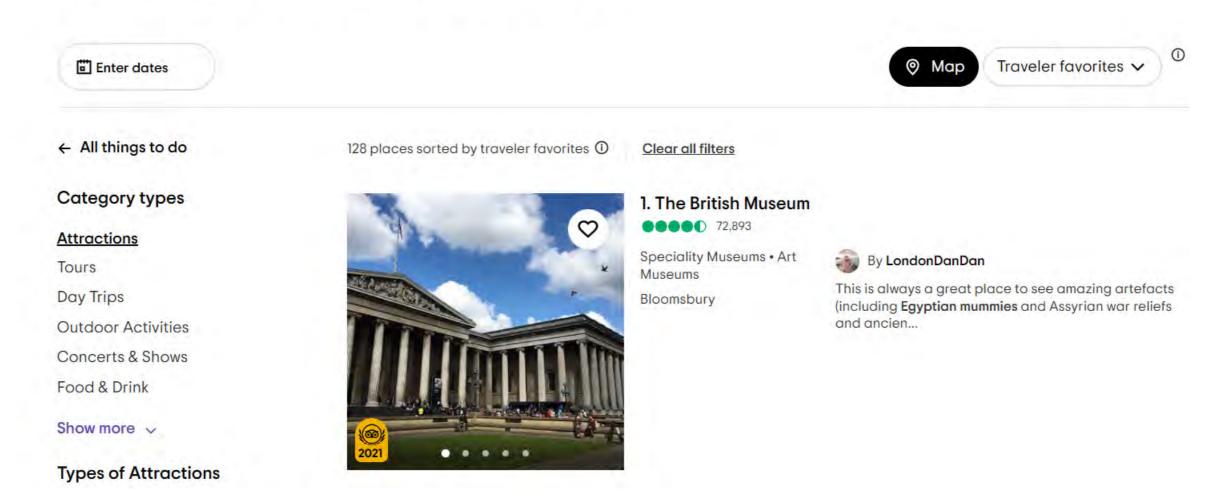


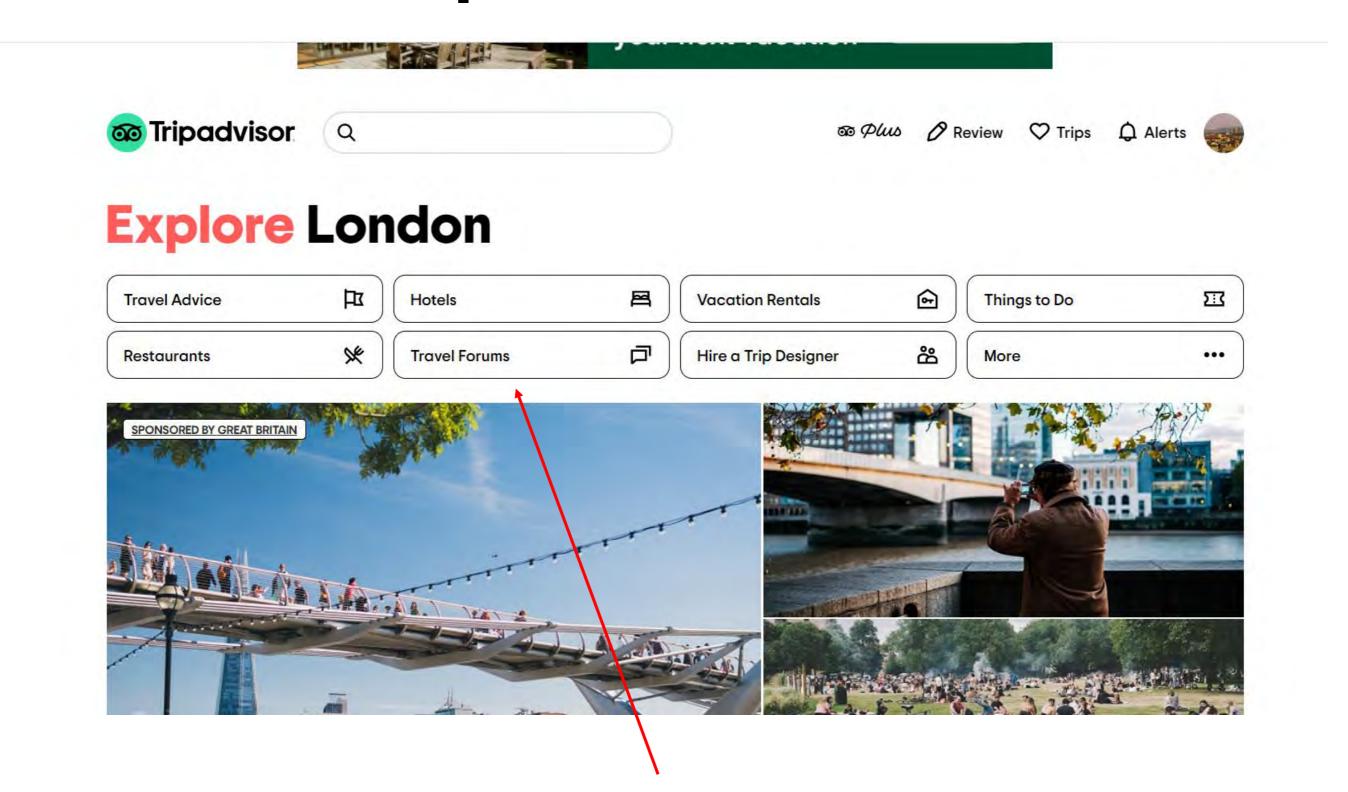




Let's try Specialty Museums

Specialty Museums in London

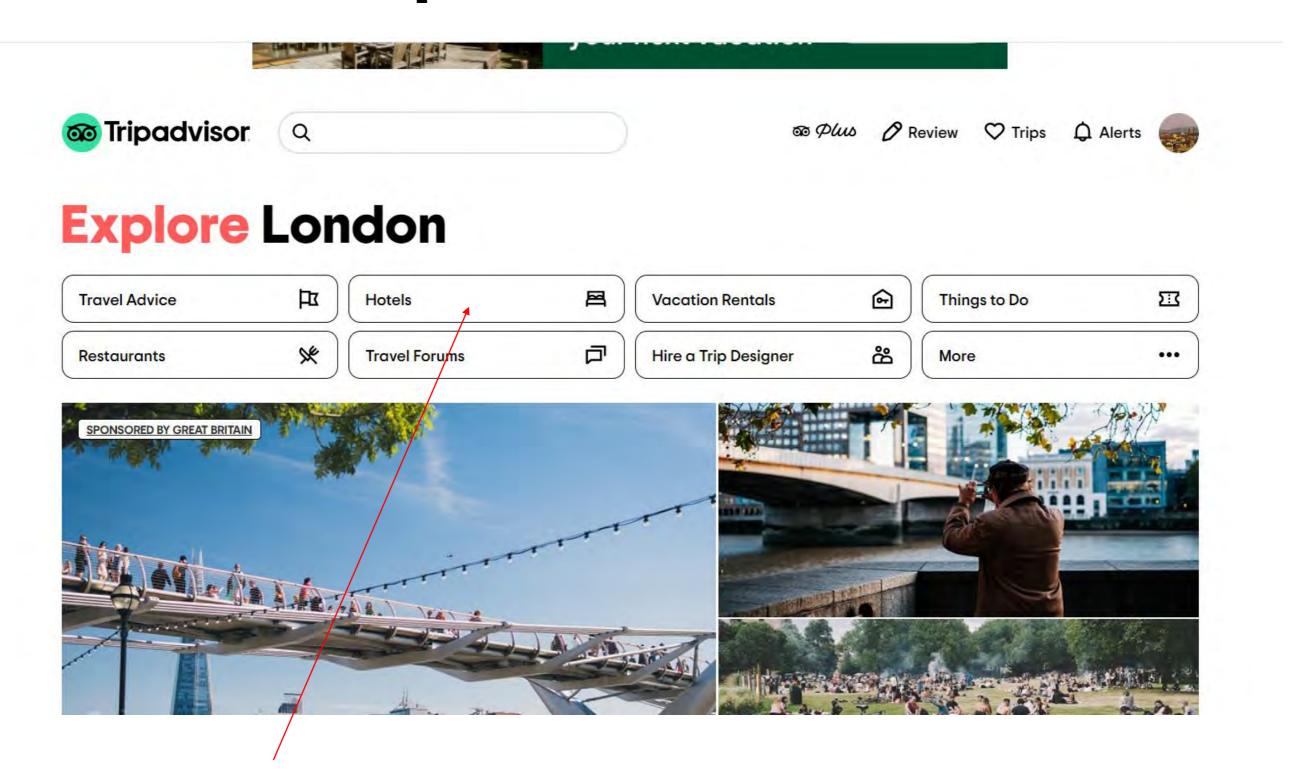




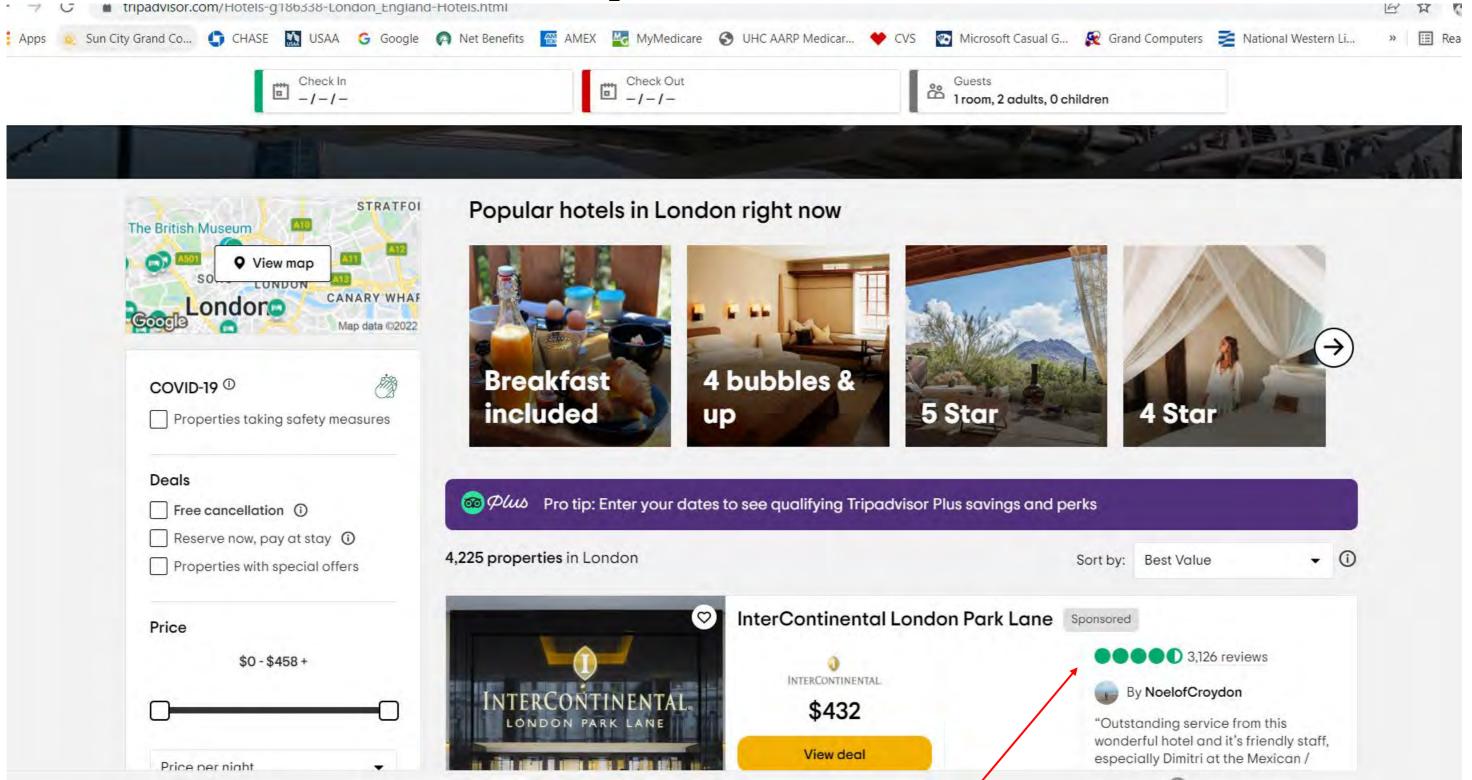
The Travel Forums can give you good advice

Critique my 3 day London Itinerary	9	4:29 pm
by Shelly J	7	by MarD
O2 climb	5	4:29 pm
by Suki		by Wotsit
First day in London itinerary	14	4:08 pm
by Kat		byrc
Traveling to London from New York	5	3:28 pm
by American		by sueduncBATH
Harry Potter warmer bros studio transportation		3:08 pm
by AnaStasia S		by ElmersEnd
London with a "few" disability's - help please	13	2:41 pm
by Adèle Marie M	13	by Beatrice

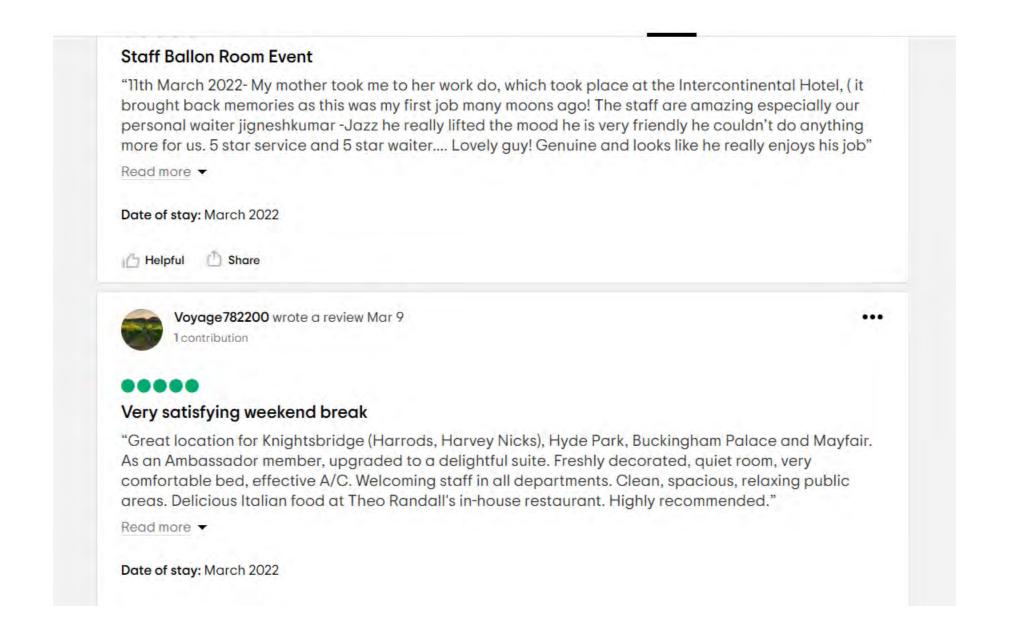
People ask all kinds of questions and get advice from other travelers



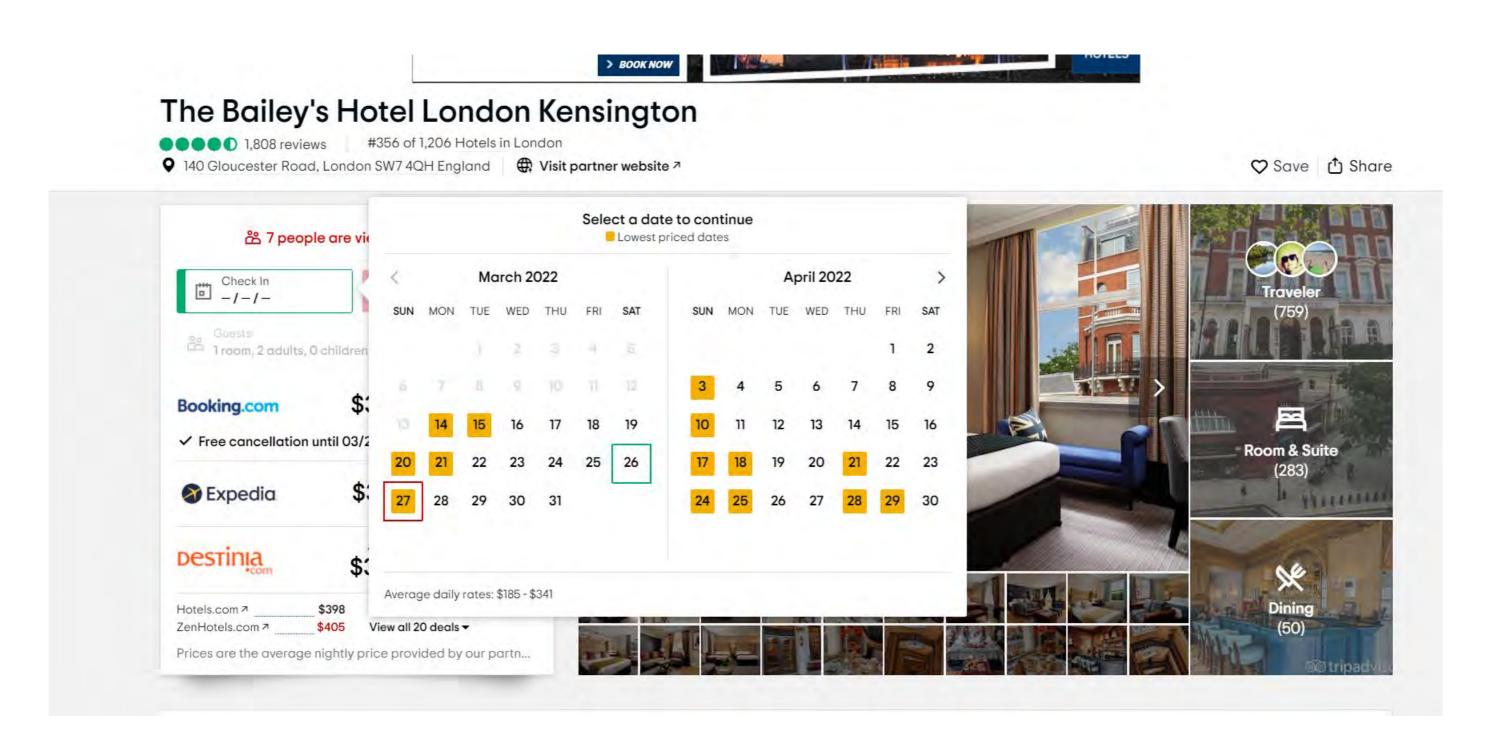
A lot of people use TripAdvisor to research hotels



To look at prices and reviews



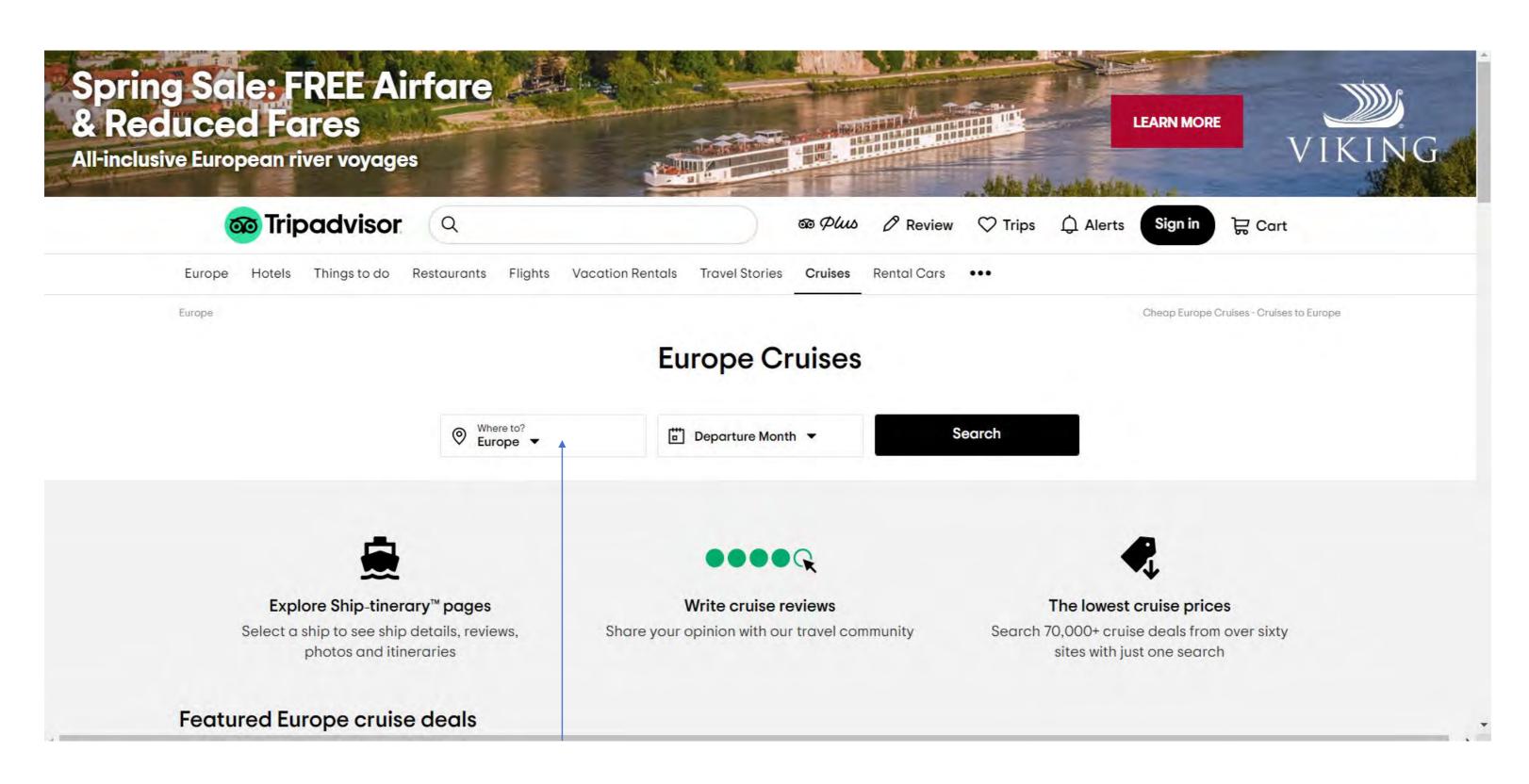
Here's a couple for this hotel



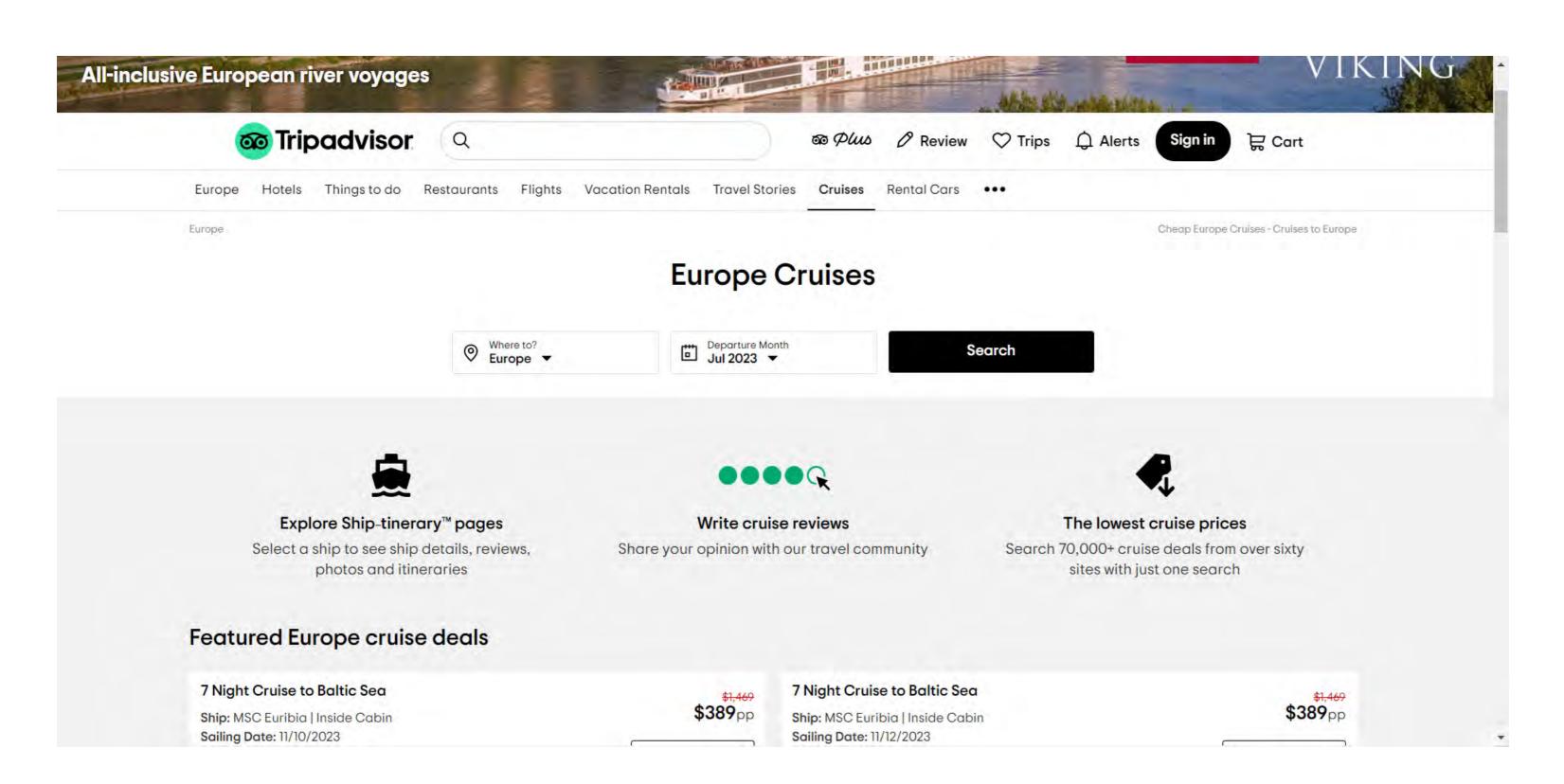
Here's another hotel – The Bailey's Hotel

Other options are available if you click on More

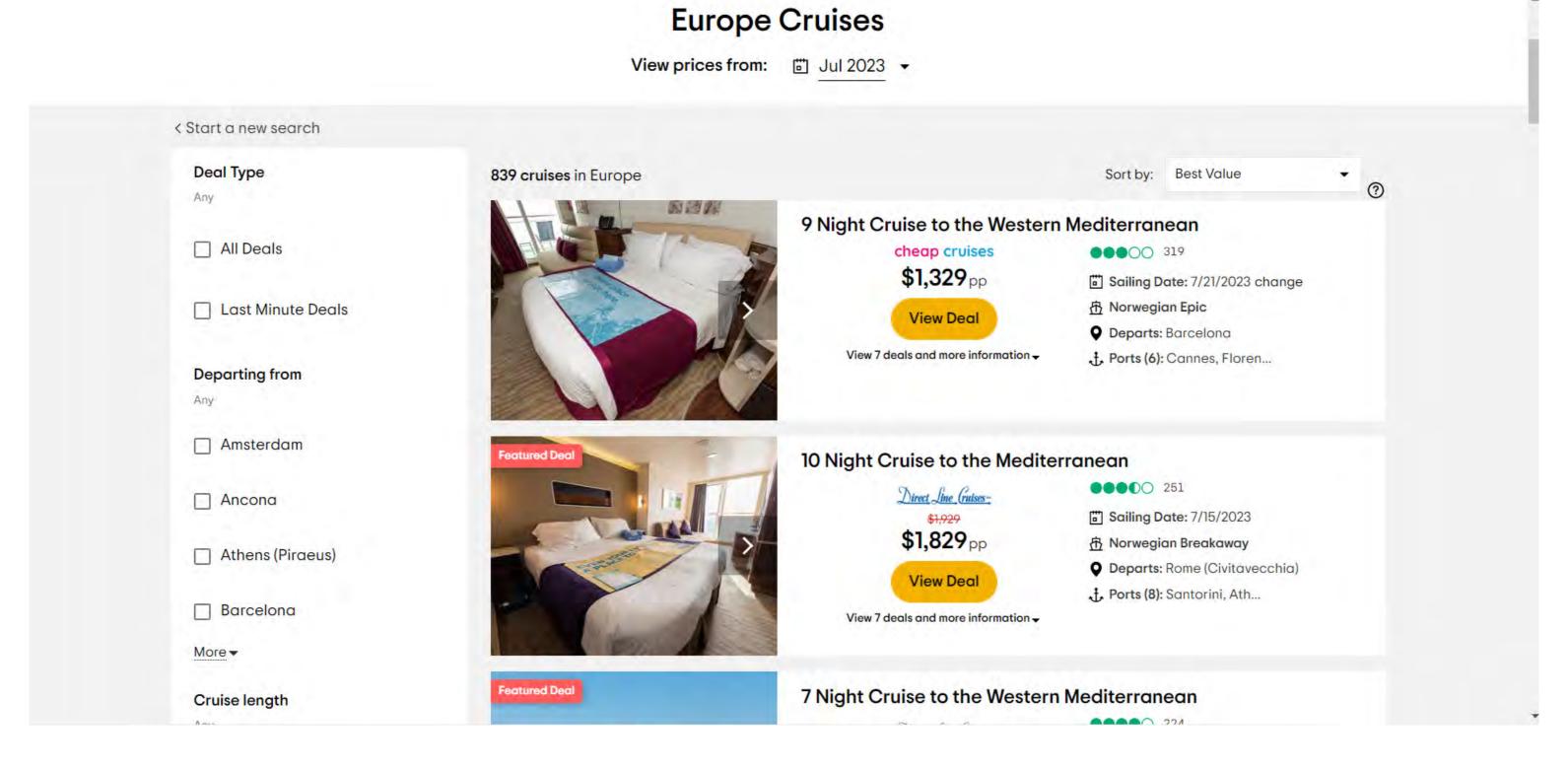
For example, you can find about cruises



This screen pops up, so let's research Europe Cruises



I select July 2023

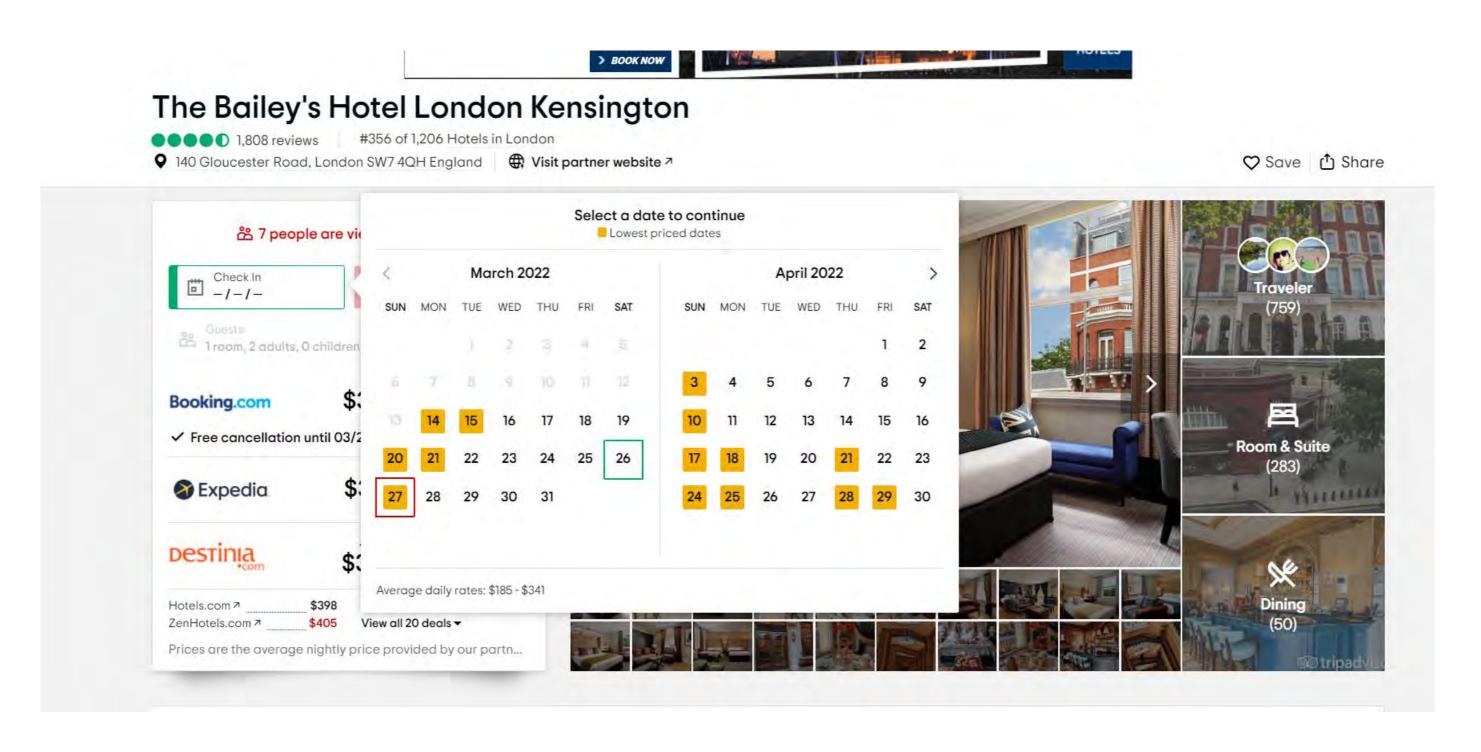


This starts a scrollable list of cruises for me to investigate

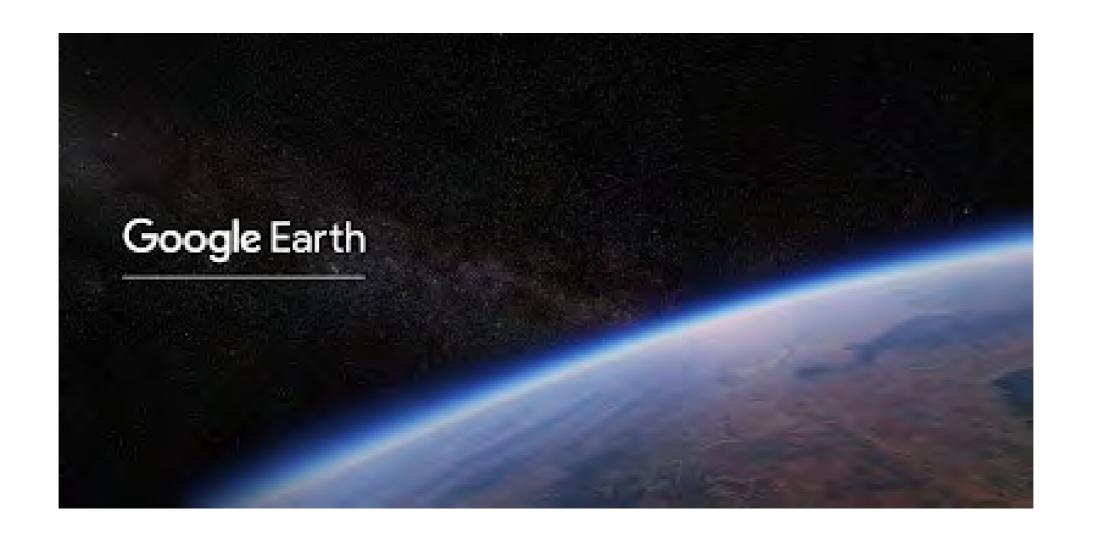
Moving from Cruises back to Hotels....pretend I am interested in the hotel we looked at before, The Bailey's Hotel in London

Before I check rates, I want to find out what kind of neighborhood within which the hotel is located

That's because I wont have a car and will be doing a lot of walking from the hotel to tube stations, stores, restaurants



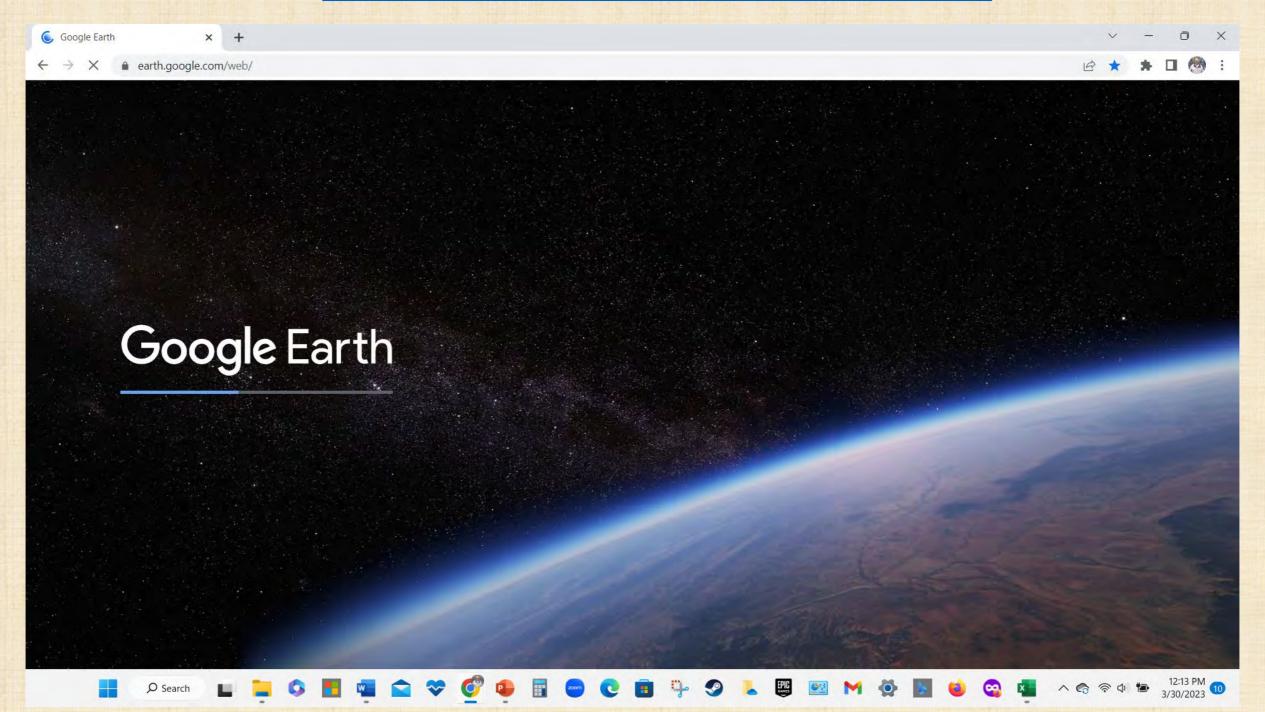
Here is the hotel

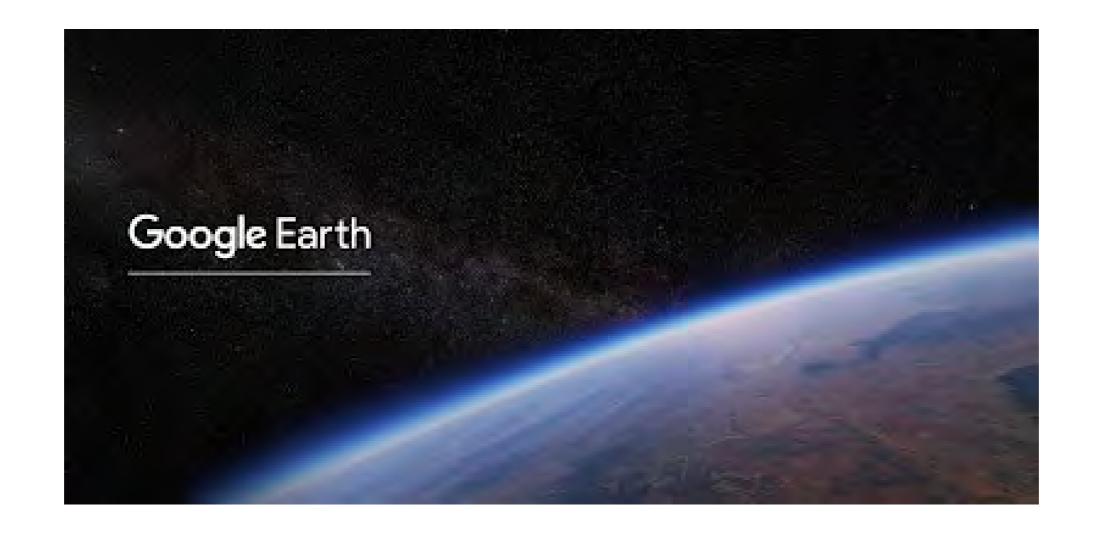


I am now going to use a very nice online tool (which is also an app for phones/tablets)

I am going to go to Google Earth and search for that hotel

https://earth.google.com/web/





Let's go check out the Eiffel Tower

https://earth.google.com/web/



Another good site for travel planning is YouTube

YouTube features videos about traveler's made by people all the way from professional travel gurus (such as Rick Steves) to anybody with a smart phone



https://www.youtube.com/

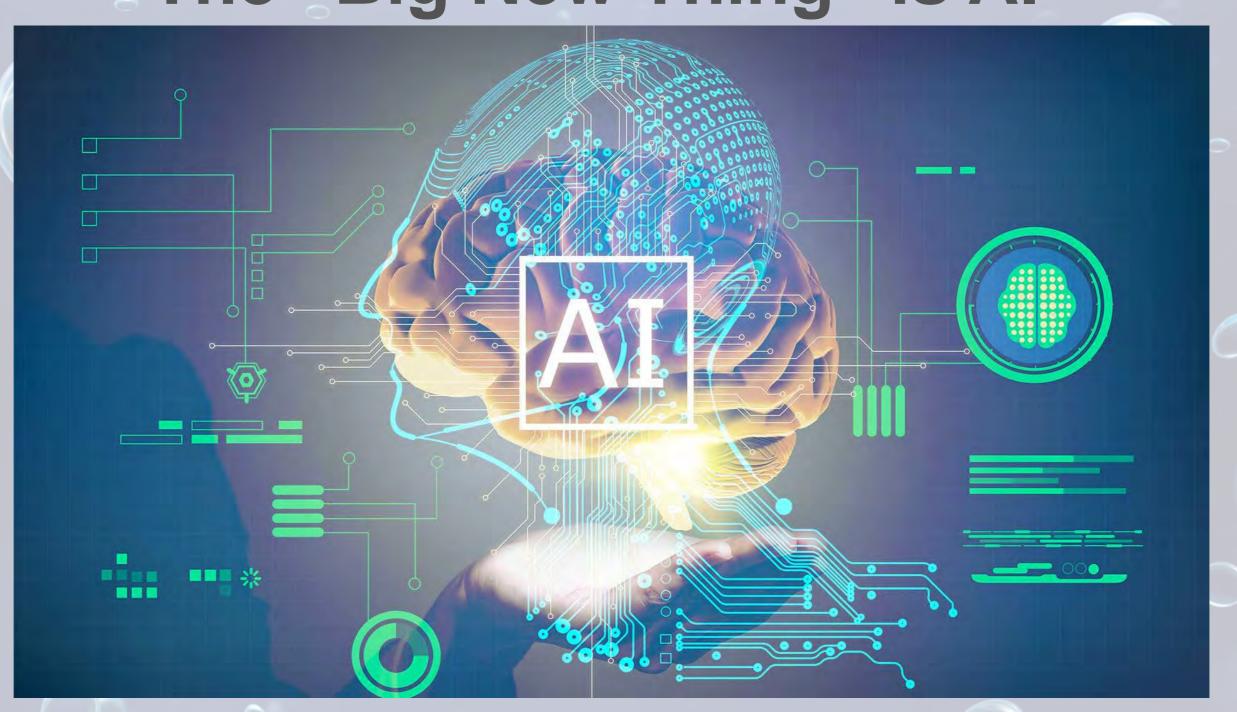
Walking tours can be helpful – let's take a look at one about Florence, Italy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= yOSV5oZYQo

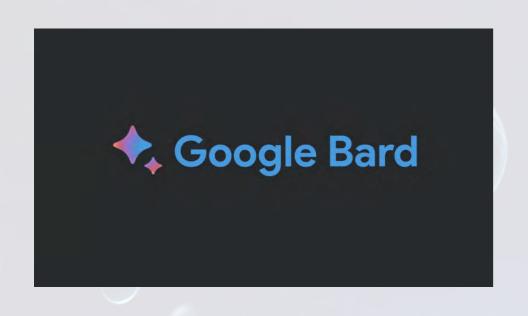
Let's move into the most recent Hi-Tech



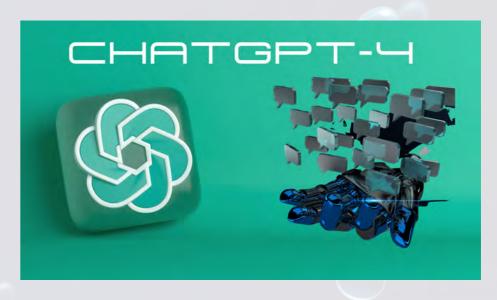
The "Big New Thing" is Al



In My Humble Opinion.. There are three major Al alternatives

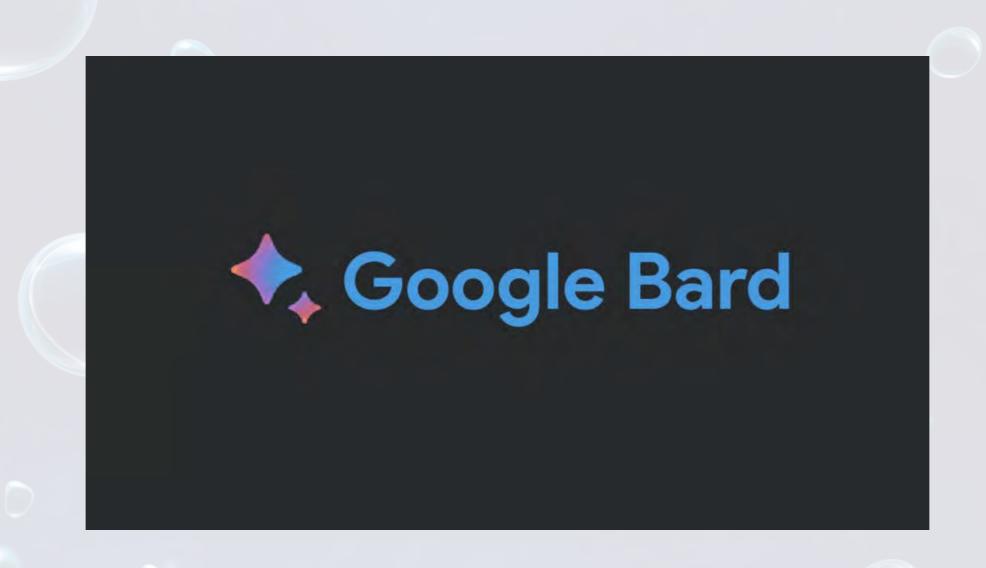




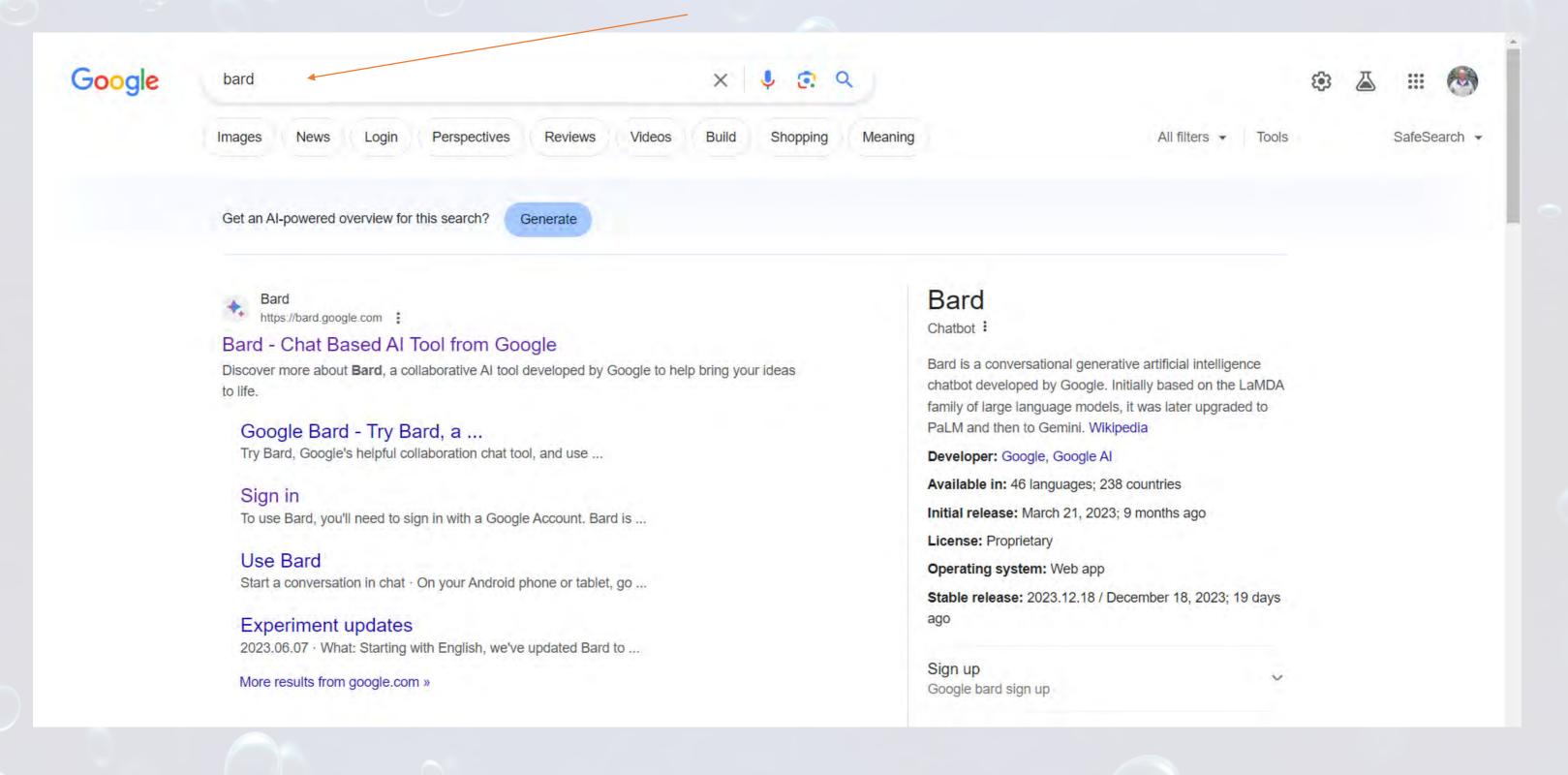


This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

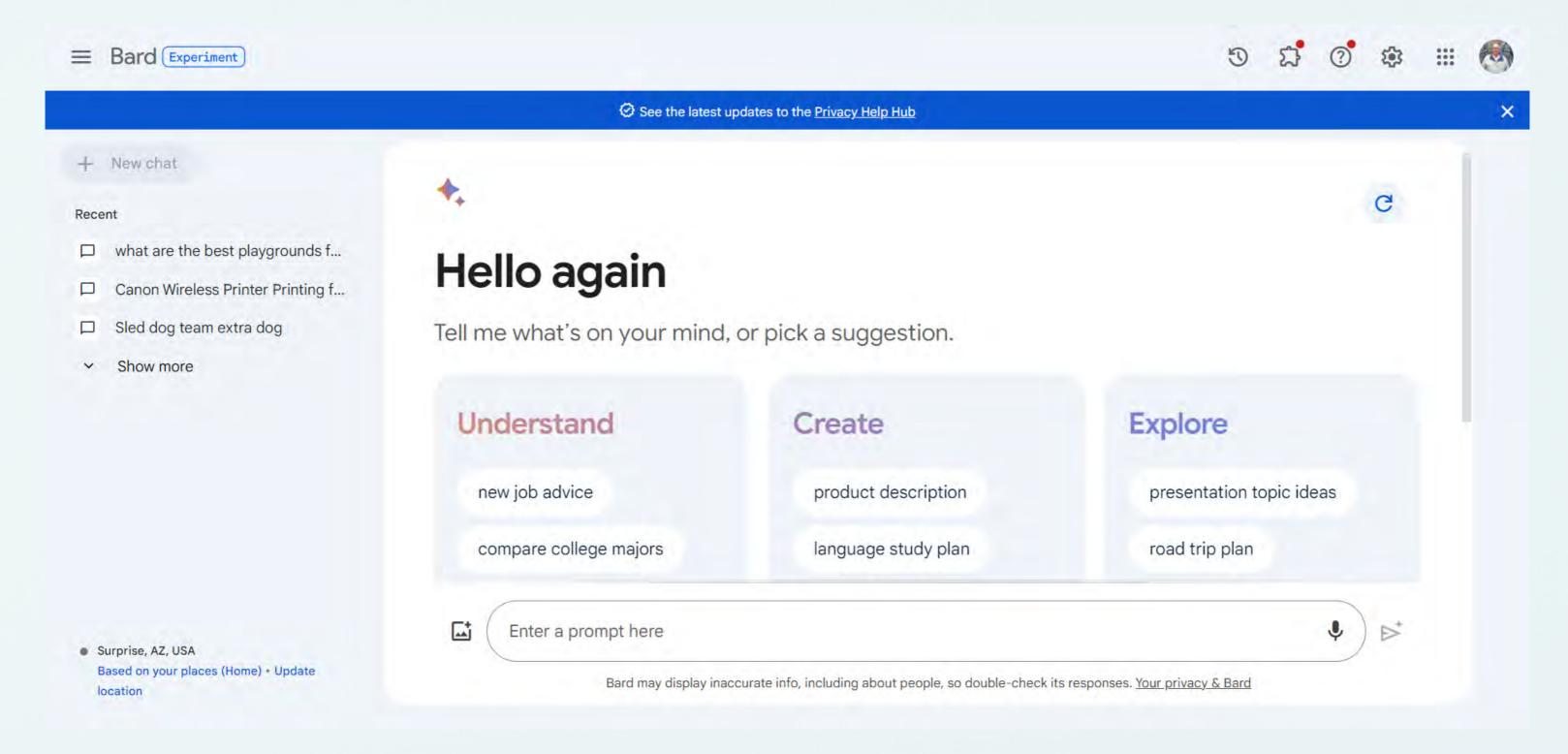
Let's start with Google Bard



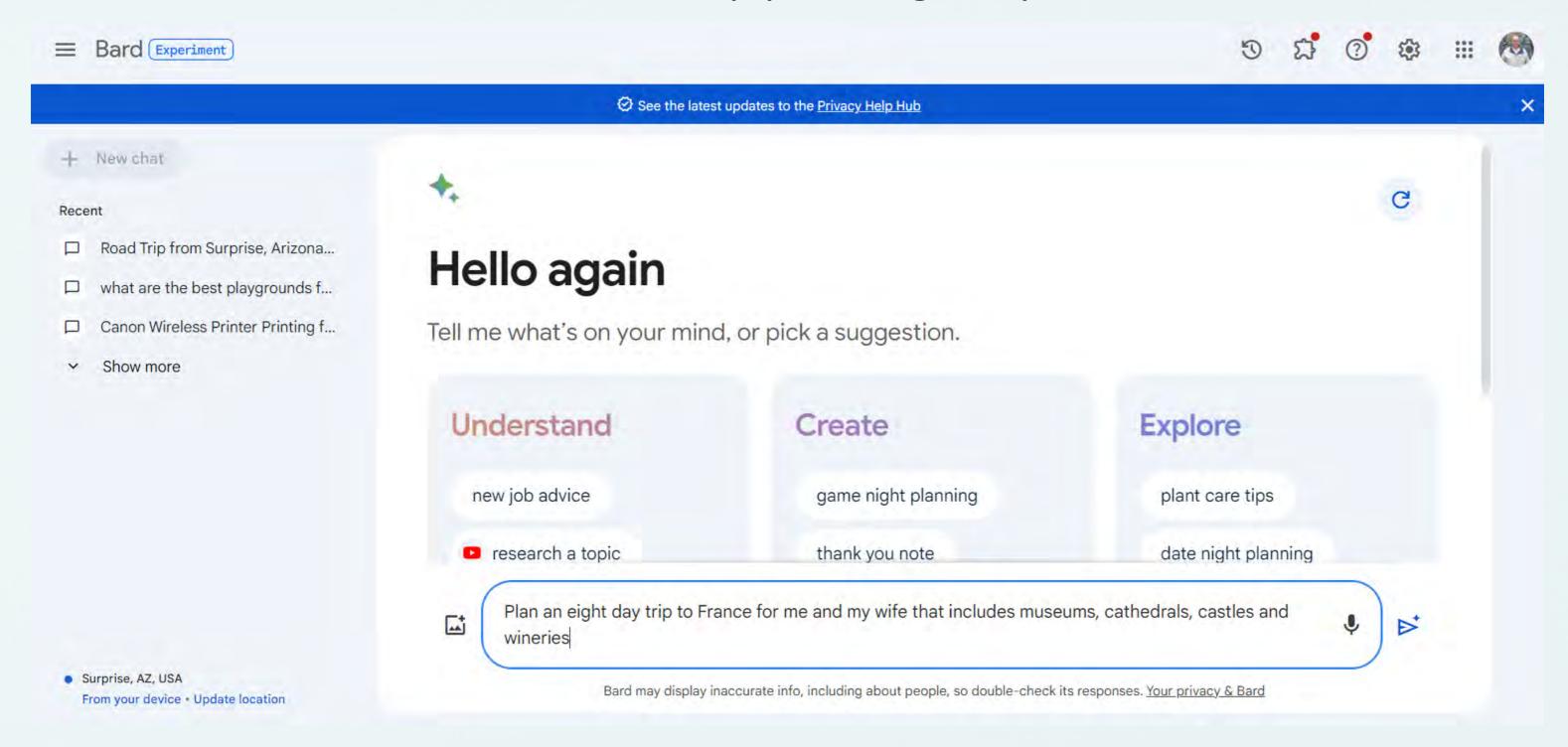
I Google "Bard"



This screen shows up for me



I ask the Bard AI for help planning a trip to France



And here is how it responds

Google Maps

Here's a possible itinerary for an eight-day trip to France for you and your wife that includes museums, cathedrals, castles and wineries:

Days 1-3: Paris. Start your trip in the City of Lights, where you can visit the Louvre Museum, the Musée d'Orsay, and the Notre Dame Cathedral. Take a stroll along the Seine River, and enjoy a picnic in the Jardin du Luxembourg. On your last day in Paris, take a day trip to Versailles to see the Palace of Versailles.

Days 4-5: Bordeaux. From Paris, take a train or rent a car and drive to Bordeaux, the wine capital of France. Visit the Cité du Vin, a museum dedicated to wine, and take a wine tasting tour in the Médoc or Sauternes wine regions.

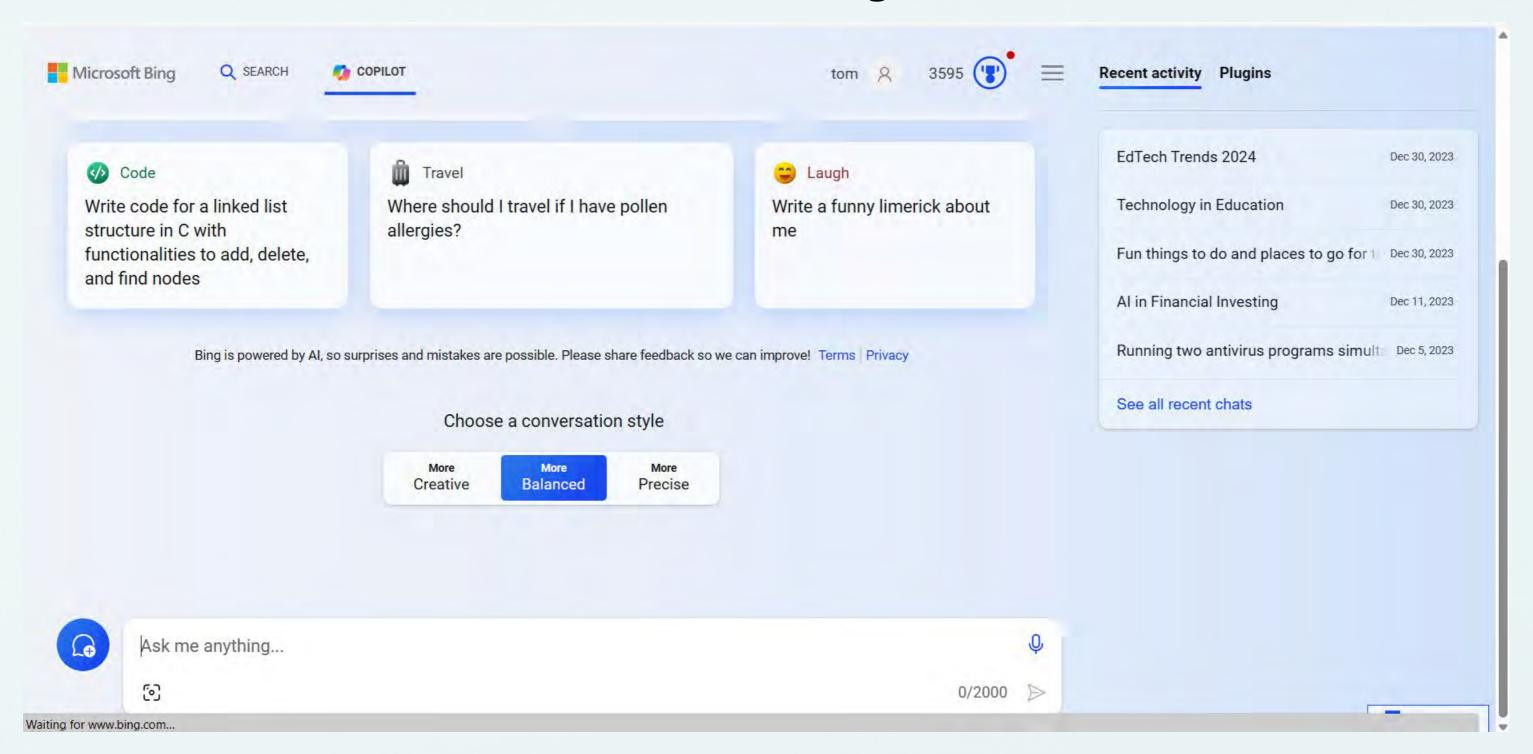
And here is how it responds

- •Days 6-7: Loire Valley. Next, drive to the Loire Valley, which is known for its beautiful chateaux and vineyards. Visit the Château de Chambord, the Château de Chenonceau, and the Château de Villandry. Take a hot air balloon ride over the vineyards for a truly magical experience.
- •Day 8: Return to Paris. On your last day, drive back to Paris or take the train. Enjoy a final stroll through the city before catching your flight home.

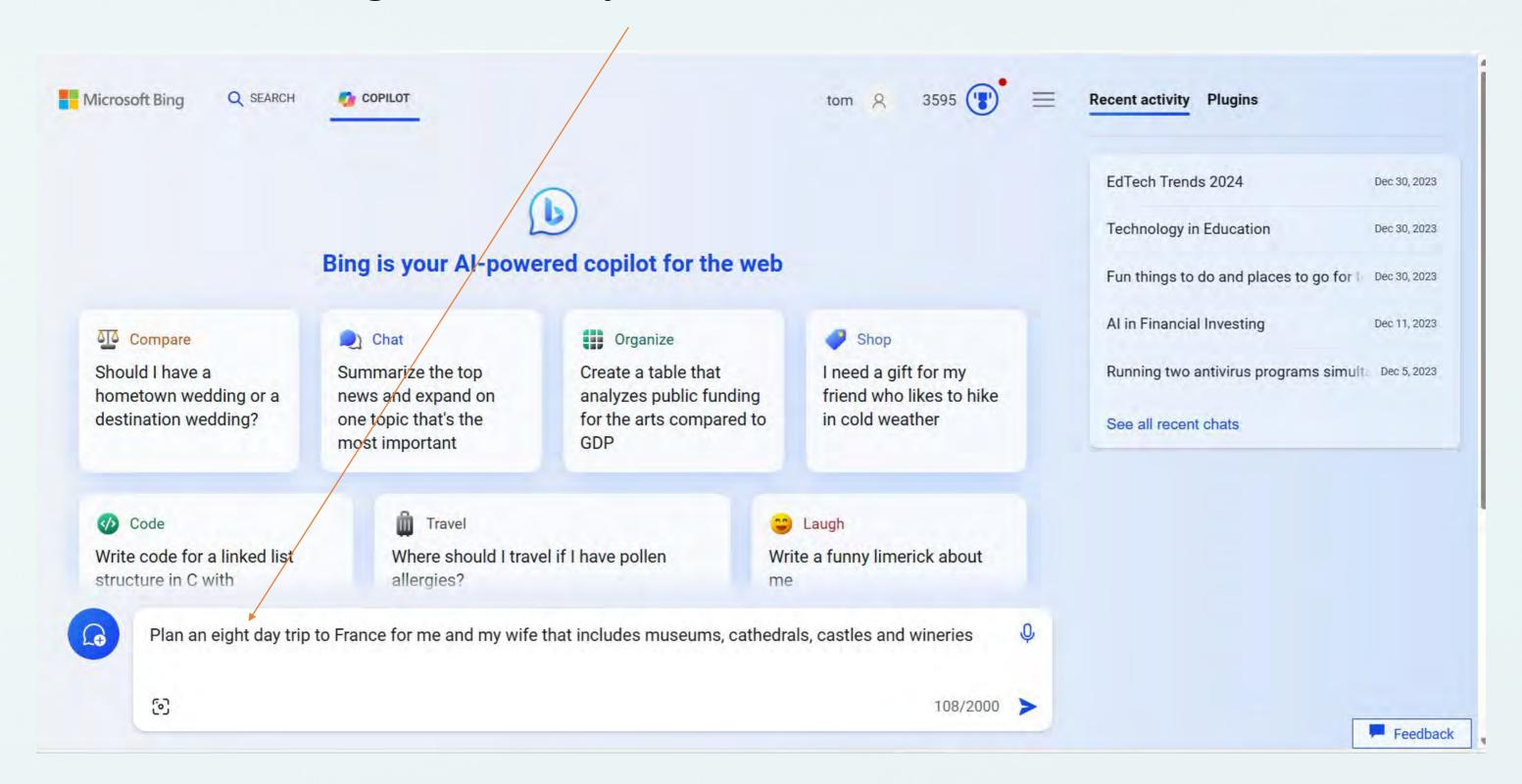
Let's see how Bing handles the same request



This is the initial Bing screen



Asking the same question about a vacation to France



Here is how Bing responded

I'd be happy to help you plan your trip to France! Here's an itinerary that includes museums, cathedrals, castles, and wineries:

Day 1: Start your trip in Paris. Visit the Louvre Museum and the Notre-Dame Cathedral.

Day 2: Take a day trip to the Palace of Versailles.

Day 3: Visit the Château de Chambord in the Loire Valley.

Day 4: Visit the Château de Chenonceau in the Loire Valley.

Here is how Bing responded

Day 5: Take a day trip to the Champagne region and visit the Moët & Chandon winery.

Day 6: Visit the Château de Fontainebleau.

Day 7: Visit the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte.

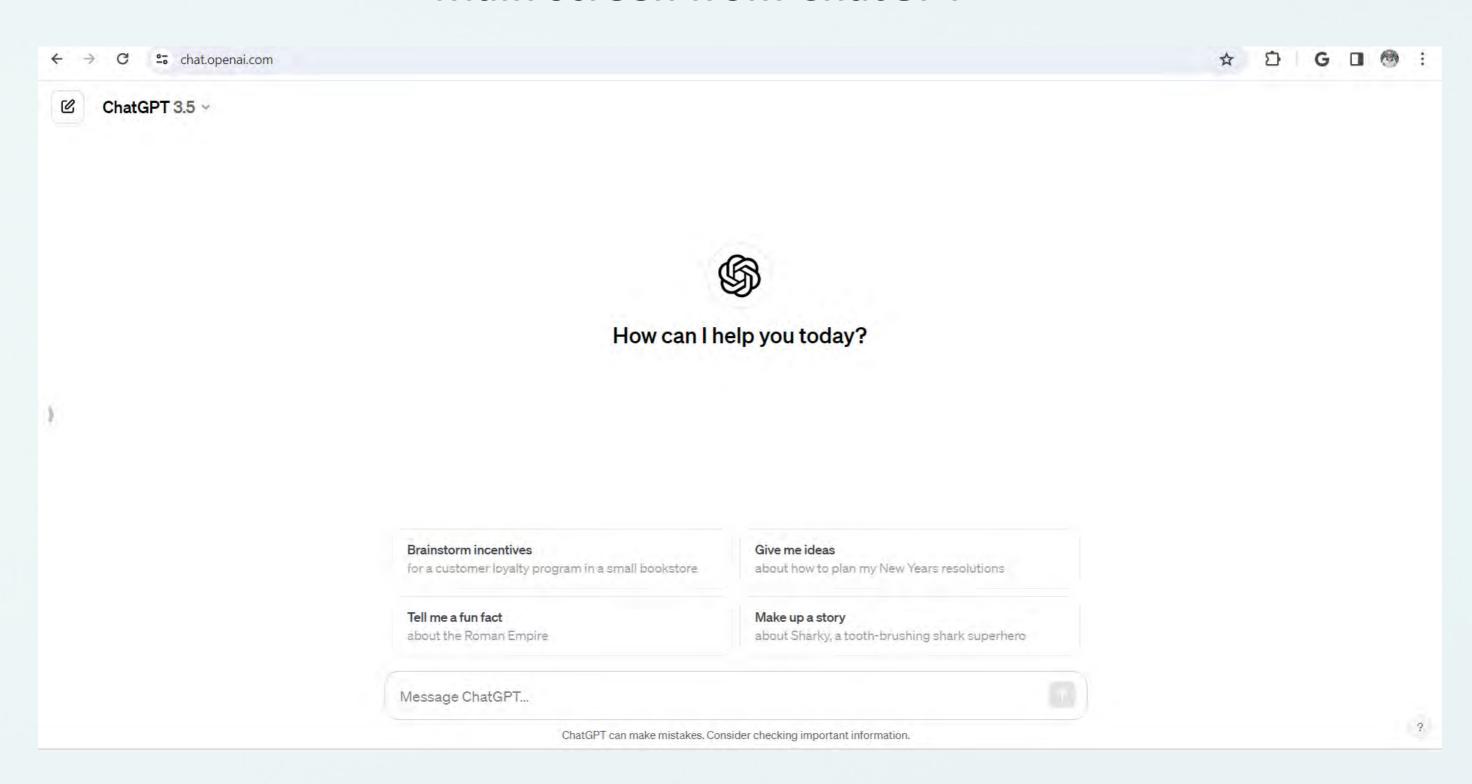
Day 8: End your trip in Bordeaux. Visit the Cité du Vin museum and take a wine tour.

I hope this itinerary helps you plan your trip! Let me know if you have any other questions or if you'd like me to suggest something else. Bon voyage! **2** • • •

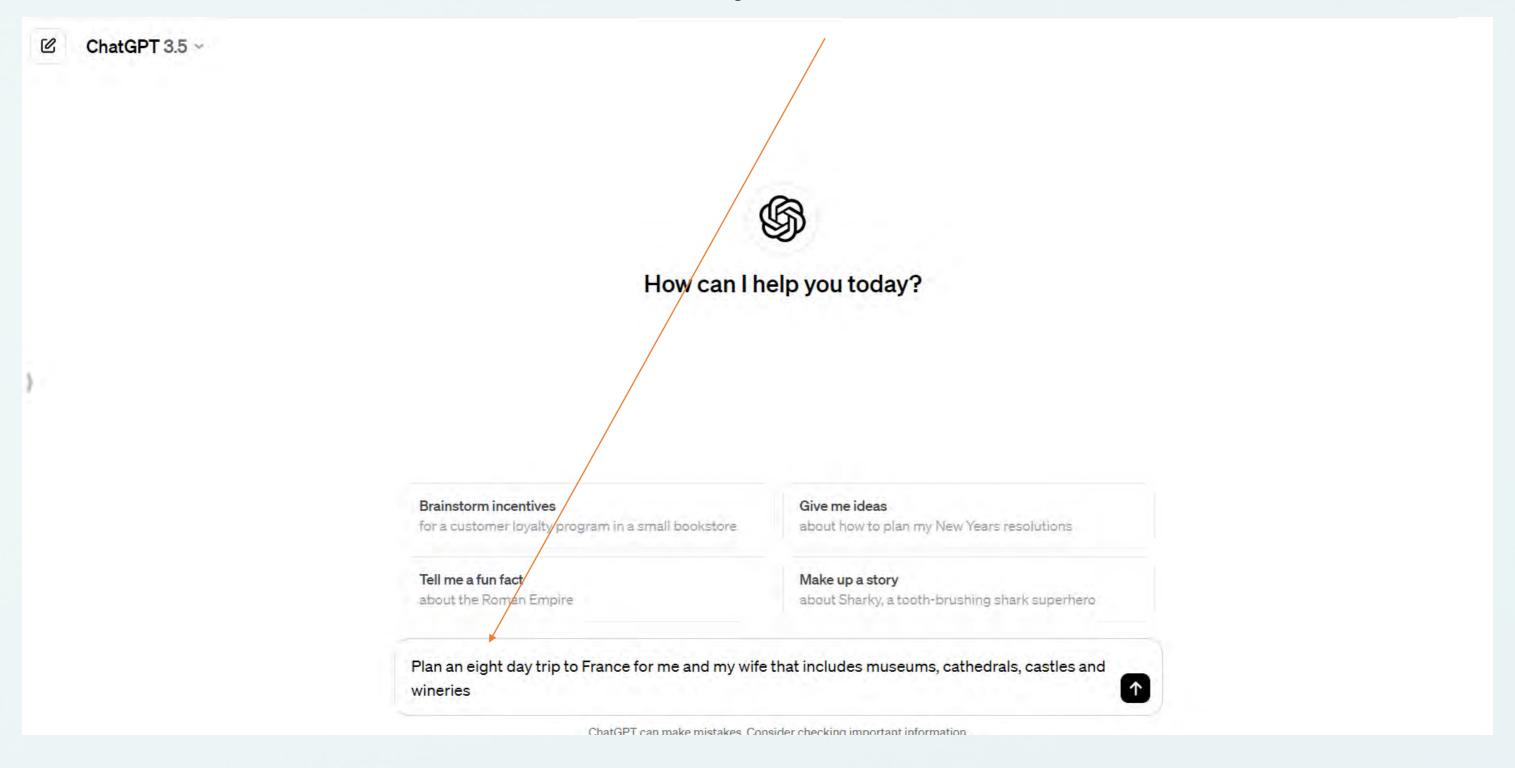
Let's see how ChatGPT does



Main screen from ChatGPT



Same question



Certainly! Planning an eight-day trip to France that includes museums, cathedrals, castles, and wineries sounds like a fantastic adventure. Here's a suggested itinerary:

Day 1-2: Paris

Morning: Arrive in Paris and settle into your accommodation.

Afternoon: Visit the Louvre Museum to explore world-renowned art collections, including the Mona Lisa.

Evening: Take a stroll along the Seine River and enjoy dinner in a charming Parisian bistro.

Day 2: Paris

Morning: Explore the Notre-Dame Cathedral, a masterpiece of French Gothic architecture.

Afternoon: Visit the Musée d'Orsay, housing an extensive collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces.

Evening: Relax in a sidewalk café or take a Seine River cruise for a different perspective of Paris at night.

Day 3: Versailles

- •Morning: Take a day trip to the Palace of Versailles. Explore the opulent palace, stunning gardens, and the Hall of Mirrors.
- •Afternoon: Visit the Grand Trianon and Petit Trianon on the palace grounds.
- •Evening: Return to Paris for a relaxing evening.

Day 4: Reims

- •Morning: Travel to Reims, known for its beautiful cathedral and as the traditional site of the coronation of French kings.
- •Afternoon: Visit the Reims Cathedral and explore the city center.
- •Evening: Enjoy a dinner at a local brasserie and taste the region's famous champagne.

Day 5: Reims/Epernay

- •Morning: Take a short trip to Epernay, another Champagne-producing town.
- •Afternoon: Tour one of the prestigious Champagne houses, such as Moët & Chandon or Dom Pérignon.
- •Evening: Return to Reims or Epernay for a leisurely evening.

Day 6: Loire Valley

- •Morning: Head to the Loire Valley, known for its beautiful castles.
- •Afternoon: Visit Château de Chambord or Château de Chenonceau.
- •Evening: Relax and dine in a charming local restaurant.

Day 7: Loire Valley

Morning: Explore more Loire Valley castles, such as Château de Villandry or Château d'Amboise.

Afternoon: Visit a local winery in the region.

Evening: Enjoy a farewell dinner in the Loire Valley.

Day 8: Departure

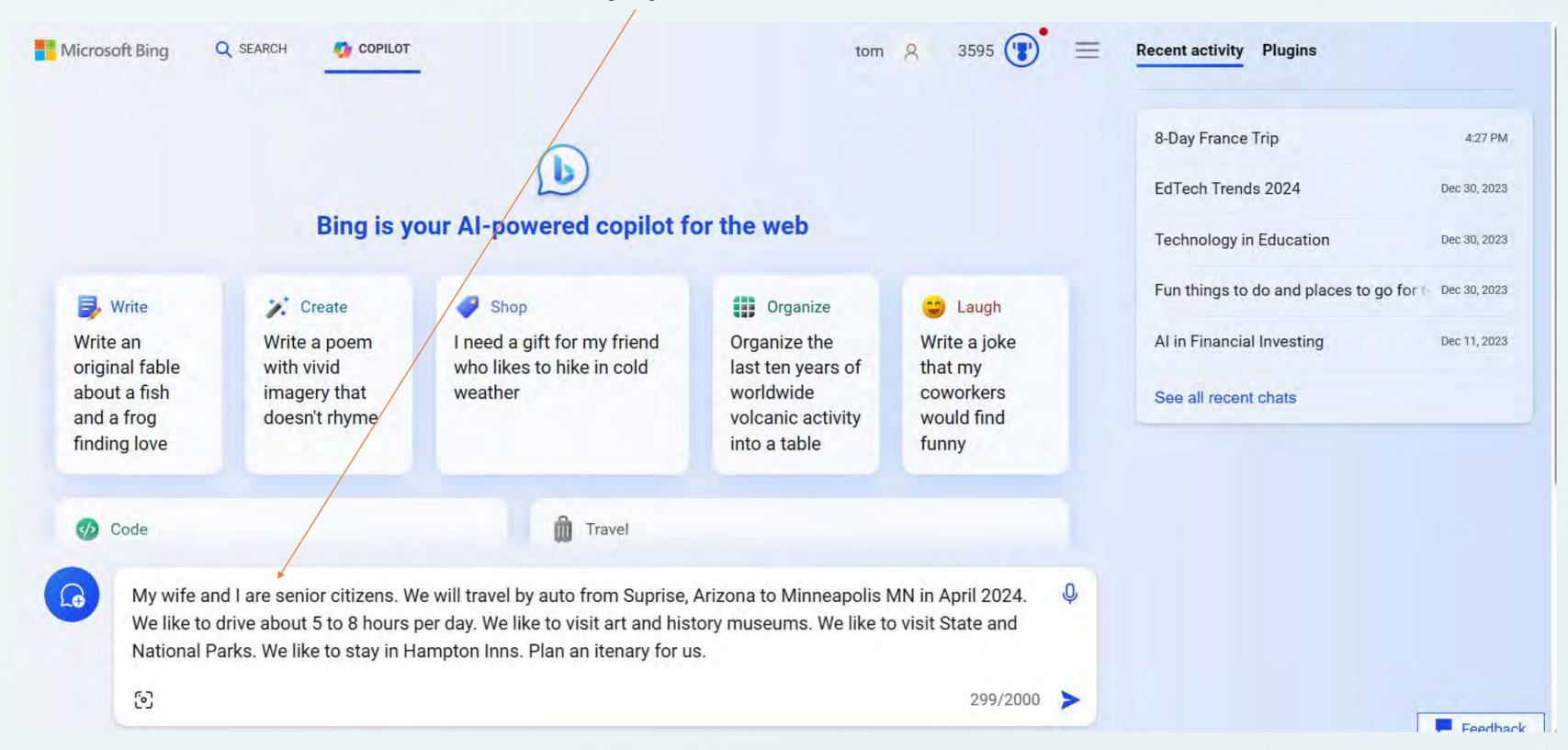
Morning: If time allows, visit a local market or take a last-minute stroll through the beautiful French countryside.

Afternoon: Depart from France with wonderful memories.

How about a Road Trip?

Let's ask Bing

Here is my question



Bing plots out a several day trip for me

Sounds like a fun trip! Here's a possible itinerary for your road trip from Surprise, Arizona to Minneapolis, Minnesota:

Table			X
Day	Drive Time	Activity	Accommodation
1	6 hours	Drive from Surprise, AZ to Santa Fe, NM	Hampton Inn Santa Fe
2	5 hours	Visit the New Mexico Museum of Art and Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, NM	Hampton Inn Santa Fe

3	6 hours	Drive from Santa Fe, NM to Colorado Springs, CO	Hampton Inn & Suites Colorado Springs/I-25 South
4	5 hours	Visit the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum and the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs, CO	Hampton Inn & Suites Colorado Springs/I-25 South
5	6 hours	Drive from Colorado Springs, CO to Omaha, NE	Hampton Inn Omaha/West Dodge Road (Old Mill)

6	5 hours	Visit the Durham Museum and the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, NE	Hampton Inn Omaha/West Dodge Road (Old Mill)
7	6 hours	Drive from Omaha, NE to Minneapolis, MN	Hampton Inn & Suites Minneapolis/Downtown
8		Visit the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis, MN	Hampton Inn & Suites Minneapolis/Downtown

9 - Visit the Minnehaha Hampton Inn & Suites
Regional Park and the Minneapolis/Downtown
Mississippi National River
and Recreation Area in
Minneapolis, MN

I hope this itinerary helps you plan your trip. Please note that the driving times are approximate and may vary depending on traffic and weather conditions. Also, please check the opening hours of the museums and parks before visiting them. Have a safe and enjoyable trip!

[A]

[A]

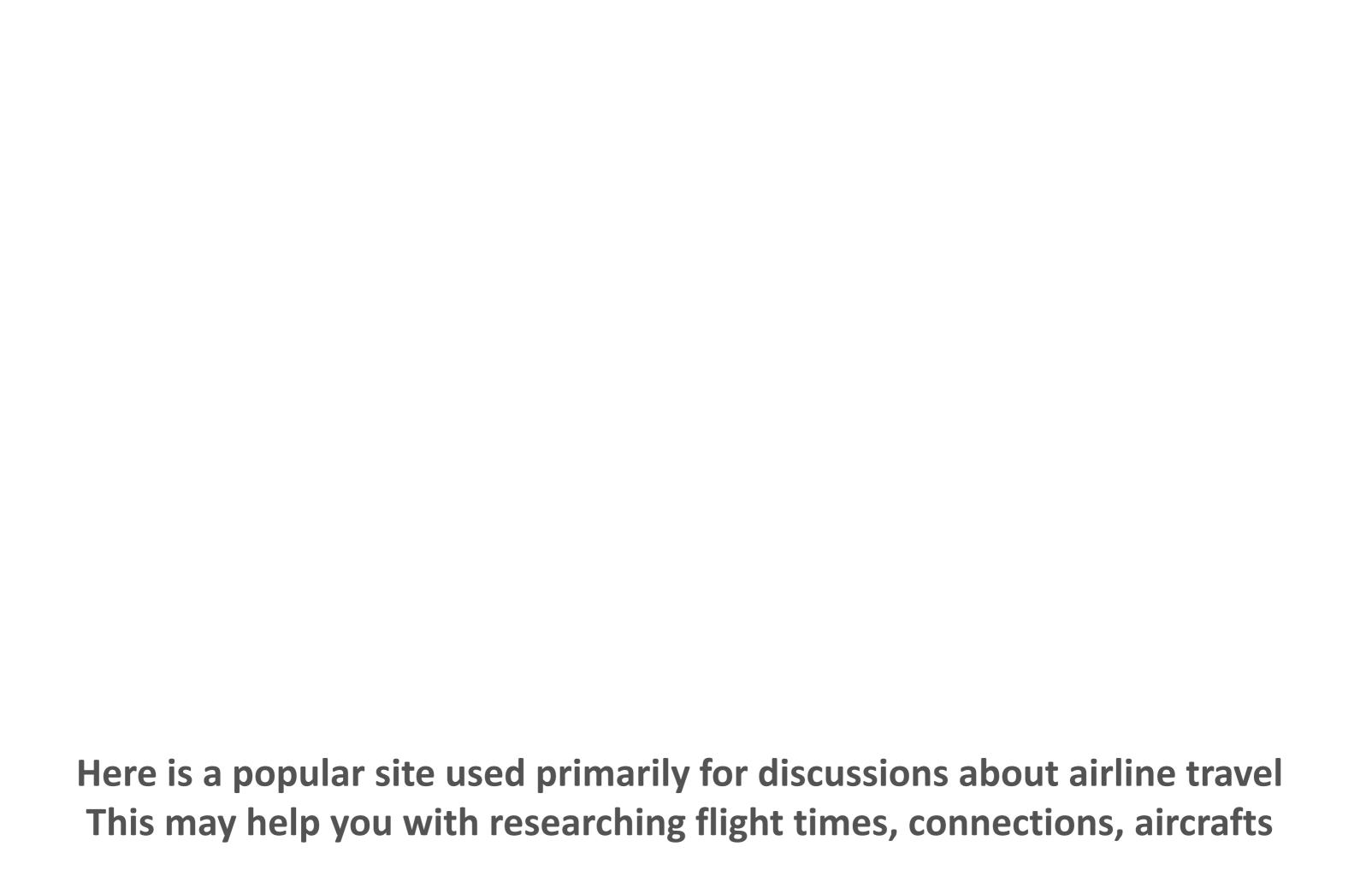
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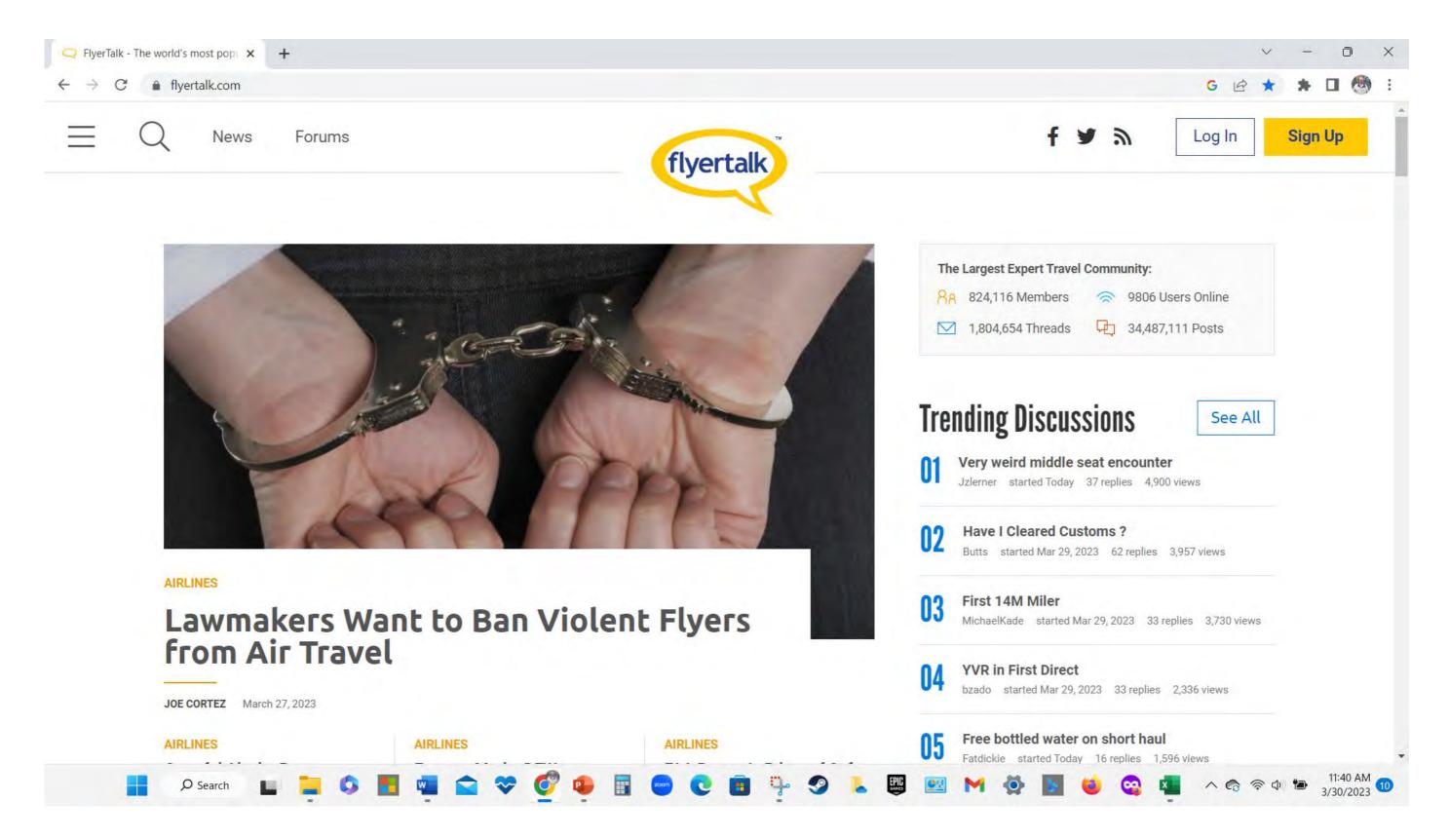
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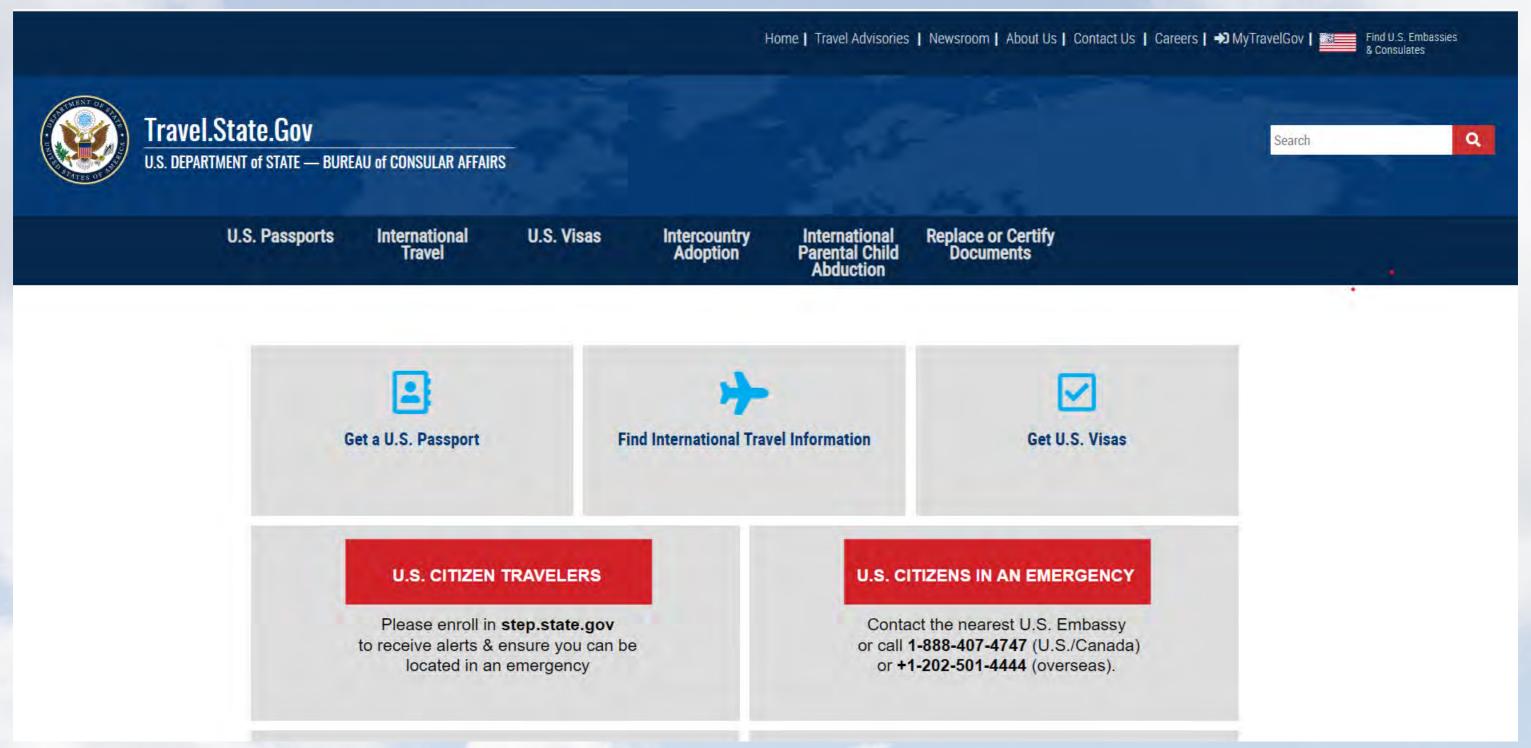




Here is a similar site, called "flyertalk"

There are two websites that the U.S. Government provides to inform and guide travelers to foreign countries

The State Dept site offers information to help plan foreign travel



https://travel.state.gov

This site is a program that allows the State Dept to provide you real-time information while in another coutry





Create Account

Log In







What is STEP?

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

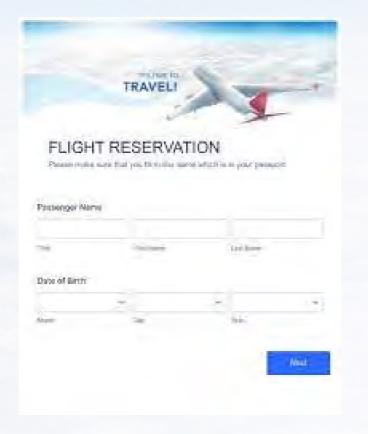
Benefits of Enrolling in STEP

- Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in an

https://step.state.gov/

What about making reservations?

You can always make reservations through the actual airline or hotel, but now there are massive online sites that can do that for you





or

Some of the most popular online sites include Booking.com, Expedia, Hotels.com, Orbitz, Priceline, Kayak, Travelocity and Trivago

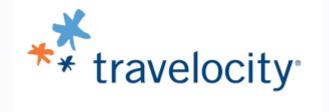
Some of these are "OTAs' and some are "Aggregators"

Booking.com









Online Travel Agencies vs Comparison Sites (Aggregators)

[Last updated: Tue 26 Jan 2021]

This is without a doubt one of the most commonly asked questions by our users. Let's begin by looking at exactly what each of the options are, and their main advantages and disadvantages.

Let's discuss the difference

OTAs are not a new concept

Remember in the old days there were "brick and mortor" travel agencies?

You would go to their office, look through a bunch of brochures

They would suggest hotels and flights for you

You would pick and they would set it all up for you

They got the airline tickets, the hotel reservations, tour info, etc.

And they were paid a commission by all of the above

Today's OTAs do the same thing, just via technology

Aggregators, AKA Meta Search Sites

An aggregator site, also known as a comparison site or a meta-site, allows you to make a single search and compare multiple OTAs in one place. In theory this sounds like the perfect time saver, and it indeed can be, but there are some big caveats. The biggest players in this field include Skyscanner, Kayak, Trivago and HotelsCombined.

Most aggregators will redirect you to the OTAs individual site to book, so in the end you're actually booking in the same place. In the last few years, some have added the ability to make direct bookings through their own individual platforms.

And then there are the Aggregators

Expedia Group

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Expedia Group, Inc. is an American online travel shopping company for consumer and small business travel. Its websites, which are primarily travel fare aggregators and travel metasearch engines, include Expedia.com, Vrbo (previously HomeAway), Hotels.com, Hotwire.com, Orbitz, Travelocity, trivago and CarRentals.com. CarRentals.com.

According to Rich Barton, the company's first CEO, the word "Expedia" is derived from a combination of "exploration" and "speed". [5]

Many of these online travel sites are now owned by Expedia

Booking Holdings

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Booking Holdings Inc. is an American travel technology company organized in Delaware and based in Norwalk, Connecticut, that owns and operates several travel fare aggregators and travel fare metasearch engines including namesake and flagship Booking.com, Priceline.com, Agoda.com, Kayak.com, Cheapflights, Rentalcars.com, Momondo, and OpenTable. It operates websites in about 40 languages and 200 countries.

In 2017, 89% of its gross profit was made outside the United States- most of which used Booking.com. [5][6]

In 2019, consumers booked 845 million room nights of accommodation, 77 million rental car days, and 7 million airplane tickets using websites owned by Booking Holdings.[5]

In 2017, 93.4% of revenues were derived from commissions and 6.6% of revenues were derived from advertising.^[5]

The company ranked 216th on the 2019 Fortune 500 list of the largest United States corporations by revenue. [7]

Contenta [hide]

Many more are owned by another conglomerate, Booking Holdings



I hope you enjoyed the presentation and Happy Travelling!