

NEW TECHNOLOGIES SIG

TOM SHEPHERD



NEW TECH SIG

WE NEED IDEAS

**ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SEND ME AN EMAIL ABOUT SOMETHING YOU
WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AT**

NEWTECH@GRANDCOMPUTERS.ORG

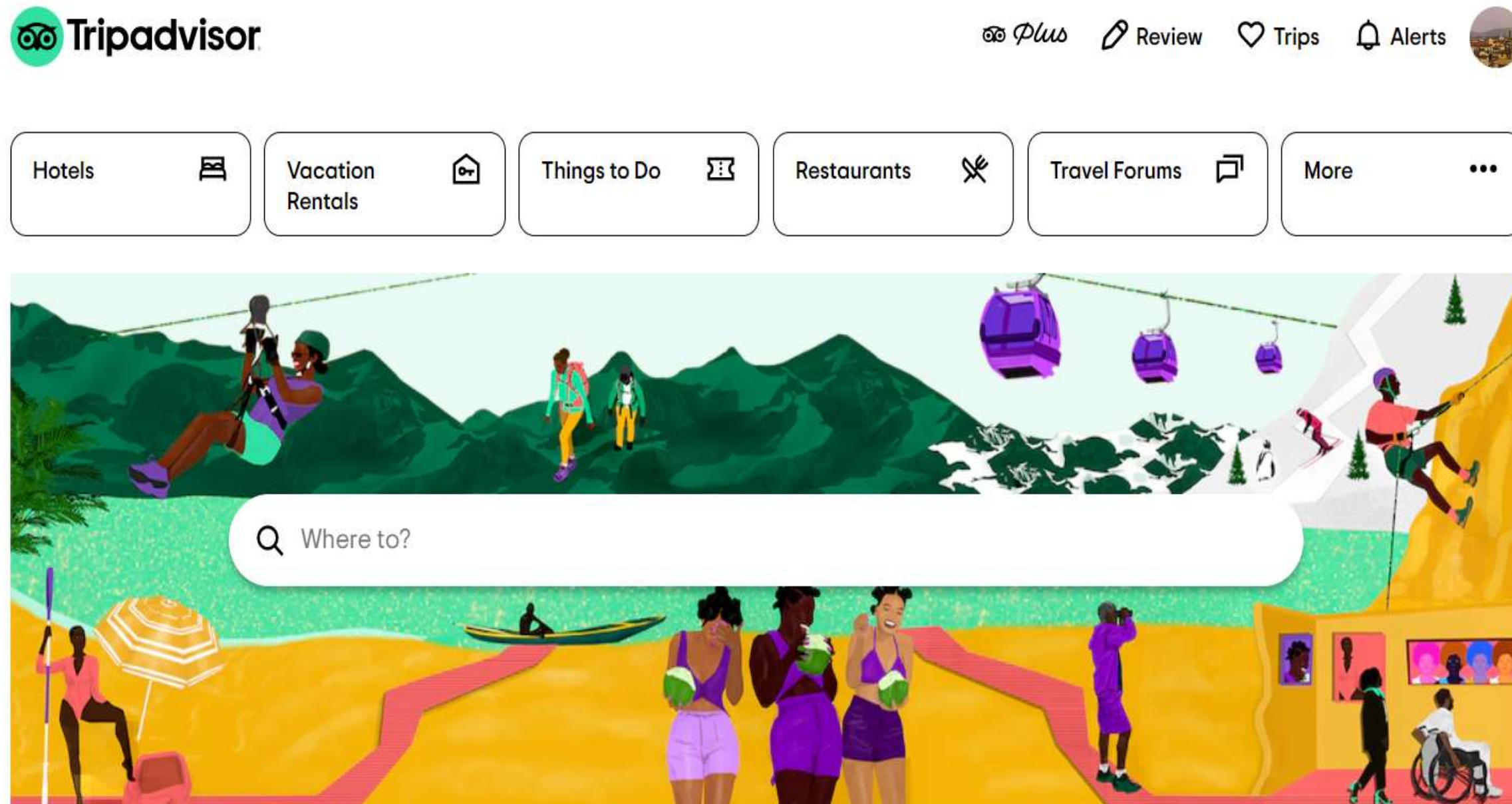
TRAVEL AND TECHNOLOGY - 2022 UPDATE

**GET UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND APPS TO MAKE YOUR
2022 TRAVEL SAFER AND MORE ENJOYABLE**

AGENDA

- **Researching your trip**
- **Making reservations**
- **Getting your documents together**
- **Day of departure**
- **Getting around in a foreign country**
- **One Users Experiences with Tripit**
- **Roadtrips**
- **Space Travel**

TRIPADVISOR



This is a great site and/or app with which to get started

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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.

TRIPADVISOR

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.

TRIPADVISOR



Plus

Review

Trips

Alerts



Hotels



Vacation
Rentals



Things to Do



Restaurants



Travel Forums

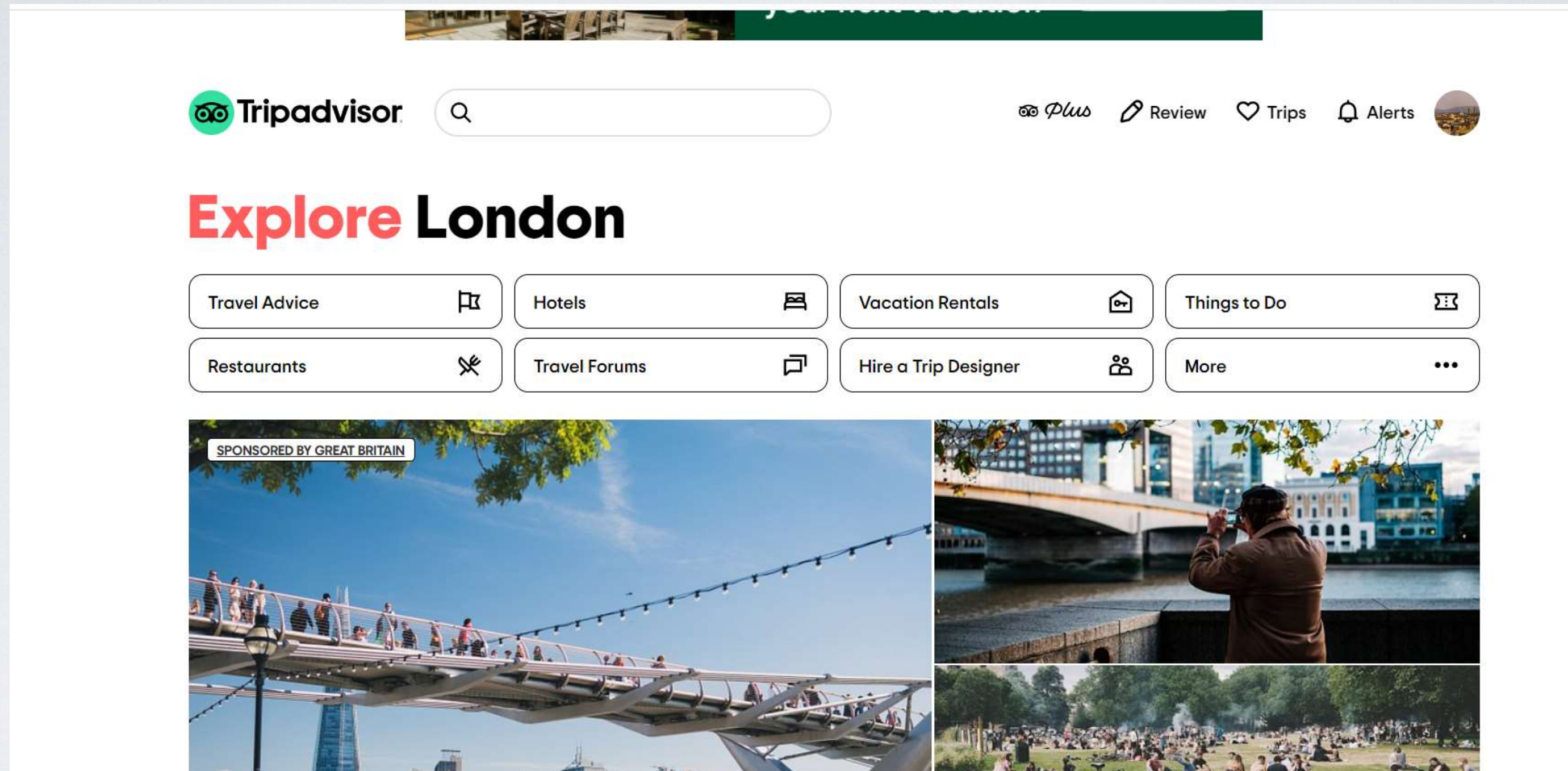


More



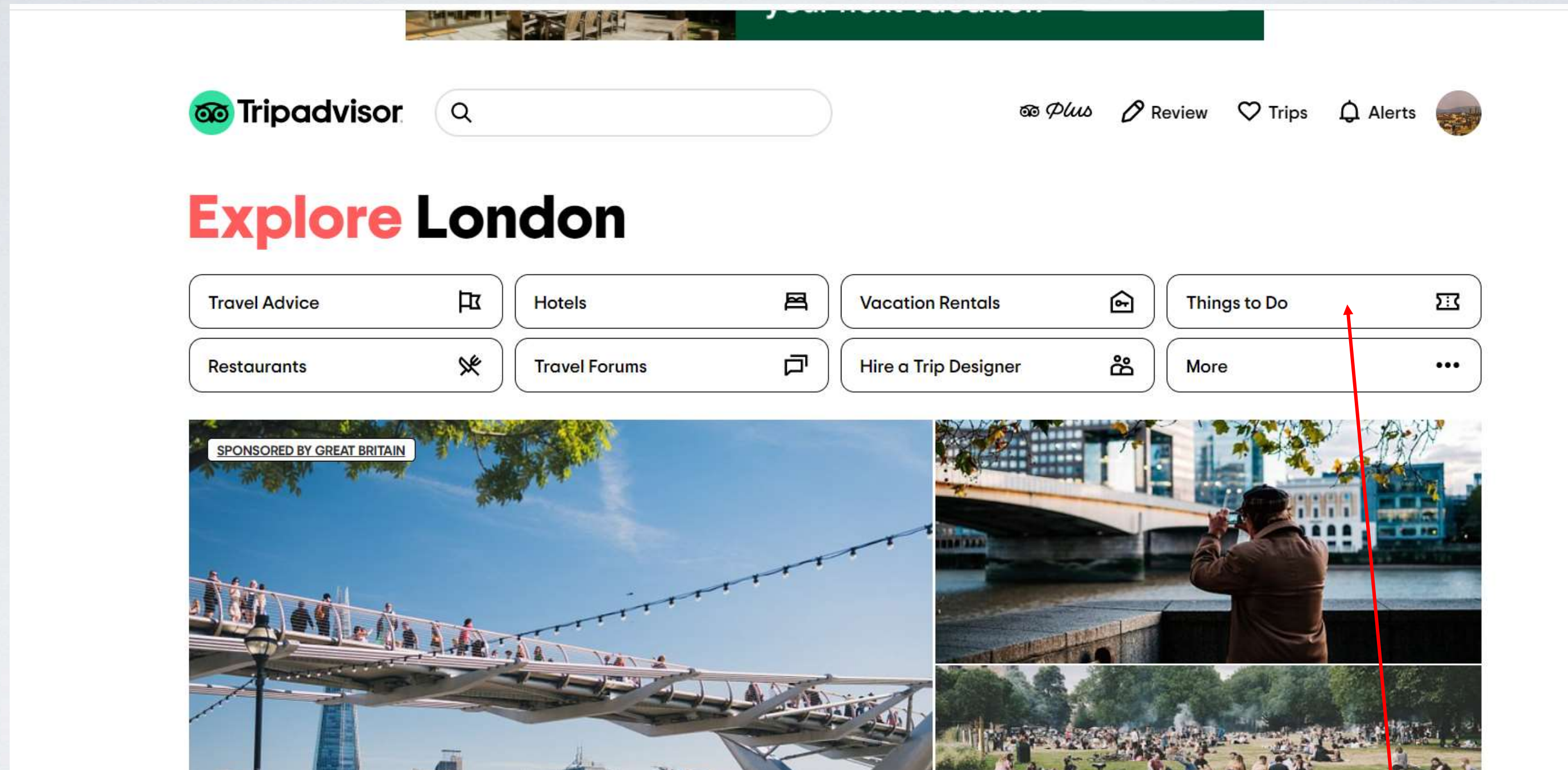
Let's say you are interested in traveling to London

TRIPADVISOR



Here's what shows up when you type in London in the search bar


TRIPADVISOR





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


TRIPADVISOR


T&Cs apply




 Plus

 Review

 Trips

 Alerts



London

Hotels

Things to Do

Restaurants

Flights

Vacation Rentals

Shopping

Vacation Packages

Cruises


Rental Cars

...


Europe > United Kingdom (UK) > England > London > Things to Do in London

Things to Do in London, England - London Attractions


Things to Do in London

 Map


Popular things to do




Half-day
Tours




Day Trips



Specialty
Museums



Cultural
Tours



Walking
Tours

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

TRIPADVISOR

Experiences you don't want to miss

Travelers' top picks



BEST SELLER

Stonehenge, Windsor Castle and Bath with Pub Lunch in Lacock

●●●●● 434

Full-day Tours

from \$103.82 per adult

Likely to sell out



BEST SELLER

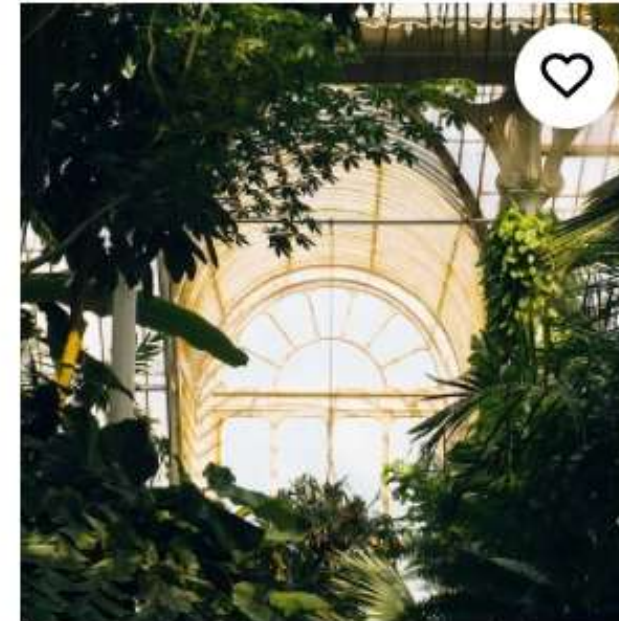
Harry Potter Tour of Warner Bros. Studio with Transport from London

●●●●● 390

Bus Tours

from \$123.20 per adult

Budget-friendly



Kew Gardens Audio Walking Tour Guided By Expert Botanist

●●●●● 11


Walking Tours


from \$6.91 per adult


You will get lots of suggestions


TRIPADVISOR


T&Cs apply




 Plus

 Review

 Trips

 Alerts



London

Hotels

Things to Do

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...


Europe > United Kingdom (UK) > England > London > Things to Do in London

Things to Do in London, England - London Attractions


Things to Do in London

Map


Popular things to do




Half-day
Tours




Day Trips



Specialty
Museums



Cultural
Tours



Walking
Tours

Let's try Specialty Museums

TRIPADVISOR

Specialty Museums in London

📅 Enter dates

📍 Map

Traveler favorites ▾

①

← All things to do

128 places sorted by traveler favorites ①

[Clear all filters](#)

Category types

Attractions

Tours

Day Trips

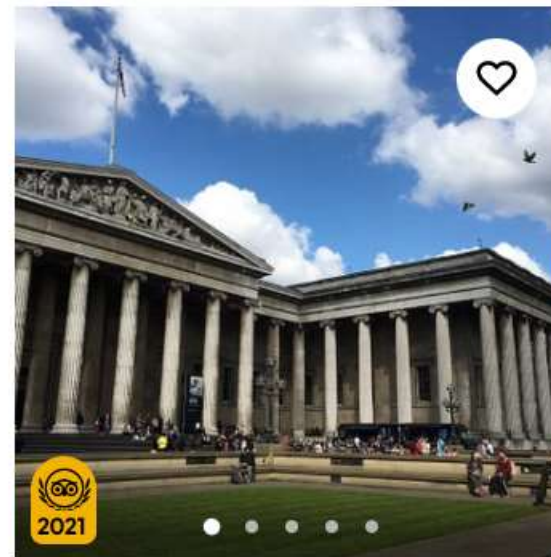
Outdoor Activities

Concerts & Shows

Food & Drink

[Show more ▾](#)

Types of Attractions



1. The British Museum

★★★★☆ 72,893

Speciality Museums • Art Museums

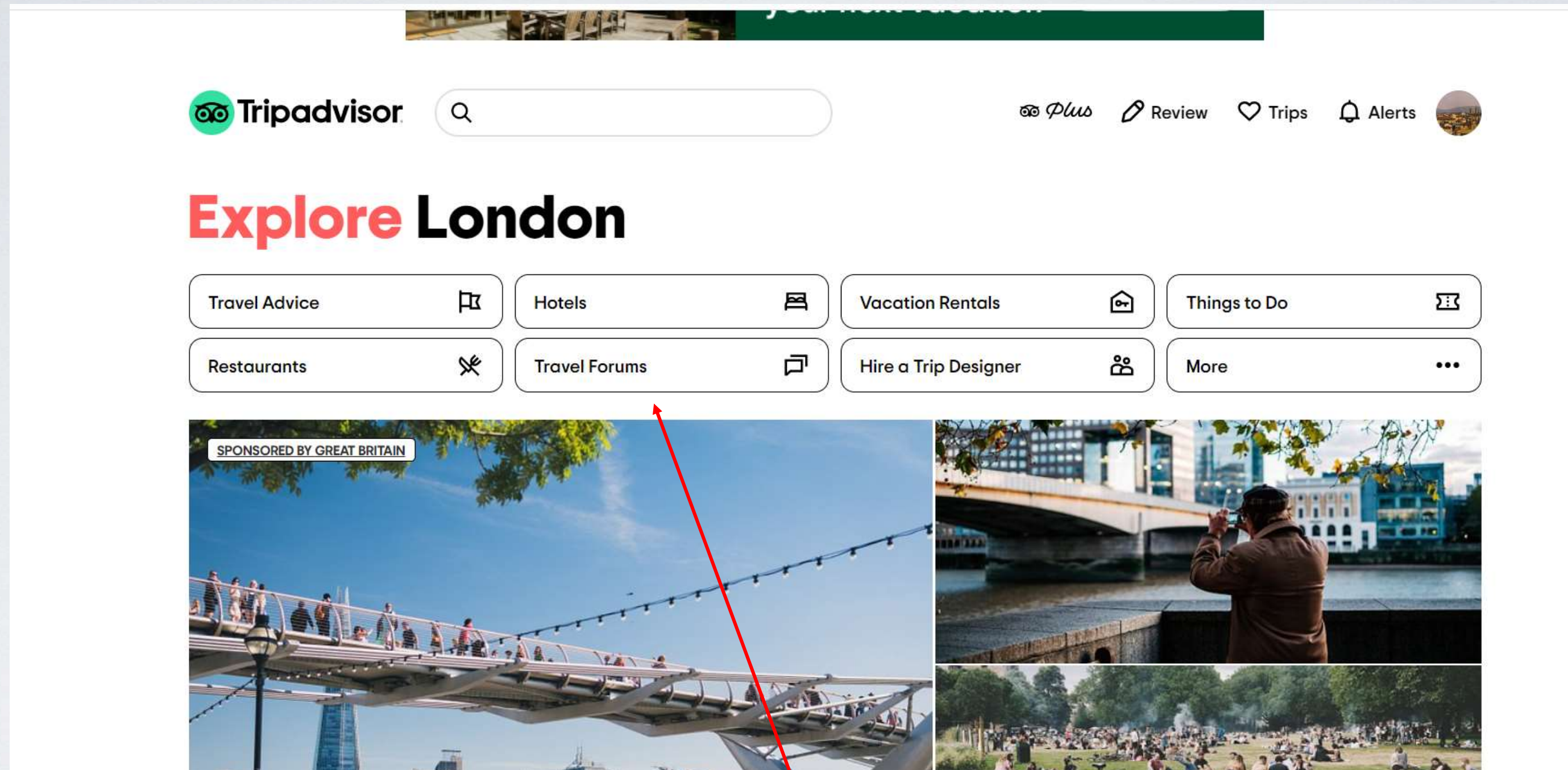
Bloomsbury

By [LondonDanDan](#)

This is always a great place to see amazing artefacts (including **Egyptian mummies** and Assyrian war reliefs and ancien...

#1 is the British Museum

TRIPADVISOR



The Travel Forums can give you good advice

TRIPADVISOR

Critique my 3 day London Itinerary
by Shelly J

9

4:29 pm
by MarD

O2 climb
by Suki

5

4:29 pm
by Wotsit

First day in London itinerary
by Kat

14

4:08 pm
by r c

Traveling to London from New York
by American

5

3:28 pm
by sueduncBATH

Harry Potter warmer bros studio transportation
by AnaStasia S

32

3:08 pm
by ElmersEnd

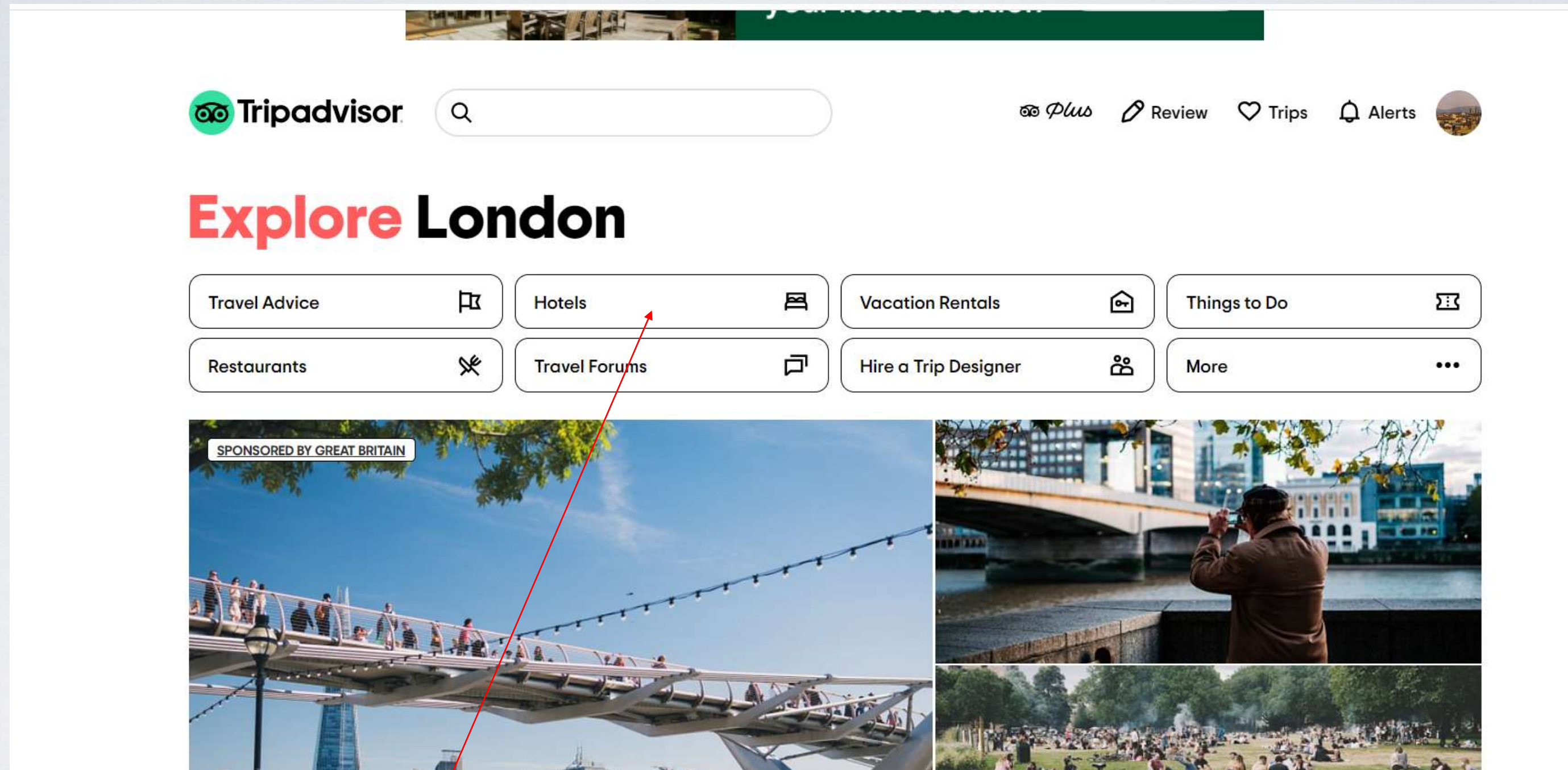
London with a "few" disability's - help please
by Adèle Marie M

13

2:41 pm
by Beatrice

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

TRIPADVISOR



A lot of people use Tripadivsor to research hotels

TRIPADVISOR

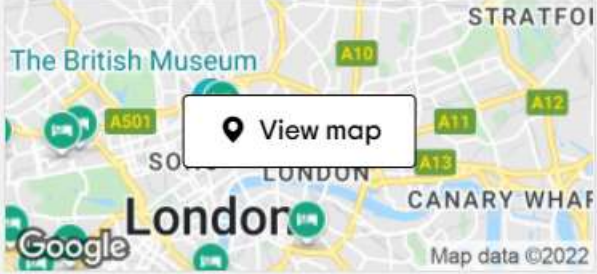
tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g186338-London_England-Hotels.html

Apps Sun City Grand Co... CHASE USAA Google Net Benefits AMEX MyMedicare UHC AARP Medicar... CVS Microsoft Casual G... Grand Computers National Western Li... » Rea

Check In - / - / -

Check Out - / - / -

Guests 1 room, 2 adults, 0 children



COVID-19 ⓘ

☐ Properties taking safety measures ⓘ

Deals

☐ Free cancellation ⓘ

☐ Reserve now, pay at stay ⓘ


☐ Properties with special offers ⓘ


Price


\$0 - \$458 +


Price per night


Popular hotels in London right now

 **Breakfast included**

 **4 bubbles & up**


 **5 Star**


 **4 Star** →


 **Plus** Pro tip: Enter your dates to see qualifying Tripadvisor Plus savings and perks

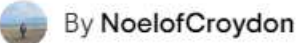
4,225 properties in London

Sort by: Best Value ⓘ

 **InterContinental London Park Lane** Sponsored

 **\$432**

 3,126 reviews

 By NoelofCroydon

"Outstanding service from this wonderful hotel and it's friendly staff, especially Dimitri at the Mexican /

To look at prices and reviews

TRIPADVISOR

Staff Ballon Room Event

"11th March 2022- My mother took me to her work do, which took place at the Intercontinental Hotel, (it brought back memories as this was my first job many moons ago! The staff are amazing especially our personal waiter jigneshkumar -Jazz he really lifted the mood he is very friendly he couldn't do anything more for us. 5 star service and 5 star waiter.... Lovely guy! Genuine and looks like he really enjoys his job"

[Read more](#) ▼

Date of stay: March 2022

 Helpful  Share



Voyage782200 wrote a review Mar 9

1 contribution



Very satisfying weekend break

"Great location for Knightsbridge (Harrods, Harvey Nicks), Hyde Park, Buckingham Palace and Mayfair. As an Ambassador member, upgraded to a delightful suite. Freshly decorated, quiet room, very comfortable bed, effective A/C. Welcoming staff in all departments. Clean, spacious, relaxing public areas. Delicious Italian food at Theo Randall's in-house restaurant. Highly recommended."

[Read more](#) ▼

Date of stay: March 2022

Here's a couple for this hotel

TRIPADVISOR

[illegible]

Here's another hotel

GOOGLE EARTH

**This app and/or web site is great for “virtually
exploring” locations**

GOOGLE EARTH

**Let's say I want to see the location of that
Bailey's hotel we saw in Tripadvisor**

GOOGLE EARTH

**Switching to Google Earth
For Demo**

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRAVEL WEBSITE


The screenshot displays the Travel.State.Gov website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links to various services like Apps, Sun City Grand Co..., CHASE, USAA, Google, Net Benefits, AMEX, MyMedicare, UHC AARP Medicar..., CVS, Microsoft Casual G..., Grand Computers, and National Western Li... Below this, a red banner highlights the 'Ukraine Crisis March 4, 2022' with the title 'Information for U.S. Citizens in Ukraine'. A second red banner highlights 'COVID-19 Travel December 30, 2021' with the title 'New Requirements for Air Travelers to the U.S.'. A yellow banner highlights 'COVID-19 Alert January 10, 2022' with the title 'Update on U.S. Passport Operations'. The main navigation bar includes links to Home, Travel Advisories, Newsroom, About Us, Contact Us, Careers, MyTravelGov, and Find U.S. Embassies & Consulates. The Travel.State.Gov logo and 'U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE — BUREAU of CONSULAR AFFAIRS' are prominently displayed. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation bar, a dark blue bar lists services: U.S. Passports, International Travel, U.S. Visas, Intercounty Adoption, International Parental Child Abduction, and Records and Authentications. The main content area features two large gray boxes. The left box, titled 'U.S. CITIZEN TRAVELERS', instructs users to enroll in **step.state.gov** to receive alerts and ensure they can be located in an emergency. The right box, titled 'U.S. CITIZENS IN AN EMERGENCY', provides contact information: Call 1-888-407-4747 (U.S./Canada) or +1-202-501-4444 (overseas) or contact the nearest embassy: **travel.state.gov**. A red line points from the text 'Her is a US Government web site you may want to investigate' to the 'U.S. CITIZEN TRAVELERS' box.

Ukraine Crisis
March 4, 2022
Information for U.S. Citizens in Ukraine

COVID-19 Travel
December 30, 2021
New Requirements for Air Travelers to the U.S.

COVID-19 Alert
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Update on U.S. Passport Operations

Home | Travel Advisories | Newsroom | About Us | Contact Us | Careers | → MyTravelGov | Find U.S. Embassies & Consulates

 **Travel.State.Gov**
U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE — BUREAU of CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Search

U.S. Passports | International Travel | U.S. Visas | Intercounty Adoption | International Parental Child Abduction | Records and Authentications

U.S. CITIZEN TRAVELERS

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U.S. CITIZENS IN AN EMERGENCY

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Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

A SERVICE OF THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
U.S. Department of State

[Create Account](#)[Log In](#)

TRAVELING?
Enroll a trip and get
Alerts



STAYING AT HOME?
Get Travel Advisories



FREQUENT TRAVELER?
Create an account

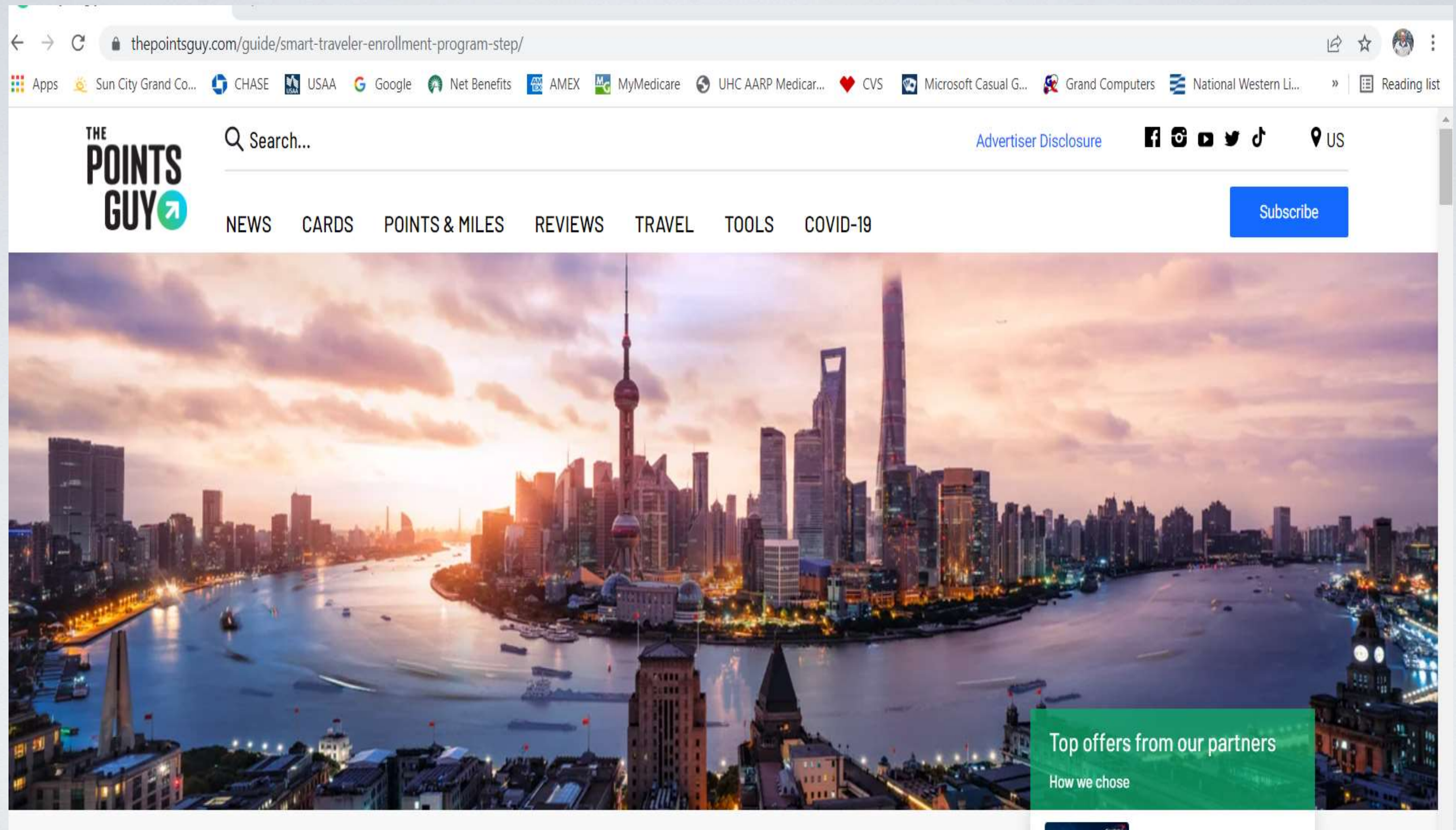


What is STEP?

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.




Here is a popular travel site , especially for frequent flyers

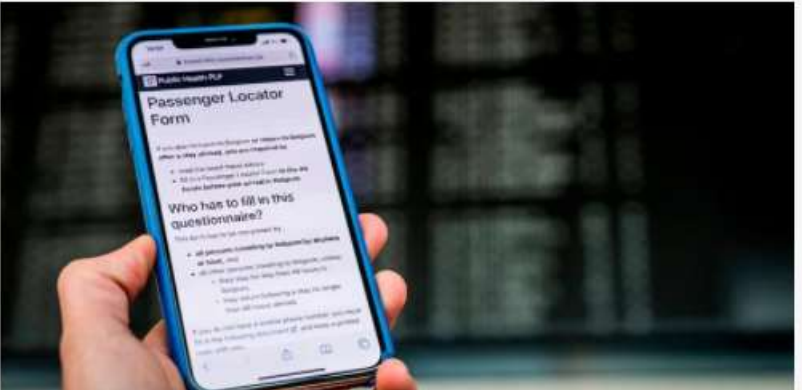
thepointsguy.com/news/

Apps Sun City Grand Co... CHASE USAA Google Net Benefits AMEX MyMedicare UHC AARP Medicar... CVS Microsoft Casual G... Grand Computers National Western Li... Rea

LATEST AIRLINES AVIATION CREDIT CARDS HOTELS TRAVEL TIPS




International travel with no restrictions: A country-by-country guide to where you can travel with no COVID-19 test required



The final remaining travel restrictions in the UK will be scrapped this week

NEWS
2h ago



You can now earn Air Canada Aeroplan

It does have posts of interest even for the casual traveler



GUIDES

Everything you need to know about the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)



Ethan Steinberg

May 18, 2021

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Editor's note: This is a recurring post, regularly updated with new information and offers.

While careful planning and common sense are two of the best ways to stay safe when traveling, security situations can change very rapidly in foreign countries — and if you're not carefully following the news, you might miss an important update.



That's why the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs has created the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP) to help keep you up-to-date on relevant security updates from the nearest U.S. consulate, wherever in the world you happen to be.



Today we'll take a look at who should register for STEP and what the sign-up process looks like.

A

And here is his explanation of that STEP program

MAKING YOUR RESERVATIONS

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 two terms that are often used interchangeably but are actually quite different

Online Travel Agencies: What you need to know

An online travel agency, or OTA for short, allows for both searching and booking of travel products like hotels and flights. Typically they work directly with airlines and hotels, and then receive a commission for every ticket or room which is booked through them. This is where the basic price difference between OTAs come in, some OTAs, usually bigger, can negotiate a better price with the hotel/airline, or alternatively accept a lower profit margin on each booking. OTAs you've probably heard of include Expedia, Booking.com, Trip.com, Hotels.com and Agoda but there are hundreds out there.

We most commonly hear of OTAs

OTAs are not a new concept

Remember in the old days there were “brick and mortar) 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.^[3] 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.^[4]

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]

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

Many more are owned by another conglomerate, Booking Holdings

With all these choices of travel sites/apps, what are the differences ?
Which should I use ?

There are several advantages of using an OTA

One stop shopping

You may get good pricing on “packages” (airfare, hotel, excursions)

You can search a huge variety of choices

You can find “out of the way” or unique small hotels

But there are disadvantages

One of the main disadvantages of online travel agencies is that all changes and cancellations need to be made directly through the OTA.

So, this means that if a guest is checking into a hotel and has an issue with the reservation, the guest will need to contact the travel agency in which they booked through.

In many cases, the hotel will not be able to make changes and cancellations without confirmation from the online travel site

Be aware of airline aspects

The same is true for airline companies as well.

When a guest books an airline ticket through Expedia, they will need to make cancellations and changes directly through Expedia instead of the airline itself.

This may become a bit confusing, especially if the guest books their ticket far in advance.

And more

If the guest is in a rush to get to the airport and then finds out that there is a problem with the airline booking, they will have to contact Expedia or whichever site they booked through to fix the issue, which can take extra time especially during a high-volume call period.

**SO NOW YOU HAVE MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS
WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR YOUR TRIP?
WHAT IS NEEDED AND HOW AND WHERE DO I SUPPLY THAT ?
ESPECIALLY THE COVID “STUFF”**

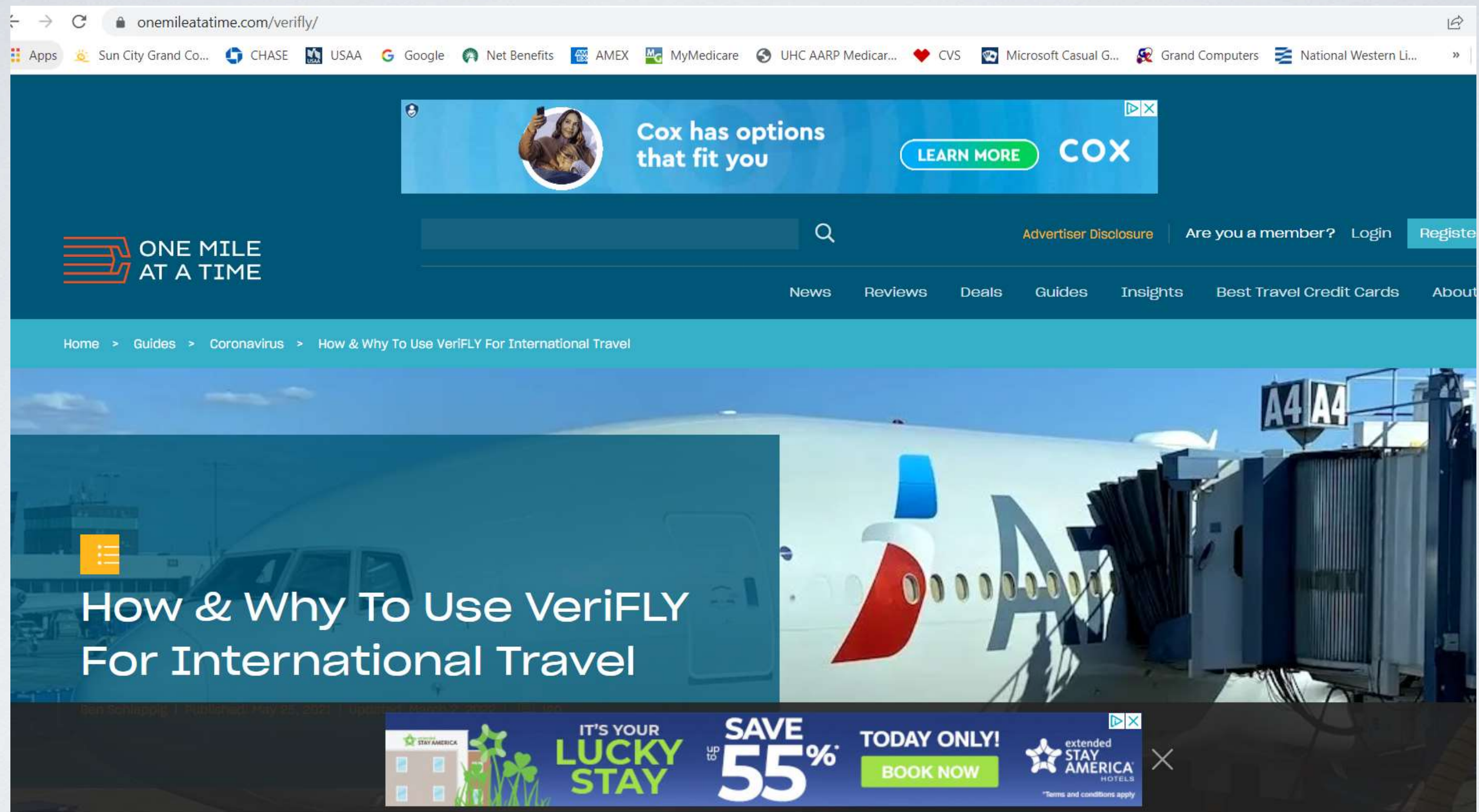
DOCUMENTS NEEDED TODAY FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL OFTEN INCLUDE

- Vaccination Status
- Covid Test
- Passenger Locator Form

**HOW THESE ARE PROCESSED VARIES BY
AIRLINE**

AMERICAN

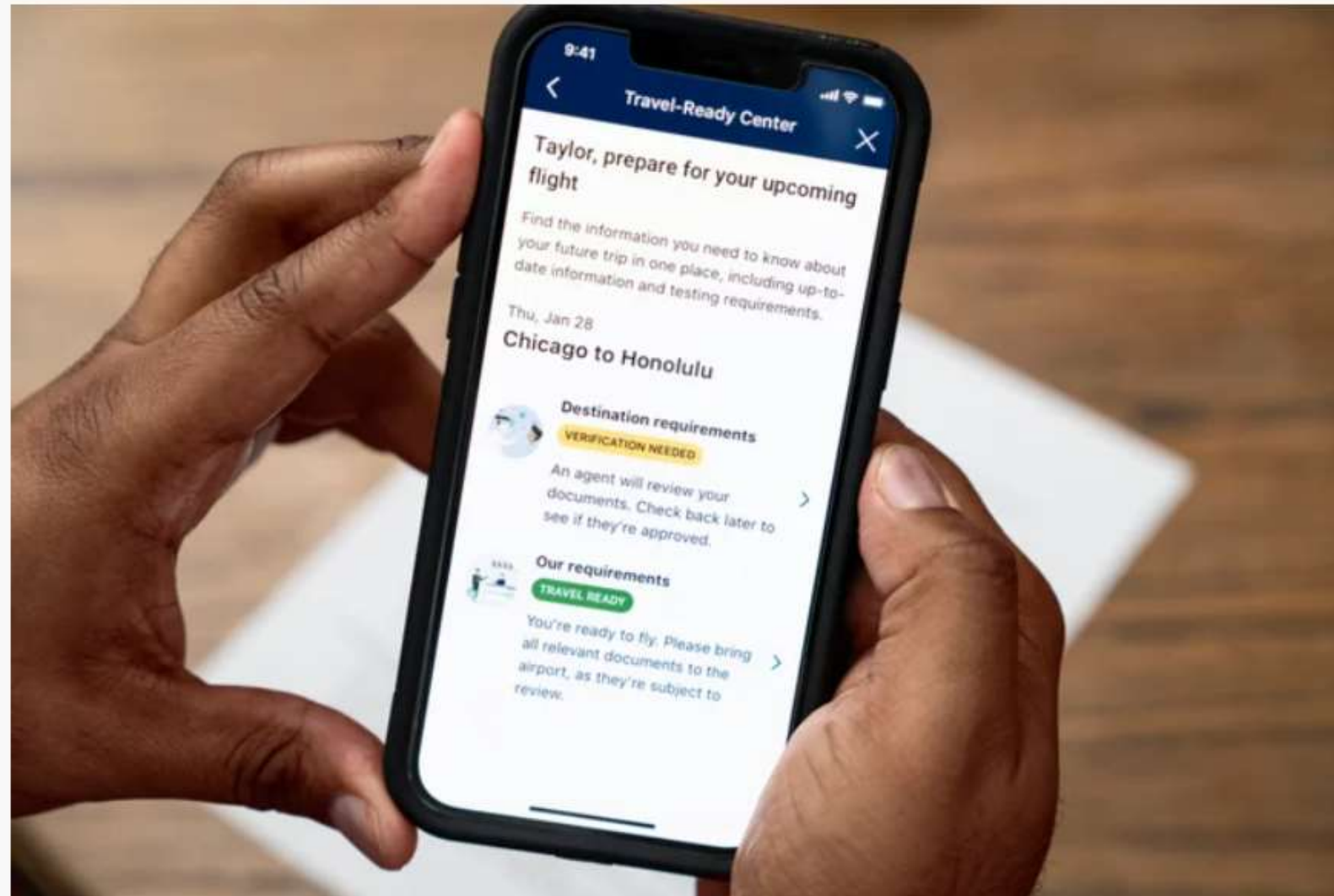
American uses technology from a company called “VeriFLY”



Here are some comments about VeriFLY from another frequent flier web site "One Mile At A Time"

UNITED

Fortunately, that in-person check-in may no longer be necessary in some cases. United's new "[Travel-Ready Center](#)" makes it possible for travelers to upload necessary documents directly through the airline's app — in some cases, an agent will conduct a remote review, clearing you to board before you even arrive at the terminal.



*United's Travel-Ready Center once again makes it possible to check in for flights online.
(Photo courtesy of United)*

United has their own “Travel-Ready Center

Welcome to the United Travel-Ready Center

This is your one-stop shop to get ready for your trip. Your destination has a few requirements you'll need to meet within a specific timeframe before your flight, and we're here to help make sure you do

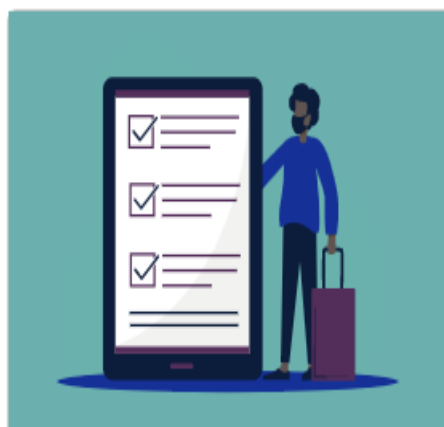
Get Started

Confirmation or eTicket number*

Last name*

Search

[Use MileagePlus number instead?](#)



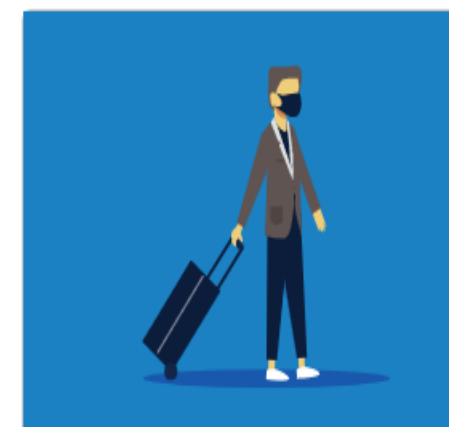
Review your requirements

Find what you need to know about your trip, including travel restrictions



Complete your requirements


Save travel documents, proof of vaccination and test results to your profile.



Ensure travel readiness!

Verify and manage all your travel documents to make flying stress-free.

DELTA



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NEWS HUB

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LANGUAGES ▾

ARCHIVES

MEDIA RESOURCES

SIGN UP FOR DELTA NEWS

TRAVEL WELL

ROUTES & WAIVERS

PURPOSE


BUSINESS


Q


ARTICLE | FLY DELTA APP

International travel requirements made easy with new Delta FlyReady experience

Staff Writer | Feb 22, 2022 9:00am







Delta has their FlyReady

DELTA

[VISIT DELTA.COM](#)[LANGUAGES](#) ▼[ARCHIVES](#)[MEDIA RESOURCES](#)[TRAVEL WELL](#)[ROUTES & WAIVERS](#)[PURPOSE](#)[BUSINESS](#)

Accessible via My Trips on delta.com and the **Fly Delta app**, the tool allows customers on Delta FlyReady-enabled routes to automatically see the entry requirements in place for their destination along with informational resources that outline additional steps that may be needed prior to departure.*

What's changing:

- **A more personalized view of requirements** at the customer's destination, including using their SkyMiles profile and passport information to pre-fill documentation for a faster, more convenient experience.**
- Ability to **view both outbound and inbound requirements at the same time** immediately after booking, giving customers more time to prepare for their return home.
- Functionality that allows customers to **save, exit and resume** document management when they're ready, ensuring they don't lose their progress.
- **Overhauled user interface** with a more responsive and enhanced experience for mobile, allowing customers to use Delta FlyReady across their devices with ease.