

## **Bahama Beach Club – Travel Articles**

### **Article 2: The Seven Top Travel Websites**

Most everyone knows about the popular travel websites of Expedia, Priceline, Orbitz, Travelocity and the like. These sites book thousands of vacations each year, and have clearly been a great advantage for the traveler since the rise of Internet travel, which made it much easier and less expensive to book a vacation. But what about the other travel sites out there - sites that can be a great resource in planning your trip? After searching through a number of them, we settled on the following websites. Each of them has tremendous valued added features and user friendly content that can make your next traveling adventure that much better.

<http://travlang.com/languages/>

Travlang.com offers great foreign language tools for travelers, plus you can get complimentary access to an extensive online database of foreign phrases, dictionaries and translations. If you are traveling to a foreign country where you don't have fluency of the language, this site is for you! The dictionaries alone are available in over 74 languages with over 5,000 different language combinations. Two million people use this incredible travel resource every month!

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

Looking to do some currency conversion? XE.com is the world's most popular currency tool. Not only can you do interactive foreign exchange rate calculations, but this information reflects the very latest, up-to-the-minute currency rates. To make it easy, the site lists the top ten currencies sorted by popularity. In addition, they have the top 85 currencies sorted by country name.

<http://visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global/jsp/SearchPage.jsp>

Every body needs cash at one time or another. If you're in a foreign country it helps to have cash in that country's currency. With this website, you can find any Visa ATM in the world. How many locations are there? There are over one million Visa automated teller machines (ATMs) in more than 160 countries. And they're all listed here. In addition, the Visa global ATM network encompasses PLUS, Visa's global mark for ATMs.

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

We have all heard about the bird flu and other tragic diseases that have emanated in other countries. With the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention website, you can review important health information in whatever country you may be going to, before you leave. The CDC is one of the operating areas of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the principal agency for protecting the health and safety of all Americans. Do the smart thing, and protect yourself. Having this knowledge could not only make your trip better – it could potentially save your life.

[http://www.travel.state.gov/passport\\_services.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport_services.html)

You can't go too far without a passport. The U.S. State Department Passport Services Office website provides all the information you need in order to obtain, replace or change a passport. As you are probably aware, a valid U.S. passport is required to enter and leave most foreign countries. Without one, there are not too many places you can go. Remember, if it's been over ten years, you need to renew your passport. Don't wait until the month before your trip! Get it done early.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/>

Lonely Planet is clearly one of the best and most loved travel sites out there. These folks started over thirty years ago traveling around the world. When they got back, they started the company and aimed to bring people together, help people understand the world, and sharing in the rich traditions of different cultures. One of their goals is to enable people everywhere to travel with awareness, respect and care. Their major product? Lonely Planet travel guidebooks. Publishing over 600 titles in English, Lonely Planet also has French, Italian, Spanish, Korean and Japanese versions.

[www.vacationstogo.com](http://www.vacationstogo.com)

Looking to save up to 75% on your next trip? Vacations To Go could be the best website out there for cruise travelers. As the official clearinghouse for deeply discounted cruises, they provide hundreds of thousands of bargain loving travelers with their dream cruise at a fraction of the regular price. And although there are many other discount cruise sites, Vacations to Go are the ones that invented the very concept, by convincing major cruise lines to significantly reduce the price of unsold cabins close to departure. Try them today!