

## Become a Travel Expert

Any one who knows me knows that I love to travel. Unfortunately I don't get to travel often because like many of you I have a job and responsibilities that don't allow me to up and fly to the Caribbean on a monthly basis. My second favorite activity, and much less expensive, is to research new and adventurous travel destinations. This activity is what I want to talk about today.

Computers have changed the way people travel. There was a time when you were at the mercy of a travel agent, stuck with the opinion of a single person. With today's technology you are not just stuck with the opinion of one person, the Internet is filled with folks that have been to the places you want to go. The best part is many of these people write in depth reviews of their vacations and even post travel vacation pictures. Internet sites such as [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com) consolidate these reviews all in one place for you to browse through.

What's great about reading reviews of other people's vacations is that you can decide which negatives you can live with and which positives you can't live without. As an example, on a trip that I'm planning to Jamaica, It doesn't bother me that practically everyone gives this particular resort a low mark on the modern ness of the room. What I do key into is that few people have negative comments about the food and the beach. However, other folks may find the quality of the room more important then the quality of the food. This is where getting a consensus from other people who have been to that resort will allow you to paint an accurate picture.

For those of you that don't have a job and do have the disposable income to just up and fly to a sandy beach then check out [www.travelocity.com](http://www.travelocity.com). Travelocity has an entire section dedicated to last minute weekend getaways. You can click on and choose a weekend getaway complete with airfare, hotel, car rental and excursions all in ten minutes or less. Weekend getaways can be purchased from this site anywhere from 3hours to 14 days away from your travel date. You can sort these getaways by location or price. Each getaway has flexible options to choose from, after you choose the location, you decide on the length of stay, you choose the hotel, then decide what kind of rental car you want. The best feature of this web site is that you can make your weekend getaway as luxuriously or as thrifty as your budget allows.

The two above mentioned travel sites are a couple of my favorite sites because they work for me. There are plenty of other travel sites out there that you may prefer. Check out [www.orbitz.com](http://www.orbitz.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com), or for a different way to get a great deal try [www.priceline.com](http://www.priceline.com). Priceline uses a different idea in getting the best deal for your travel dollar. You decide the destination then YOU decide what price your willing to pay for your flight or hotel. I have a friend that has used this service and he says that it works well in getting you the best deal. His only complaint is that you don't get as much control over flight times or specific hotels when using their service.

The bottom line is, don't be afraid to plan your own vacation, you may find that you are having just as much fun planning it as you do going on it. If you have computer related questions or problems then give Thomas or Roger a call at 947-0749, or e-mail me at [computerdepotonline@att.net](mailto:computerdepotonline@att.net).