



**Our Top 10 travel websites**

**Following the launch last week of a Government-backed campaign to boost internet availability and usage, we pick out our favourite sites**

**www.ownersdirect.co.uk**

The perfect resource for a self-catering break, putting you in contact with the owners of 30,000 villas, apartments and cottages for rent worldwide. Easy to use, with drop-down search menus for countries and regions, and testimonials.

**www.xe.com**

Your one-stop-shop for all things currency. There's an idiot-proof converter tool and a "live" chart for cross-referencing rates of sterling, euros and dollars against 10 leading currencies. Extras include historical rate tables and an encyclopaedia.

**www.netflights.com**

With access to thousands of cheap flights from all the leading airlines, as well as great deals on holiday packages, hotels worldwide and car hire, this invaluable, straightforward site takes the toil out of travel planning.

**www.seat61.com**

Organising a no-fly break has never been easier. Set up by career railwayman Mark Smith, a former station manager at London Bridge, this exhaustively detailed site is brimming with everything you need for train, ship and ferry travel within the UK, across Europe and further afield.

**www.travelsupermarket.co.uk**

Regularly voted among the best price-comparison sites, this is a great first port of call for researching flights, car hire, hotels, cruises and package breaks.

**www.laterooms.com**

Need a place to stay at short notice? This site collates the best deals on hundreds of thousands of rooms worldwide, offering bargains of up to 70 per cent off.

**www.which.co.uk/holiday**

A spin-off of Which? Holiday magazine, the strength of this simple, no-nonsense site is its objectivity and lack of advertising. Download destination "fact files" and see results of the latest Which? surveys.

**www.seatguru.com**

The perfect aid for checking-in online with "seatmap" graphics for every plane used by major airlines and information on exit rows, legroom and lavatory access for each seat.

**www.tripadvisor.com**

A decade old this year, Trip Advisor is the world's largest and best travel review site. "User-generated content" it's called – in essence, what you liked and loathed.

**www.expedia.co.uk**

From flights to hotels, car hire to city breaks, Expedia has pretty much every travel angle covered. Easily navigable, speedy and visually appealing.

**DUNCAN CRAIG**