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Why Use Priceline.com?

By Rick Archer

An Interview with Don Nadeau

Rick Archer sat down with Don Nadeau, the president of BidonTravel.com, which provides Priceline bidding advice.

RA: Why would anyone want to use Priceline?

DN: You'll save a lot of money.

RA: Yes, but who wants to get up in time for a 6:00 a.m. flight? You can't pick your departure times or airline or anything like that.

DN: Well, just use Priceline for air tickets when you're going to Australia or traveling at the last minute. You'll save hundreds of dollars. When you can plan your U.S. travel well in advance, Priceline may not be your best bet.

But always bid on Priceline hotels. That's easy and you don't have to get up at 4:00 a.m.

RA: Sure, but I don't want to stay in some crummy place.

DN: No, no, no. Bid for three or four-star hotels. You pick the quality. You'll end up at a Hyatt, Hilton, Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, Sheraton, Marriott, or Doubletree—someplace like these.

And, over a few days, you'll save hundreds of dollars. In fact, I predict you'll save on average at least \$100 a night over the prices you get on Expedia, Hotels.com, or similar discount hotel sites. Priceline hotel savings average some 40 percent over these sites.

RA: What about location?

DN: You pick that, too. In the Orlando area, you have a choice of 11 neighborhoods, in or near San Jose, eight.

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RA: So you can't pick a specific hotel, just a general neighborhood?

DN: That's right. That's why hotels use Priceline to sell excess inventory at prices they don't want their regular customers to find out about.

RA: So would it be correct to assume that if there's a big event going on in the area and hotels are heavily booked, rooms won't be available through Priceline?

DN: Actually not. Groups can book large blocks of rooms at hotels, then find out not as many are traveling, and release some rooms back to hotels. I once got a Priceline discount at the headquarters hotel of a huge medical convention at the last minute. Priceline tells you if rooms are available before you bid.

RA: How do I know what to bid?

DN: I have an entire site devoted to that! Go to the section of BidOnTravel.com.

RA: Just give me three main tips.

DN: Okay. First, bid on three or four–star hotels. That's where the real savings are. Second, look up the best prices for the star quality and neighborhood you want on a site like Hotels.com. Knowledge is power, and that way you won't overbid. Third, find out what Hotwire.com charges. Hotwire is Priceline's main competitor in the 'you don't find out the name of your hotel until you pay category,' and its prices are usually a bit higher than Priceline's. Therefore, bid 10 – 20 percent below Hotwire's price. See BidonTravel.com, though, if you want to refine this process to maximize your savings.

RA: What if I still overpay?

DN: Priceline has a best price guarantee. If you book a room on Priceline, and then find a lower price on another website for the same type of room at the same hotel or resort on the same dates, Priceline will refund you the difference. There's some small print, such as "this rate has to be available to the general public and you have to make your claim within 24 hours of booking," but you really can't lose.

RA: There must be some drawbacks to using Priceline for hotels.

DN: There are. Most importantly, you'll get no refund if you cancel. You won't be able to change dates. Also, you'll usually end up with a standard room. At some hotels, these may not be large enough for more than two people.

RA: What about smoking or nonsmoking?

DN: This is never absolutely guaranteed regardless of where you book. When using Priceline or other online sites, I usually call the hotel directly to make sure it has me on its nonsmoking list. I also try not

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to show up too late, when the hotel may have run out of certain types of rooms.

RA: Thanks. I'll try bidding next time after reading the tips on your site.

Rick Archer is President of

, a Search Engine Marketing company.

An extensive world traveler, Don Nadeau, president of

, loves helping people travel

"on the cheap." The

page of his site is most relevant to this article.

Saving Money On Travel These Holidays

By James Brown

Holiday travel is expensive! Gas prices are unpredictable, hotel rates can be high for the peak travel season, and rental cars are always more pricey than you'd like them to be. Thanks to online coupons you may find a great deal of savings on the trips you have to make to friends, relatives and loved ones. Why pay full price when you can print a coupon off the website?

In many cases, the Internet coupons you'll find are "affiliate discounts". This means you have to "Click Here" and get referred to a site like Avis.com where your discount is applied thanks to your click. One "click here" discount coupon at simplybestcoupons.com gives you fifteen dollars off a compact to full size rental. Another coupon click offers ten percent off a compact to full size rental.

And what about those hotel discounts? The Radisson Hot Hotel Deals coupons go up to fifty percent off. Who wouldn't want to save half their hotel bill, especially during holiday gift-giving season? Your travel expenses could go down dramatically, all with a few simple mouse clicks.

Some of the coupons lead to other discount agencies like Priceline.com, but again, never underestimate the "affiliate discount" factor. Many of the Priceline affiliate online coupons are for specific destinations, which may be quite helpful if you were planning on going there. The discounted air travel could also work as a unique gift! Who wouldn't want a gift ticket to an exciting destination? Further, discounted air travel is something to keep in mind as a gift for the person who has everything.

Of course, some of your travel expenses are not directly related to driving a rental car or flying in airplanes. Is your old, ratty luggage on its last legs? Try using an online coupon to get good discounts on a new set of luggage to replace your old ones. Some coupons will save you up to sixty-five percent, and others are related to how much your final purchase totals up to be; either way you are saving a nice bit of cash on something you definitely needed to buy. You can use the extra money to save for

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next year's holiday purchases or indulge in a nice on-the-road treat.

Another travel-related purchase is audio books. How many times have you longed to have something more to listen to while driving your rental car? There are many online coupons for purchases in great stores like booksamillion.com and audible.com. Your traveling time will fly by with the latest audiobook bestseller, and don't miss the online coupon for the clearances! Up to 80 percent off in some cases.

Coupons are great, but online coupons are even better—if you plan ahead you can get your savings delivered to your door in plenty of time for the trip, and what doesn't get sent through the mail, your rental car and airline tickets, you'll pick up at the airport counter. Thanks to the online coupons traveling for the holidays doesn't get any easier.

James Brown writes about

Saving Money On Travel These Holidays
Discount Travel – Finding Low Airfares
Record Numbers Set To Travel This Holiday
Finding the Best Airline Tickets
Travel Is WEB Easy



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