

WHERE THE WEB MEETS THE ROAD

Six sites with the information you need to plan better business trips.

BY MARY JANE IRWIN



THEY SAY KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. AND FOR ROAD WARRIORS LOOKING FOR AN EDGE, the Internet is teeming with savvy tips on everything from flying first-class on the cheap to keeping fit without being cooped up in a musty hotel gym. Knowing where to find the best information among the thousands of travel sites that have sprouted up in recent years isn't easy, though. So we set out to give you the inside track, scouring the Web and talking to seasoned business travelers to identify the most useful sites. Happy bookmarking.

Real Times in Real Time

Come the day of your trip, no site can help you avoid the hassles of getting from point A to point B as thoroughly as [FlightStats.com](#). The site has real-time arrival and departure information for almost every flight in the world, the latest security regulations, and up-to-the-minute weather conditions. It can send you text alerts if your flight is delayed, tell you which flights have the best on-time records, and even estimate how long you're likely to wait at the security checkpoint near your departure gate. Its mobile site is easily browsable. And best of all, it's free.

First Class for Less

If you're looking to fly in style—either by buying a first-class seat for a coach price or by identifying specific flights where the odds of landing upgrades are unusually high—head to [ExpertFlyer.com](#). For \$5 a month, the site offers the complete, up-to-date inventory of unsold seats for most major airlines, including unpublicized first-class tickets for the price of a last-minute coach fare. While ExpertFlyer can't book your seat, it does give you all the information you need to purchase a discounted ticket directly from the airline. That one extra step isn't so bad when you consider the savings: A recent ExpertFlyer search returned a first-class fare of \$779 for a transcontinental flight on United while United.com was quoting \$2,335 for the same seat.