

er-Shop



by Gwen Catas

oday, student travelers can find everything from guidebooks to visa information on the Internet. And the onslaught of online resources shows no sign of slowing down. Here's a sampling of Web sites that will help you plan your next trip abroad.

Start with American Passport Express [www. rscs.net/~gb2570], which has answers to all sorts of passport questions and gives you information on what to do if your passport is lost or stolen. Get links to tourist offices at The International Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus [www.iacvb.org/]. For a place to crash, search the Internet Guide To Hostelling [www.hostels.com], which offers up a list of hostels throughout the world.

Great sites for online shopping include Travelocity [www.travelocity.com], where you'll find everything from hairdryers to binoculars, travel kits and adapters; WalkAbout Travel Gear [www.walkabouttravelgear.com], where you can pick up a sturdy backpack or get information on using a computer modem overseas; and TravMed [www.travmed.com], which offers medical kits for every type of travel emergency and gives recommendations on kits that are best for travel to specific countries or regions.

For particulars on the country of your choice, Rough Guides [www.hotwired.com/rough] includes information on the hostels, food and nightlife in cities around the world. You may want to browse a Let's Go guidebook [www. letsgo.com], order free travel brochures [mmink.com/infosystems/trc.html] or purchase a map or book from the Adventurous Traveler Bookstore [www.adventuroustraveler. com]. Finally, if you're extra budget-conscious, check out the Shoestring Travel E-zine [www. stratpub.com] for links to a host of other valuable travel Web sites.

When you start your hunt for airline tickets, hit Council's [www.ciee.org] home page for discount student airfares, the legendary International Student Identity Card (ISIC) and Eurail passes. Council's home

page is also a clearinghouse of information on its work, study and volunteer programs.

So, give it a try. With cyber-shopping, the only thing you've got to lose is all of those shopping bags.

LOOK OUT!

- · Be wary of sites that do not have information on how to contact them via e-mail, phone or snail-mail (U.S. Postal Service, remember it?). Reputable companies will generally give you a number of ways to contact them.
- · You can send e-mail messages that you want to keep private more securely with free encryption software called PGP, available at www.bgb.com.
- · Before you send in an e-mail or submit an order form, print it. If you do not receive a confirmation or order number, your printout is your only proof of purchase.
- · If you have doubts, check out www.fraud. com, where you can find out if there have been complaints against the company.

OUR FAVORITE SITE

(not that we're trying to promote ourselves or anything)

http://www.ciee.org/

IT INCLUDES:

GOUNCIL TRAVEL

A complete travel resource for students and budget travelers, including discount student airfares available only through Council Travel and information on Eurail passes, hostels, car rentals abroad, group tours for students and young travelers, travel advice and much more. Visitors to the site can use an online form to request girtare information or to order a Eurail pass.

COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL **EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE**

Detailed information on working, studying and volunteering abroad. Also offers a downloadable application for the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) and worldwide ISIC discount listings.

STUDENT TRAVELS DEPARTURE ZONE

The Web companion to this magazine, where travelers can post photos and stories from their journeys, ask the travel advisors at Council Travel for advice and join in ongoing

> discussions on a variety of travel topics. Also features a complete travel planner.

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