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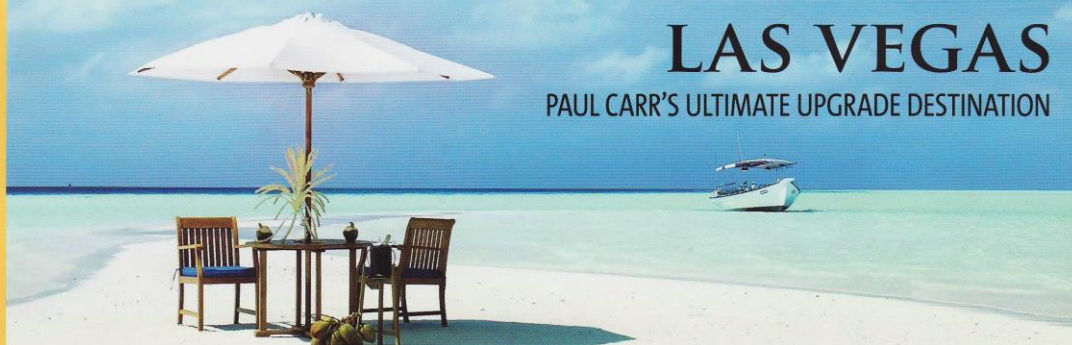
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DONALD STRACHAN'S TECH TRAVELLER

Travel technology journalist Donald Strachan travels the web in search of sites and apps to help you travel the world. Tweet him @_DonaldS

GET A GUIDE



There's no better way to orientate yourself in a new city than by plugging in to local knowledge. And many sites can help you meet and greet the locals, often incorporating user reviews, so you can quickly discover which guides are doing a good job. Vayable.com marks its experienced guides as 'Vayable Ambassadors'. GetYourGuide.com has a range at every price level. Viator.com has a custom portal for cruise-ship travellers: go to shoreexcursions.viator.com, enter your line, ship and itinerary, and its system automatically selects tours available from the dock.

Tripbod.com focuses on authentic local experiences and offbeat itineraries, rather than mainstream tourism. It has also partnered with Lastminute.com to put travellers in touch with a 'trusted human local' who can help them plan an exclusive itinerary.

Peek.com is aimed at the luxury traveller chasing experiences that cannot be bought elsewhere. Its slick site has striking photography and though the selection of activities is narrow, each has a hand-picked, high-quality feel. It currently covers US destinations only, but plans to add London and Paris this summer.

If you want to get under the historical skin of a destination, check out ContextTravel.com. Walks are led by scholars and are heavy on the cultural angle. They cover over 20 major cities including Florence and Kyoto.

ONLINE TRAVELLER

MAPPING MARVELS

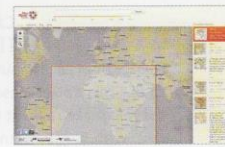
Cartographic heaven comes in all shapes, sizes, and online formats



www.roadtrippers.com
Plot a land route across the US with the help of an interactive map. Plug in your start and end points, and the site generates a map. Add your interests from a long list of options — history or breweries, flea markets or nature reserves — and Roadtrippers marks relevant stopovers on your map. More countries are due later in 2013.



www.tripline.net
This site builds an interactive map of your latest trip based on Foursquare or Facebook check-ins, geo-tagged tweets, photos from Flickr or Instagram, and more. Add notes to each stop and your latest adventure is ready to share with friends and family. You can also operate it in reverse: Tripline works well as a planning tool.



www.oldmapsonline.org
Scroll over the zoomable globe to find local historical maps that you can view online. There is a slider to narrow down the historical window, between AD1000 and 2010. Sources include digital libraries all over the planet, such as the Harvard Map Collection, Colombia's national library, and the University of Manchester.

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YPLAN

Find inspiration and last-minute discounts on events happening tonight, from gigs and opera to a wine tasting. Book and pay on your phone. The app covers London only — for now. iPhone (Android version coming later in 2013). Free. www.yplanapp.com

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