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Ron Stern

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Ron Stern : Fly Cheap, Stay Cheap, Travel Cheap before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fly Cheap, Stay Cheap, Travel Cheap:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. DisappointingBy melcatBit of a disappointment. I thought it would be more than just lists of websites, which anyone can find online. Was really hoping for real personal help with cheaper air fares and traveling. Maybe some real insider pointers for traveling. I don't travel a lot, so I get nervous making flight arrangements and travel plans, this book was going to help me get over that, but it didn't.1 of 1 people

found the following review helpful. Good resource on saving money while travelingBy DragonWingI picked up a copy of this book at a talk the author gave at my local library. The book presents all sorts of internet resources on ways to find cheap travel opportunities, with everything from airline fares to hotel fares and so on. What I found intriguing about the book is the proof of an old axiom of mine.... you don't know what you don't know you don't know. (If you don't know something exists, you aren't going to look for it specifically, and may only stumble on it accidentally, if at all). Fly Cheap, Stay Cheap, Travel Cheap presents several resources that I didn't know existed and wouldn't even have thought of looking for. I keep this book by my computer and next time I'll be planning a trip, it's the resource I'll start with first. Recommended5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This is a scamBy ItalicisedThis book is a joke - probably a way for the author to collect money for his own travel. If you have only traveled on a plane twice in your life or recently came out of a virgin forest into the world of Internet you will find it useful. Otherwise it's a waste of money. Two-thirds of the information is not about saving money (contrary to the title). It is about how to make travel arrangements. The other third is all common sense. For example, this book teaches that you should shop several sites before making a purchase (really?), call the airline 800 number to ask which days of the week are less expensive (guess what, weekdays!), do not book your trip during major holidays, such as Christmas, and check the list of diseases at your final destination.Chapter 1, the first 22 (out of 99) pages of the book lists various travel information sites, such as Fodor's, TripAdvisor, Lonely Planet, currency exchange sites, etc. Each of these entries has 2-3 lines listing the site title and URL, and a whole paragraph underneath describing what this site/company does. No info on saving money, just description of these sites.Chapter 2, 3 and 4 talk about planes, hotels and cruises. Let's look at plane tickets chapter in detail and what the author teaches. First tip: call 800 number for each airline to compare prices. Was this written in last century? Second tip: the representative at 800 number told the author to travel mid-week to save \$80 on a \$450 flight AND to buy tickets in advance. Eureka! Third tip: be flexible about your travel dates. Fourth tip: compare multiple websites for airfares. Fifth tip: fly with smaller discount airlines, and the author even generously shares a name of one of them: JetBlue. Sixth tip: check nearby airports. Seventh: Enroll in frequent flyer program. This is followed by a bunch of other info that doesnt have anything to do with saving money: bring copies of your passport, medication prescriptions. It also goes to explain why its important: because you need a back-up for your important stuff! The rest of the chapter lists sites, such as Expedia, Orbitz, Kayak, Bing, Priceline, JetBlue, with a generous 1/3-1/2 page description of each. It expands on to include sites for Air Traffic Control (how does it save money?), sites for enrolling into airlines frequent flyer programs, and a long list of sites with travel blogs with news.Chapters 5 and 6 talk about seemingly random things, such as where to buy airline sickness bags for your collection if you dont have one (I am not joking), how to locate roller coasters, how to find ghost towns, and a few random zoom-ins on specific locations for example, there is a shop in Scottsboro, Alabama, that sells pieces of unclaimed baggage, where you can buy things cheap the caveat is you cant do it online and have to go there in person.Mind you, the book is in size 14 or 15 font with lots of blank spaces on pages and after reading it you realize that maybe 1% of the info is useful (various websites, such as homeexchange.com if you want to swap your home with a stranger that happens to want to be at your location while you want to go to theirs at the same time), whereas the rest is just author trying to fill out space.Rather than wasting your money on this book you can ask 5 of your friends who travel for top tips to save money and youll get more useful info that you can get from reading this book. I agree with the previous reviewer that the book has a bunch of typos, but thats a minor thing considering that it does not deliver the content it promises to provide.

Now you can learn the secrets of traveling in grand style on a limited budget. Discover the best sites for finding low cost airfares; how to stay for free in a tropical island paradise for weeks or months; half-priced Broadway shows; creative cruising ideas that will save you a bundle; unique lodging ideas and much more.

About the AuthorRon Stern is a travel photojournalist and columnist with hundreds of articles to his credit. He is the editor of Justsaygo.com and was recently selected as one of the 100 Favorite Travel Writers by Tripbase.com.