



lonely planet



# Lonely Planet's **Accessible Travel Online Resources**

Easy-to-read text • Updated biannually

Lonely Planet's  
**Accessible Travel  
Online Resources**

Collated by Martin Heng,  
Accessible Travel Manager



In partnership with





## Introduction

When you're travelling with a disability or access issues, it's important to know that your needs can be met in the destination you are travelling to. This means planning your trip well: unlike for most able-bodied people, it's difficult to act spontaneously and hope for the best. Unfortunately, most people with access issues – whether through disability, age, a health condition or injury – have difficulty finding any information, let alone reliable information.

This collection of online resources doesn't pretend to fill that information gap. However, it's a good start and should help not only with initial planning, but also with finding suitable venues and facilities once you've reached your destination.

This list is by no means exhaustive, so here's where you come in: if you know of a useful website in your country or locality, please let us know at [travelforall@lonelyplanet.com.au](mailto:travelforall@lonelyplanet.com.au). Likewise, if you run a business that caters specifically for people who have particular access needs, let us know if you would like to be added to this list.

As websites go down and web addresses change frequently, we intend to revisit and republish this resource every six months to make sure all links remain live and to add new ones. **All headings are hyperlinked: click on them to be directed to the relevant website.**

The list of resources is broken down into different sections.

- Country-by-country resources, arranged alphabetically. Among these are websites from governments, local authorities, NGOs and private businesses. Some, marked with , are searchable databases of venues and facilities; others, marked with , are also associated with a mobile app. Both of these categories will be particularly useful when you are at your destination.

- Personal travel blogs. There is a wealth of information to be found in these personal blogs, written by those who enjoy travel with a wide variety of limitations.
- General resources is broken down into two subsections: useful websites for nondestination-specific planning purposes; and websites dedicated to promoting inclusive tourism. The latter will be of great interest to those who are working in the field, but it also contains valuable information, links and resources for travellers with access requirements.
- Specialist travel agents and tour operators, listed alphabetically by country. Most of these cater for a variety of access requirements; some are inbound and some are outbound.
- Specialist adventure-sports organisations. This is the least comprehensive section – we’d love to add to it if you can lend us your collective wisdom.

## Disclaimer

*Lonely Planet prides itself on having its authors visit every region, establishment and activity we review. **This is not the case with regard to the content of this document.** We have gathered this information from personal and professional contacts, as well as from scouring the internet. As such, we cannot vouch for the quality or currency of the information in any website, although we do offer an informed opinion in some cases. We especially absolve Lonely Planet of any responsibility for the quality of service provided by the listed travel agents and tour operators. Those suppliers who are members of the European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT) or who are Pantou-listed have made a commitment to offer high-quality accessible tourism services, but even then we still strongly advise you to make your own enquiries as you know best what your requirements are and only you know what questions to ask to make sure they will be met.*

## TOP TRAVEL TIP

*Plan ahead and plan well. Only you know what your needs are, so make sure they will be met.*

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## **TOP TRAVEL TIP**

*No matter what it says on the website, phone ahead and ask for details of the room you're booking.*



Taj Mahal, Agra

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# Country-by-Country Resources

## Argentina

### Red Turismo Accesible

Organisation dedicated to furthering accessible tourism in Argentina, conducting surveys and publishing the results, developing accessibility plans, and providing consulting services and training to government agencies, associations and businesses. Although there is not a great deal of direct relevance to travellers, the following listing of businesses accredited by the Argentinian Ministry of Tourism for their accessibility may be useful:

<http://turismoaccesibleargentina.blogspot.com.ar/2015/08/distinguidos-por-aplicar-las.html>

## Australia

### Accessible Melbourne

Discover Melbourne's best wheelchair-friendly restaurants and shops, get active with accessible sports, and enjoy spectacular scenery, food and wine along the Great Ocean Road with Lonely Planet's pilot accessible travel guide to its home city.

### AccessWA

Search engine covering more than 3000 accessible businesses, attractions, accommodation and community facilities in Western Australia. Access information caters to wheelchair users, those who have difficulty walking or who are blind or deaf. It includes both pictures and diagrams of toilets and bathrooms.

### Adelaide City Council

A 53-page Adelaide Access Guide produced by the council in 2011, covering public transport, locations, services and things to do. Looks pretty useful.

### Adelaide Metro

All the information you need for using public transport in Adelaide if you have a disability. We love the fact that they have explanatory videos with Auslan interpretation.

## Arts Access Australia

Peak national body for the arts and disability, with news and information about upcoming events, plus a large section with useful advice, resources and reports. Note in particular the extensive list of national and international disability organisations.

## Arts Access Victoria

With a yearly turnover of more than 100 arts projects and initiatives that lead to an increased number of people with a disability creating and experiencing art, Arts Access Victoria is the state's leading arts and disability organisation. Includes news and what's on tabs.

## Association for Children with a Disability

The Association for Children with a Disability, New South Wales, has released an Accessible Sydney app that promises to provide comprehensive information about accessible venues and facilities in Sydney. You can also check a directory of accessible venues via the above link, where you will find a 'download our app' button.

## Australia for All

Despite the name and the focus on Australia, this well-maintained database of self-assessed accommodation, attractions (including accessible countryside trails) and venues has some listings from around the globe. Don't be put off by its somewhat old-fashioned interface – its owner, Sheila King, has strict criteria for inclusion, in particular that photographs of the bathroom be supplied, the importance of which cannot be overstated. There are links to global organisations, as well as useful links for equipment rental and repairs.

## Bed & Breakfast Site

This bed and breakfast database has a wheelchair-access filter, and also covers New Zealand.

## Brisbane City Council

Landing page for all things accessible in Brisbane, including public transport, parks and playgrounds and a Braille Trail. A *Brisbane Mobility Map*, showing accessible routes, toilets, telephones, road gradients and accessible entrances to buildings, among other things, is available at

[http://www.mda.org.au/Information/Access/Mobility\\_Brisbane.pdf](http://www.mda.org.au/Information/Access/Mobility_Brisbane.pdf) or as an app: Brisbane Access Map by Touchism.

## Brisbane Disabled Travel

Information on the accessibility of Brisbane attractions, with advice on how to get around and where to stay by travel agent Ian Hayden, who has MS. Also includes content on the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba.

## Cairns Disabled Travel

Another site maintained by Ian Hayden with information for visitors with disabilities to tropical North Queensland.



## Can Go Everywhere

Searchable database of travel-related Australian businesses and accommodation. The criteria for inclusion are unclear, but there are a limited number of verified businesses and a long list of unverified ones, including accessible accommodation, restaurants and activities.

## City of Melbourne

Published in 2006 (2nd edition) *Accessing Melbourne: a Visitor Information Guide for People with a Disability* is somewhat outdated but still contains some useful information. The City of Melbourne has also produced a [map with a mobility filter](#) showing different gradients throughout Metro Melbourne in three categories: up to 1:20, up to 1:14 and steeper than 1:14.

## Easy Access Australia

Set up by wheelchair user Bruce Cameron in the lead-up to the 2000 Sydney Olympics, this site is quite light on detail and fairly dated. Of most use are the dozen or so detailed reviews of Sydney hotels.

## Eating Out with Wheels

A guide to wheelchair-accessible eateries in country cities and towns in Victoria; updated biannually and single-handedly by (Lucky) Phill Jury.

## Gippsland

Well put-together and easily navigable online guide to accessible attractions, both indoors and outdoors, as well as accommodation and eateries in eastern Victoria. Also downloadable as a PDF.

## **Ideas (Information on Disability & Education Awareness Services)**

New South Wales–based organisation providing an information hub for people with a disability, seniors, their families and carers. Click on ‘start search’, then ‘out & about’ for some very useful links and access reviews.

### **Melbourne Disability Services**

Official City of Melbourne Disability Services page with plenty of useful links for those living in or travelling to Melbourne.

### **National Public Toilet Map**

Find an accessible toilet in Australia simply by typing in a postcode or address. You can even use ‘plan a trip’ or ‘my toilets’ functions. Also available as a free app.

### **Nican**

Searchable Australia-wide database of information and facilities covering recreation, accommodation, tourism, sport and the arts for people with disabilities. Note that the federal government defunded this organisation in mid-2015, so information has not been updated since then. Also, information is as supplied, not verified by access auditors.

### **Open Access Tours**

At participating venues – mainly museums and galleries in Australia, but with some options in New Zealand and even the San Diego Zoo – visitors can use this app on their own phone or tablet to experience tours in Auslan, with audio description in multiple languages, or with captions. Fantastic idea – get on board, please, venues! The same developers have also produced an app called OpenAccess Alerts for the three million Australians with hearing loss who cannot hear audio or loudspeaker announcements. Particularly useful in bushfire-prone areas.

### **Out & About**

New Melbourne-based app gathering accessibility data from users on a broad range of venue types.

## **Parks Victoria**

Parks Victoria are world leaders when it comes to accessibility, with their innovative TrailRider all-terrain wheelchairs, beach wheelchairs and fully accessible modified cabins. Toilets and picnic tables have been designed with accessibility in mind, and Parks Victoria is opening up as many trails as it can to wheelchair users. This is their main landing page for accessibility and inclusion.

## **Port Phillip Bay**

Local government page giving information about accessibility to Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay foreshore area, including downloadable access maps showing key accessibility features.

## **Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services**

This page has links to various websites that will assist travellers with disabilities when visiting the state, eg public transport journey planner, state parks, and accessible public toilets.



## **Queensland Department of National Parks, Sports and Racing**

This page shows the 78 parks and forests in Queensland that are listed as having wheelchair access. You can also filter for the 183 parks which have easy or short walks.

## **Queensland Government**

Useful links for accessibility information related to sport and recreation, arts and culture, travel and transport in Australia's sunshine state.



## **Spinal Cord Injuries Australia**

Information and useful links for those travelling with a spinal-cord injury (or as a wheelchair user) from Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, including a link to its own database of accessible Australian accommodation, [RollAwayz](#), which is an overlay on a Google Earth map. There's also a link to some accessible guides, most of which are somewhat dated.

## Sydney for All

Official Destination New South Wales accessible activities and attractions page. It's pretty light on content, but includes links to Sydney access maps, accessible transport and accessible toilets.

## Townsville City Council

Surprisingly detailed (with audits by qualified occupational therapists) and lengthy access guide to this Queensland gateway city to the Great Barrier Reef. Published in 2015 (5th edition), it covers shops, restaurants, attractions, accommodation and services.

## Translink

Official Queensland government Department of Transport site covering accessible public transport in the state.



## Travelling Chair

A disability access website reviewing the accessibility of all kinds of venues, seemingly exclusively in Melbourne, drawing on community feedback.

## Visit Victoria

Official Visit Victoria accessible information page, which sadly contains fewer useful links for Victoria than the page you are now viewing! It does, however, have a link to download Lonely Planet's free *Accessible Melbourne* e-book.



## Wheelie Good Hotels

Australian-based accessible-accommodation search engine, with around 2000 Australian listings. Note that the hotels are generally mainstream and that most information is gathered remotely via the internet, phone calls emails etc.

## Austria

### Accessible Vienna

Fabulous Accessible Vienna guide from the city's official tourism board covering everything from accessible toilets and public transport through accommodation to information on wheelchair rentals and medical needs. Apart from plenty of information and advice for visitors with a variety of disabilities, there are also links to specialised tour providers. There are even

a number of introduction-to-the-city videos in *both* American and British Sign Language!

### **Infoplatfrom for Barrier Free Tourism**

Although no more changes will be made to the content (and it will therefore become increasingly out of date as time passes), this is an extensive searchable database of accessible venues in Austria.

## **Barbados**

### **Fully Accessible Barbados**

The Fully Accessible Barbados (FAB) is a program run by the Barbados Council for the Disabled (BCD), whose main purpose is to raise the quantity and quality of services available to people with disabilities (PwDs). There's heaps of information on this website covering everything from accessible bathrooms and parking to accessible hotels and restaurants.

## **Belgium**

### **Brussels for All**

Comprehensive information for visitors to Brussels with access issues, including detailed access information on individual venues using pictograms.

### **On Wheels**

Map-based way-finding app showing the location of 24,000-plus wheelchair-accessible venues, toilets, shops and parking with coverage in Ghent, Antwerp, Bruges, Kortrijk and Hasselt. Can be personalised according to individual wheelchair sizes and capabilities – a unique feature we've never come across on another app. Users can add reviews and report incorrect information. Spanish and German-language support.

### **Visit Flanders**

One of the tourism bodies setting a fantastic example in promoting accessible travel. Their 40-page downloadable accessible-tours brochure is available here:

[http://www.visitflanders.com/en/binaries/Walking%20and%20cycling\\_tcm13-11261.pdf](http://www.visitflanders.com/en/binaries/Walking%20and%20cycling_tcm13-11261.pdf).

A 100-page downloadable guide to the Flemish Coast, *Accessible for All*, is available in English, French, Dutch and German:

<http://www.flanders.be/en/publications/detail/the-flemish-coast-accessible-for-all-1>.

An *Accessible Guide to the Great War 100 Years Commemoration* is also available from the home page.

## Canada

### Access to Travel

This website provides information on accessible transport and travel across Canada for people with disabilities and seniors, as well as for their families and caregivers. It includes information on transport between Canadian cities by air, rail, ferry and intercity bus; local transport; accessibility of airport terminals; provincial tourism; service standards, and much more.

### Access To(ronto)

Searchable database of occupational therapist-reviewed accessible venues: restaurants, cafes, bars and live music venues in Toronto. Also includes a few resources and blog entries.

### Accessible Niagara

Guide covering attractions, places to stay, restaurants, recreation, shopping and entertainment in Niagara for the mobility impaired, with 99% of the venues personally audited by site owners Linda Crabtree and Eileen Zarafonitis.

### Accessible Playgrounds

Province-by-province listings of inclusive playgrounds. It's a fantastic idea, but coverage appears patchy.

### AccessNow

Crowd-sourced, map-based database of accessible (and inaccessible) places, with most of the entries in and around Toronto.

### Alberta Parks

Alberta Parks' landing page for accessibility.

### Edmonton

Lots of resources for residents and visitors to Edmonton with disabilities, including a PDF accessibility guide to community facilities and parks, as well

as recreation opportunities, and listings of agencies and groups that provide resources for people with special needs.

## **Parks Canada**

Navigate to the individual park page, click on 'Visitor Information', then click on 'Accessible Park Facilities'; three examples are given below.

### **Glacier National Park**

Information on accessibility in Glacier National Park for those with mobility, hearing and visual disabilities.

### **Jasper National Park**

Information on accessibility in Jasper National Park for those with mobility, hearing and visual disabilities.

### **Prince Albert National Park**

Information on accessibility in Prince Albert National Park for those with mobility, hearing and visual disabilities.

## **Planat**

A searchable database of 45,000 venues – accessible hotels, restaurants and businesses – some self-assessed and some assessed by the site's 14,000 users. Although venues from 14 countries are included, the majority are in Planat's home country, with some coverage across North America and a few European entries.

## **The Accessible Road**

Set up and maintained by K roul, an organisation established in 1979 to develop and promote access to tourism and culture for people with restricted abilities, this guide covers Quebec's main tourist regions, including more than 250 accessible tourist sites. With tips for planning and undertaking your visit, you can explore the region according to your particular interest: from art museums through bicycle paths to casinos.

## **Toronto Transit Commission**

All you need to know about how to use public transport in Toronto.

## Croatia

 [Village for All](#)

See entry below, under Italy.

## Cuba

### [Asociación Cubana de Limitados Físicos-Motores \(The Cuban Disabled Association\)](#)

Cuban organisation that lobbies for accessibility and disability rights, with a focus on the mobility-impaired. The association is a member of the Disabled Peoples' International (DPI), and is probably the best contact for travellers with disabilities heading to Cuba.

## Cyprus

### [Visit Cyprus](#)

Official Visit Cyprus landing page for visitors with disabilities. The Cyprus Tourism Organisation has also published a short [Accessible Cyprus](#) guide.

## Denmark

 [Access Denmark](#)

Official Access Denmark accessibility page, including a search engine for service providers who have joined the Accessibility Label scheme. Also covers Iceland.

## Estonia

 [InvaInfo](#)

Broad-ranging searchable database for accessible venues and accommodation in Estonia.

## Europe

 [Pantou](#)

Pantou is the Greek word for 'everywhere'. This website, an initiative of ENAT supported by the European Commission, is a searchable directory of suppliers of accessible tourism services in all EU and accession countries. It also includes more than 500 suppliers such as travel agents and tour operators who provide accessible services to Europe-inbound customers.

The Pantou directory makes it easier for tourists with any kind of access needs to find what they are looking for when planning a visit.

### **ECARF Travel**

Allergy-friendly, quality tested hotels, restaurants and accommodation (German language).

### **Schär**

Gluten-free holiday search engine maintained by Europe's leading gluten-free produce supplier.

## **France**

### **Handibooking**

Accommodation search engine, filterable by type of disability, mainly covers France, but with entries in Belgium, Canada, Spain and Vietnam too. (English and Spanish language as well as French.)

### **Handimap**

Open-source map with crowd-sourced accessibility data covering five cities in France, with information on everything from roads and transportation to public buildings.

### **Handiscover**

Accommodation search website, with three categories of designated mobility. Most of the listings appear to be in Europe, with an epicentre in France, but with no directory or map, it's hard to say how many properties are in the database.

### **Jaccede**

Probably one of the most successful user-generated-content data-gathering organisations, alongside wheelmap.org in Germany, this French database contains some 73,316 points of interest, the vast majority of them in France. Their modus operandi is to hold an event in successive cities to raise public awareness. Also available as an iPhone or Android app.

## **Paris Info Visitors Bureau**

### **Where to Eat**

Official Paris Info Visitors Bureau eating-out guide for patrons with a disability, helpfully categorised by type of disability: physical, visual, hearing or cognitive. Includes cafes, bars and pubs as well as restaurants.

### **Where to Stay**

Official Paris Info Visitors Bureau accommodation guide for patrons with a disability, covering hotels, apartments, B&Bs and campsites in and around Paris. The accommodation is divided into two levels of accessibility: those awarded the 'Tourisme & Handicap' label, an approved quality rating which guarantees a high-standard of accessibility, and those which don't have this approved label but are nevertheless accessible.

## **SNCF**

Disability access services provided by the French national rail network, including a link to the official limited mobility guide.

## **Tourisme & Handicaps**

Association dedicated to promoting greater accessibility in facilities for tourism and recreation in France with an official (ie government-backed) accreditation scheme for hotels, restaurants and tourist facilities. There's an associated [map-based search engine](#), which is searchable by location and type of disability, as well as type of establishment. Gives no information beyond the fact that an establishment is certified as catering for a given disability.

## **Germany**

### **Association for Barrier-free Destinations in Germany**

Association of eight areas of Germany putting a particular emphasis on developing inclusive tourism infrastructure and information. An official partner of the German National Tourist Board. Use this page as a springboard to each region.

### **Berlin for the Blind**

German-language site for blind and visually impaired visiting Berlin.

## Dresden

Not an official barrier-free city guide as such, but a municipal publication with some useful links and information for those visiting the city with access requirements.

## Deutsche Bahn

German Railways page for the mobility-impaired. There is also a tab with information on travelling with dogs, including assistance dogs.

## Düsseldorf

Official barrier-free Düsseldorf landing page. There's also a downloadable English-language Düsseldorf accessible city guide: [http://www.duesseldorf-barrierefrei.de/fileadmin/files/duesseldorf-barrierefrei\\_en.pdf](http://www.duesseldorf-barrierefrei.de/fileadmin/files/duesseldorf-barrierefrei_en.pdf).

## Frankfurt

Official barrier-free Frankfurt brochure.



## German National Tourist Board

The German National Tourist Board is putting a lot of effort and resources into accessible travel. This is their official landing page, with a search engine, and downloadable brochure and links to individual cities. Some cities have dedicated pages with access information.



## Mobidat

Berlin-based search engine for a broad range of accessible venues, filterable by type of disability and type of venue.



## Munich

Official Munich tourism page for accessible travel with *tons* of valuable information available either online or in PDF format. Covers everything from travel preparations through transport, accommodation, sites and eating out.

## MVV Journey Planner

Official Munich journey planner; click on advanced options for a full list of accessibility filters, from pushchairs through to ramp-equipped vehicles.

## Salzburg

Official barrier-free guide to Salzburg (multilingual).

## Saxony for All

Landing page for accessible travel in the German state of Saxony. Click on 'travel topics' to bring up all relevant information for accessible holidays in Saxony.

### Wheelmap

This is almost certainly the largest database of accessible locations in the world (470,000-plus), although the density of reviewed locations thins out as the distance radiates further from Germany. The map uses data from the Open Street map to show wheelchair-accessible locations, and was developed by German nonprofit association Sozialhelden. Locations are assessed by a simple traffic light system – accessible (green), partly accessible (orange), and inaccessible (red) – based on user feedback. Also available as an iPhone or Android app.

## Greece

### Accessibility Pass

Map enabled database of a small number of accessible hotels – audited by professionals – in the Eastern Mediterranean (mainly Greece).

### Greece4All

Search for accessible tourism venues, facilities and activities in Greece. Accessibility data from Greece4All is also included in the Vodafone app 'Explore Greece'.

### Roll Out

Guide to more than 1000 accessible venues in Attica (Greek language).

## Hong Kong

### Discover Hong Kong

Landing page for the official Hong Kong tourism board with lots of useful information and links for travellers with access issues.

## India

### Umoja

This start-up company has developed a self-assessment app for hotels, which gathers deep and granular information about their accessibility. It goes well

beyond ‘this hotel has accessible rooms’ and almost simulates a professional access audit, even including photographs of hotels so people can judge whether or not one is suitable for them. Their website also allows you to personalise your needs so that you can be matched with a suitable hotel. The database already encompasses dozens of hotels in India, and they are extending their reach worldwide. We believe so deeply in Umoja’s products and methodology that Lonely Planet has partnered with them in a couple of pilot projects.

## **Ireland**

### **Access Earth**

User-reviewed map-based database with grand ambitions. The majority of establishments – everything from cafes and restaurants, through hotels and shops to entertainment venues and even places of study – reviewed are situated in Dublin, which is where the young students who developed the app are from, but there are a couple of venues as far away as the USA and New Zealand. We may have looked on a bad day, but the site takes a long time to load.

### **Belfast City Centre Management**

A 68-page access guide to a wide variety of venues in Belfast city centre, using simple pictograms to define accessibility. Does not cover accommodation.

### **Go Accessible 365**

Mobile and web-based search engine maintained by an ENAT member whose avowed intention is to ‘push social change’, covering transport, attractions and hotels throughout Ireland. Also has a section of ‘news and views’.

### **Ireland Tourism Board**

Landing page for official Irish tourism board with lots of useful information and links for travellers with access issues.

## Israel

### [Access Israel](#)

Accessibility database covering tourism, culture and leisure and other information for people with disabilities. Also provides travel information services.

### [Accessible Israel](#)

Online *Accessible Israel* guide, also downloadable as a PDF, published in 2012. Respected and experienced accessible tour guide, Eli Me'iri, of Israel for All ([www.israel4all.com](http://www.israel4all.com)) put together these itineraries with detailed access information.

## Italy

### [Cesare Serono Foundation](#)

This nonprofit has produced several wheelchair itineraries for four Italian cities: Florence, Lucca, Pisa and Milan. (For sale, Italian language.)

### [Native Hotels](#)

See entry below under Spain.

### [HandySuperabile](#)

Offering accessible holidays in Italy and around the world, this Italian social enterprise is a partner of Alpitour World tour operator.

### [Tourism without Barriers](#)

Searchable database of accessible attractions and accommodation throughout Tuscany. Also features suggested itineraries, and links to accessible tourism information in other regions of Italy, including a number of city guides. (Website is multilingual.)

### [Turismabile and Piemonte for All](#)

This ENAT member provides high-quality tourism and travel information, and offers itineraries featuring access-audited venues and tourism services in Turin, Piemonte and Northern Italy (Italian language).

### [Viaggiare Disabili](#)

Searchable database of hotels, hostels and farm stays in Italy (Italian language). Kudos to the web designer for making this site highly accessible.

Links on this page take you to separate sites for Slovenia, San Marino, Tuscany and Campania.

## **Village for All**

This organisation issues its badge of approval to tourist attractions in Italy, Croatia and San Marino, primarily accommodation in all categories. Its search engine (multilingual) is filterable according to type of accommodation/holiday/service/theme in addition to disability, including motor disabilities, sensorial limitations (blind and/or deaf), food allergies and intolerances. There are also filters for elderly people, diabetics, people on dialysis, obese people and families with young children. This is best practice, as evidenced by the fact that they are a finalist at the UNWTO awards in the category 'Ulysses Award for Innovation in Enterprises'. Holders of a V4A card are entitled to discounts.

## **Visit Tuscany**

### **Accessible Museums**

A full list of accessible, partially accessible and inaccessible museums in Florence.

### **Art for the Visually Impaired**

A short article focusing on art for the visually impaired in Tuscany.

## **Japan**

### **Accessible Japan**

Josh Grisdale may be a relative newcomer to the scene, but he's very active in social media and very knowledgeable about accessibility in Japan. His recently upgraded site has detailed information about accessibility for a variety of impairments, accompanied by numerous informative blog posts. There is a growing database of accessible accommodation listings.

### **Accessible Japan (Yokoso Japan!)**

Detailed and extensive database of information for wheelchair users covering points of interest and lodging across the entire nation. There's also a 'useful information' tab. *Warning: this site does not appear to have been updated since 2008.*

## Japan Accessible Tourism Centre

Nonprofit organisation based in Osaka that has removed the first barrier to access that foreigners visiting Japan face: language. Written and maintained by disabled Japanese, there is detailed information in English, French, Korean and Chinese (as well as Japanese) covering attractions and hotels in every area of Japan. There are also useful travel tips for people not used to travelling in Japan or Japanese customs.

## Korea

### Visit Korea

Official tourism office landing page, giving travel tips for visitors to Korea with disabilities. Provides (scant) information on transport, shopping and recommended destinations.

## Malta

### Accessible Malta

Official Accessible Malta landing page – still under construction, but with some useful information.

## Mexico

### All Accessible (Todo Accessible)

Search engine covering everything from accommodation to entertainment, restaurants, clubs and services (Spanish language).

## Morocco

### Native Hotels

See entry below under Spain.

## Netherlands

### Accessible Utrecht

Searchable database of accessible buildings in Utrecht, including public buildings as well as pubs, restaurants and cafes etc. Sadly, the public transport tab doesn't appear to be working yet.

## **Accessible Rotterdam**

Searchable database of accessible buildings in Rotterdam, including public buildings as well as pubs, restaurants and cafes etc.

## **Ongehinderd (Unhindered)**

Dutch website and app showing wheelchair-accessible venues across the country (Dutch language).

## **New Zealand**

### **Access4all**

Accommodation and activities search engine for people with reduced mobility.

### **Arts Access Aoteroa**

Information about accessing the arts in New Zealand, including news and upcoming national and community events.

### **Be.Accessible**

Search engine covering everything from accommodation to transport and services, filterable by access needs. Maintained by a social change initiative with a mission to create a truly accessible New Zealand.

### **Department of Conservation**

Downloadable PDF with detailed guides for easy-access walks in South Island.

### **Enable New Zealand**

An official website for the use of PwDs, their families and caregivers; has a very useful database of information covering both transport and travel. Other useful links on this website tell you where you can get your equipment repaired.

### **New Zealand Association for Spinal Concerns**

This nonprofit has a huge page of useful links, including ones related to travel and transport, mainly but not exclusively in New Zealand.

## Poland

### [Tourism for All](#)

Polish search engine for accessible venues covering everything from accommodation through parks to events.

## Portugal

### [Native Hotels](#)

See entry below under Spain.

### [Portugal Acessivel](#)

Portuguese search engine covering everything from accommodation and restaurants to beaches and health services. (Portuguese, English and German language.)

## Romania

### [Motivation Romania Foundation](#)

This nonprofit NGO, established in 1995 to support Romanians with disabilities, maintains a searchable, map-based, accessible database of accessible venues.

## San Marino

### [San Marino for All](#)

Official page of the project to bring accessibility to this microstate, with information on where to go, what to visit and where to stay.

### [Village for All](#)

See entry above, under Italy.

## Serbia

### [Serbian Railways](#)

Information for passengers with disabilities.

## Singapore

### [Friendly Built Environment Portal](#)

The Singapore government maintains a ‘friendly building’ search engine, with a variety of filters, including user group (not only various disabilities, but also

families with children and/or pushchairs) friendly features, and level of friendliness!

### **The Disabled People’s Association of Singapore**

Check out this excellent resources page if you’re visiting this extremely accessible city.

## **Slovenia**

### **Slovenian Tourist Board**

Accessible tourism landing page from the Slovenian Tourist Board.

The City of Ljubljana paired up with UK organisation DisabledGo to produce an online access guide, which you can find here:

[www.disabledgo.com/organisations/ljubljana/main-2](http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/ljubljana/main-2). The city also produced an informative video about its accessibility:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8EySYYfV0c>

## **South Africa**

### **Proudly Accessible**

Map-based searchable directory of accessible accommodation, tourist attractions and restaurants assessed by a qualified occupational therapist. There’s lots of detailed information, including photographs of accommodation bathrooms. There’s also a short page of useful links, both local and international.

## **Spain**

### **Access Valencia**

Guide produced by Valencia Tourism for PwDs, covering hotels, restaurants, leisure facilities, sites and transport. (Italian language.)

### **Accessibility Plus**

iTunes

Google

Madrid-based, Vodafone-funded, user-reviewed, map-based app with some 32,400 points of interest, from ATMs to beaches.

## **Accessible Barcelona**

Official Barcelona tourism board Accessible Barcelona website, covering everything from attractions and transport to adaptive sports and orthopaedic shops. Also includes a searchable engine for hotels and activities.

## **Accessible Catalonia**

Accessible Catalonia guide, hosted by ENAT, dating from 2008 covering 19 destinations.

## **Barcelona Turisme**

Barcelona Turisme has a multilingual website dedicated to accessible travel, which has all the information you need to know – as befits a city in the vanguard of promoting inclusive tourism.

## **Catalonia Tourism Board**

Official Catalonia tourism board accessibility landing page. The search function doesn't appear to work terribly well, so click through to the link found on this page under [accessible tourism](#), which presents much more detailed information segmented into useful categories.

## **Fundación Handisport Mallorca**

If you're visiting this Mediterranean Spanish island and want to participate in some exciting activities, such as waterskiing, kayaking or blokarting (basically, sailing on land), check out this organisation (Spanish language).

## **Gran Canaria Accesible**

Searchable database of accessible venues in Gran Canaria, in the Spanish Canary Islands.

## **Madrid for All**

Extremely detailed 400-page accessible guide to Madrid, navigable by category, with the majority of the 127 venues visited in person by a representative of the Madrid Visitors & Convention Bureau. Also includes suggested itineraries/walks.

## Majorca Council

Accessible tourism guide to Mallorca covering getting there and away, transport, places of interest and beaches, in Spanish, Portuguese, German and English.

## Mobility Scooters Menorca

Ostensibly, as the name implies, a site to visit if you would like to hire a mobility device on this small Mediterranean island. However, there's quite a lot of accessibility information through different tabs on this site, including about accessible beaches, places of interest, accommodation and bars/restaurants.



## Native Hotels

This Responsible Tourism award winner at the 2014 World Travel Market maintains a searchable database of accessible boutique hotels in Italy, Portugal, Spain and Morocco. Full marks for the most accessible website we've come across, which testifies to their commitment to accessibility generally.



## Puedo Viajar (I Can Travel)

Spanish search engine for accessible venues. There's also a page full of Spanish-language accessible travel guides and another tab for blogs.

## Renfe

Spanish Railways page with information on accessibility, including the Atendo service: personal assistance for PwDs across the network.

## Spanish Tourism Board

Official Spanish tourism board accessible tourism page. 'Spain is becoming increasingly prepared for accessible tourism – tourism for everyone. Indeed, enormous efforts are being made to adapt to the needs of people with disabilities by eliminating barriers, providing access to cultural and natural resources, creating standards for transport, building and urban planning.' This is true, not simply marketing hype. There are downloadable PDF guides to monuments, restaurants, accommodation and activities as well as to individual areas (Madrid, Galicia, Ávila and Murcia).

## **Tenerife Blue Badge Mobility**

Provides information about mobility services and help for holidaymakers with disabilities, specifically regarding airport transfers and mobility equipment hire.

### **Tur4All**

Database of more than 3000 accessible venues, assessed by trained technicians from PREDIF, the representative platform of people with motor disabilities in Spain (Spanish language).

## **Sweden**

### **TD**

Swedish search engine with some 3900 accessible venues in its database.

## **Switzerland**

### **Swiss Tourism Board**

Landing page for ‘guests with special needs’ from the official Swiss tourism board, with information about travelling by train or car, hotels and activities, as well as holiday packages – even in 30 accessible youth hostels.

## **Taiwan**

### **Sunable**

Chinese-language online disability magazine with a focus on accessible travel. Using Google translate, the ‘wiki living repository’ tab is particularly useful for reviews of accessible venues under Accessible Taiwan:  
<http://www.sunable.net/node/1034>.

### **Taiwan Access4all Association**

A cross-disability, grassroots organisation governed and staffed mainly by PwDs that advocates for inclusion, empowerment and independence for people with disabilities. They also promote accessible tourism and international exchanges, among other things, and forge partnerships with like-minded organisations from other countries. Although they are not a travel agency, they can help to organise and book tours and accommodation in Taiwan for overseas PwDs. You can find an online Taiwan accessible map and accessible tourism guides to the country on their site.

## Thailand

### Hua Hin Accessibility Map

The royal beach resort town of Hua Hin in Thailand seems to be well endowed with wheelchair-accessible accommodation and also has a great Google map with a wheelchair-accessible overlay showing many things, from wheelchair-accessible toilets to accommodation to beach access. Some kind soul created this with My Google Maps – thank you!

### Thaizer

This article is a good general introduction for people with a disability who wish to visit Thailand, with links to other articles and resources. It's particularly useful for the information on public and private transport in Bangkok.

## UK

### Ableize

Touts itself as the largest UK disability resource directory, offering a collection of disability, mobility and health websites and social media pages in the UK and Europe. It's certainly a very large and broad-ranging directory of disability and healthcare information and products.

### Access Advisr

A searchable, crowd-sourced, map-based database of accessible venues, from cafes to sports stadiums.

### Access All Rooms

A searchable and bookable database of hotels with access filters for mobility, hearing and visual impairments. Most entries appear to be in the UK, with some major cities in Europe and around the world covered too.

### Access at Last

UK-based booking website, offering accommodation throughout Europe (with a couple of exceptions), as well as mobility equipment sales, including a variety of waists and slings. There doesn't appear to have been much activity over the last year or two.

## **Access London Theatre**

Official London Theatre Access Guide, published three times a year as a PDF, as audio-described listings in RTF format, large print, Braille or as a CD.

## **Access New Business**

Offers disability awareness training, access statements, destination access audits, and consultancy concerning accessibility policy and business accessibility for businesses, tourist boards and policy organisations. Although this is a business-facing organisation, the 'useful links' are indeed just that.

## **Access4Wheelchairs**

Broad-ranging search engine for wheelchair users, based in the UK but with scattered entries from around the world.

## **Accessible Britain**

Small number of user-reviewed venues, activities and products in Britain (map-based with search engine).

## **Accessible Countryside**

Another private project to provide free information on places, walks and recreational opportunities with disabled access throughout England and Wales. There is a wealth of accumulated knowledge on this website, down to the very local level, but also including a long list of links to disability and carer organisations. As with any such database, some of the links are no longer live.

## **Accessible Derbyshire**

It's amazing that two local women can achieve more than some national tourism organisations in making their locality accessible. Working closely with Visit Peak District, the Peak National Park Authority, Derbyshire County Council and district councils, they've brought together all the information you need to get out and about in Derbyshire if you have accessibility needs.

## **Accessible Property Register**

Search engine for wheelchair-accessible residential property for sale and holiday accommodation; also has a booking function. Map-based search is possible, with multiple filters able to be applied.

## **Accomable**

This is a new initiative from [Disability Horizons](#) – the UK’s foremost disability lifestyle online magazine, whose ‘travel’ tab is well worth checking out – with listings of accessible homes, apartments, house swaps and holiday rentals around the world. You can search for properties or post your own listing.

## **Artsline**

A website providing searchable information on over 1000 arts venues across London, filterable by access need, type of venue and area.

## **Assist-Mi**

The new assist-Mi smartphone app is not just for travellers. It uses location-based technology and two-way messaging to connect disabled users with service providers. A unique and interesting idea.

## **Blue Badge Style**

Search engine focusing on upmarket venues – hotels, bars, clubs, galleries etc, largely in London – with an informative blog featuring reviews of individual venues by the site owner, Fiona Jarvis, as well as the occasional guest. Also available as an app.

## **Britain Is Great**

A series of videos made in collaboration with national tourism bodies showcasing the accessibility of 10 different areas around Britain.

## **Changing Places Consortium**

This UK-based charity is doing a fantastic job on behalf of those people who cannot use standard accessible toilets. The campaign is now beginning to go worldwide, which is fantastic news. On the ‘find a toilet’ tab you can find a location map and national register of fully accessible toilets in the UK, ie equipped with a hoist and full-sized change table.

## **Citizens Advice**

Advice for PwDs who want to use *any* form of transport in the UK, with comprehensive details of passenger rights.

## **Civil Aviation Authority**

Special assistance guidance from airports and airlines in the UK. Information includes links to essential guidance including: descriptions of services

offered; airport and airline helpline numbers so you can prearrange special assistance and ask for extra help should you need it; location of drop-off and pick-up points at airports; any potential restrictions on your travel.

### **Countryside Mobility South West**

A not-for-profit mobility equipment hire scheme – including an all-terrain mobility scooter and a ‘wheelyboat’ – working to improve access to the countryside for people with limited mobility living in and visiting southwest England. Also features accessibility reviews of points of interest and a number of accessible accommodation options.

### **Deloitte Parasport**

Deloitte Parasport was created by the British Paralympic Association (BPA) to provide information to PwDs who want to take up sport at either a recreational or competitive level. Since its launch in 2007, more than 3000 clubs in the UK have registered with the site. Simply plug in your disability and then search for a sport or a club that interests you – how cool is that?

### **Derby City Council**

Eighth edition of the *Derby Access and Information Guide for Disabled People*, published in 2013, with comprehensive information for visitors and residents.

### **Disabled Holiday Information**

This member of ENAT provides information for travellers with all disabilities and mobility issues on accessible holiday accommodation, attractions, activities and trails in the UK. Information is organised by region, but the database is also searchable. There is also an extensive list of links, both local and worldwide, that appears unusually well maintained.

### **Disabled Holidays 4U**

Searchable database with worldwide coverage for accommodation, cars, tour operators, equipment rental and nursing care. Note that although coverage is worldwide, it’s extremely sparse.

### **Disabled Travel Advice**

‘Whether you’re off on holiday, on a day trip, or looking for an everyday means of travel or transport, you’ll find lots of advice here on how you can

get about easily as a disabled user.’ Yes, there are lots of articles on this very informative website, and they’re not limited to travel within the UK.

## **DisabledGo**

Developed by PwDs for PwDs, this UK NGO maintains a searchable database containing detailed access information on well over 125,000 places of interest across the UK and the Republic of Ireland, including shops, pubs, restaurants, cinemas, theatres, railway stations, hotels, universities, hospitals and more. Operates according to principles similar to Lonely Planet’s: they send a representative to every place listed and ‘say it as we see it’ so that individuals can make informed choices. Note that they have a mobile-friendly site, too.

They have produced their own Accessible London guide – <http://www.disabledgo.com/accessible-london-visit-london>; <http://www.disabledgo.com/blog/2015/06/destination-london-a-disability-friendly-guide/> – and Sheffield access guide – <http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/sheffield-city-council/main> – with more in the pipeline.

There’s a ‘useful links’ tab that’s worth a look.

## **Euan’s Guide**

Fast-growing, UK-based database of self- and user-reviewed accessible venues. Also available as an iPhone or Android app.

## **Experience Community**

Website set up by Craig Grimes to provide information about walks and other leisure activities for PwDs in the north of England. Apart from detailed descriptions, each destination is featured in a short film, enabling visitors to decide for themselves whether or not each location is accessible, based on their own needs.

## **Experience Nottinghamshire**

Official local-tourism website landing page for information on accessible transport, accommodation, and what to see and do. Nottingham is the third city focused-on by Visit England in their Access for All project.

## **Good Access Guide**

Directory of services and facilities for PwDs, seniors and others with access issues, including accommodation, leisure activities and mobility aids.

## **Good Food Talks**

UK restaurant search engine for the visually impaired with 750 restaurants in this database and an app in the pipeline.

## **Hearing Link**

UK organisation for people with hearing loss and their families. Find information about [travelling](#) by bus, train or plane; services and support; and ways to connect with others to share experiences and advice. Also offers links to [useful UK and international organisations](#). (Hint: use the site map.)

## **Hearing Loss Friendly**

Search engine and directory for hearing-loss-friendly accommodation, hotels and spas. Also arranges holidays, mostly in England but also in Sicily, for people with hearing loss.

## **Historic Scotland**

Official Historic Scotland access page, with listings categorised into assisted wheelchair access, unassisted wheelchair access and access for visitors with mobility difficulties.

## **Inclusive Britain**

Searchable database of accessible UK venues, covering everything from hotels to tourist attractions, restaurants to toilets, etc, filterable by disability. Note the link to accessible city guides, currently covering seven major cities. Also available as an app.

## **Inclusive London**

Searchable database of accessible London venues, covering everything from hotels to banks, restaurants to toilets, etc, filterable by disability. Also available as an app.

## **National Rail**

Main accessibility page for National Rail, UK. See also <http://www.disability-onboard.co.uk/>.

## **Nationwide Access Register**

The UK's Nationwide Access Register, filterable by type of venue and required accessibility feature. Has links to more detailed city-access information for seven selected cities.

## **Peak District**

Plan a day out in the Peak District, whether you are less active, disabled or have young children, with the help of the information found on this government website.

## **Rica**

Comprehensive overview of accessible public transport in the UK for people with a variety of impairments, with useful links and tips.

## **Rough Guide**

Okay, so they are a main competitor of ours in the UK, but no hard feelings! The *Rough Guide to Accessible Britain*, produced under licence by Motability with reviews by PwDs, is in its 5th edition and is available free as a PDF download. It contains access information for a broad range of venues, grouped geographically, and lots of ideas for days out as well as tips and advice.

## **Show Me the Access**

This is a very interesting project: a library of videos covering every aspect of life from education and sport through digital technology and travel *shows* how to live with a variety of impairments. Tip: the 'leisure' tab is a richer resource for travellers than the 'travel' tab. Although this is a UK-based site, the video content is not limited to the UK.

## **Silver Travel Advisor**

Travel reviews, information and advice for the over 50s – the 'Silver TripAdvisor'. Check out the 'find a holiday' and 'special offers' tabs. Produces a biannual magazine with articles about locations around the world.

## **The Accessible Planet**

'Our aim is to become the complete guide to everything and anything accessible for wheelchair users and those with reduced mobility.' A big goal indeed! This is a wide-ranging search engine for, as they say, all things accessible in the UK.

## The National Trust

The National Trust Visitors with Disabilities page.

### Tourism for All UK

Active, high-profile UK charity, working closely with regional and national tourism bodies, dedicated to making the UK a destination accessible to all. In addition to its own directory, which covers broad-ranging services and products for people with a wide range of disabilities, this organisation hosts the website [Open Britain](#), where you will find comprehensive access information about places to stay, visit, eat and drink, as well as activities and events. You will also find a page of links to accessible travel suppliers in other countries. Carrie-Ann Lightley, Tourism for All's information service manager, maintains her own personal travel blog [here](#).

## Transport for London

This official Transport for London accessibility page has not only lots of useful information for people with disabilities, pregnant women and those with pushchairs, plus links to accessibility guides and maps, but also a series of how-to videos for bus, Tube and rail travel. Their Twitter feed gives useful alerts, for example when lifts (elevators) are out of order.

## Travel in Scotland

Accessible transport information for buses, ferries and railways in Scotland, as well as a list of useful organisations for travellers who have a disability.

### Trip-Ability

Crowd-sourced review site covering everything from accommodation through dining and entertainment to transport with entries not just in Northern Ireland, but around the world. Check out the 'city guide' tab for some really useful information on various cities (and a couple of airports) around the world. Michael Holden, its Belfast-based founder, maintains his own blog [here](#), with the occasional guest blogger. (Credit and thanks to Michael for the links used for this resource.)

## UK Government Transport Information

UK government site that aggregates public service information, and offers tips and advice on travelling by train, plane, or road vehicle with a mobility impairment. Also has a link to a scheme which loans wheelchairs.

## Visit Birmingham

This Accessible Birmingham landing page covers transport, accommodation, and what to see and do in England's second city, one of the cities chosen by Visit England in its Access for All project.

## Visit Brighton

Accessibility information from the official tourism guide to Brighton, a city which is currently doing a lot to improve its accessibility, covering everything from accessible places to stay, visit and eat to equipment hire and accessible toilet facilities. There are also a couple of downloadable accessibility guides, with the disclaimer 'Please note, that although we provide this information in good faith, we have not independently inspected the accommodation premises'. A local charity produces an accessible Brighton & Hove guide from user reviews: <http://www.thefedonline.org.uk/services/out-and-about/accessible-city-guide>.

## Visit Britain

A high-level guide to Britain for disabled travellers.

## Visit England

The tourism bodies in the UK took the opportunity of London hosting the Olympics in 2012 to put significant resources into developing accessible tourism. The official tourism bodies are now world leaders in catering for tourists with access issues. Their landing pages will lead you to a wealth of information about travelling in the UK with a disability or access issues. Under their Access for All project, Visit England have recently produced a downloadable PDF for accessible city breaks covering Lincoln, Nottingham and Birmingham:

[https://www.visitengland.com/sites/default/files/visit\\_england\\_3rd\\_digi\\_lincoln\\_0.pdf](https://www.visitengland.com/sites/default/files/visit_england_3rd_digi_lincoln_0.pdf).

## Visit Lincoln

Guide to accessible Lincoln, covering transport, accommodation, attractions, and eating and drinking, produced under the latest Visit England initiative.

## Visit London

Very handy series of links for navigating London with a disability, including an online guide to buildings, venues and services from DisabledGo, transport planner, list of accessible attractions and more.

## Visit Scotland

The tourism bodies in the UK took the opportunity of London hosting the Olympics in 2012 to put significant resources into developing accessible tourism. The official tourism bodies are now world leaders in catering for tourists with access issues. Their landing pages will lead you to a wealth of information about travelling in the UK with a disability or access issues.

## Visit Wales

The tourism bodies in the UK took the opportunity of London hosting the Olympics in 2012 to put significant resources into developing accessible tourism. The official tourism bodies are now world leaders in catering for tourists with access issues. Their landing pages will lead you to a wealth of information about travelling in the UK with a disability or access issues.



## Walks with Wheelchairs

Searchable database of tried and tested countryside walks, with free downloadable directions and detailed Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.

## Wheelchair-Friendly Britain

Listings of accessible accommodation and attractions in the UK, but largely the former, with accommodation providers advertising their own properties. It's not clear if there are any criteria for inclusion. There is a vision for user-generated reviews, but this doesn't yet seem to have been realised.

## Why Not People?

Why Not People is a members' club exclusively for people with disabilities, no matter what your disability. Founded by Radio One DJ Jameela Jamil, club members can (primarily) buy tickets to events, including to the accessible event mounted by Why Not People?, and access curated spaces within existing gigs. There is an impressive line-up of high-profile UK music stars supporting this venture.

## USA



## Ableroad

Boston-based website and app gathering accessibility data from users.

## **Access Northern California**

This nonprofit organisation was set up and is run by the delightful Bonnie Lewkowicz (who, incidentally, took on Hotels.com for discriminating against users with disabilities and won, meaning that this booking website and Expedia now have a search filter for accessible rooms, and must guarantee accessible rooms are available if booked). This site is dedicated to improving access to travel and outdoor recreation for people with disabilities and seniors throughout Northern California. There is a searchable database for both recreational activities and lodgings, and plenty of extremely useful web resources for travellers with disabilities in California. There are also access guides to San Francisco and the Californian coast, as well as the recently released [Wheeling California's Coast](#). It is, as claimed, 'the ultimate disability resource for finding fun places to experience in Northern California'.

## **Accessible Dispatch**

Looking for a wheelchair-accessible taxi in Manhattan? With no advance reservation necessary, and available 24/7, you can use this website or the app for iPhone/Android.

## **Accessible Playgrounds**

State-by-state listings of inclusive playgrounds. It's a fantastic idea, but coverage appears patchy.

## **Accessible San Diego**

Searchable and filterable database of places to stay, eat and visit, as well as many other types of business. This site also features news and upcoming events. There's also a digital Accessible San Diego guide for purchase at a very reasonable \$4.

## **Accessible Vans of America**

Offers nationwide wheelchair-accessible van rentals.

## **Autism on the Seas**

Cruises for adults and families living with autism, Down syndrome and similar disabilities.

## **Axsmap**

A searchable database of user-reviewed accessible places in North America, using a simple traffic-light system: accessible/poor/not accessible. Also available as an app.

## **Brettapproved**

Searchable database of user-reviewed restaurants, hotels and venues in the USA.

## **Disability.gov**

US federal government website for information on disability programs and services nationwide; this page gives a broad range of information on transport within the country. Filter by topic, location, audience or disability: you will be directed to the most relevant nongovernment website.

## **Disabled Travelers**

Seemingly exhaustive listing of accessible travel specialists, including travel agents, tour operators, adventure travel companies, accessible cruise specialists, accessible van and equipment rentals, travel companions, home exchanges, and access guides for wheelchair users and other travellers with disabilities. *Warning: while many of the links remain useful, this site appears not to have been updated for some time so some of the links are dead, in particular those to the access guides.*

## **Discover San Diego**

Disability/accessible travel page of the official San Diego tourist information site.

## **Effortless City**

You'll know from countless TV series how hilly San Francisco is; this site offers a colour-coded map of the level of difficulty for wheelies.

## **Florida Developmental Disabilities Council**

County-by-county transport information and services for persons with developmental disabilities, published in 2009.

## **Florida Disabled Outdoors Association**

This Florida organisation aims to enrich lives through promoting accessible, inclusive recreation via a number of different programs.

## Greyhound

Greyhound bus's information page for customers with disabilities – everything you need to know no matter what your access needs.

## Is This Venue Accessible?

Provides detailed information about accessibility of music venues, largely in the USA, but also with a few venues featured from other countries. There is detailed information, but note that not all venues listed are accessible – read the reviews to find out.

## JJ's List

This 'communications and marketing social enterprise' maintains a user-reviewed disability-aware business directory covering every conceivable aspect of life, from lawyers to churches, and barbers to vets! Has a location-based search engine with keywords. This site also has a wide-ranging blog with contributions from the public (nice keyword and category search).

## National Park Service

Accessibility page for the US National Park Service, with brief instructions on how to find information about the accessibility of facilities, programs and services in each park, and a link to further information, including the 2015–20 accessibility plan for the service. Look carefully (under the individual park name: plan your visit/accessibility) and you may find published accessibility guides, such as this one to [Yosemite National Park](#).

## New Directions

A nonprofit organisation providing local, national and international travel vacations and holiday programs for people of all ages with mild to moderate developmental disabilities (eg cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and autism) since 1985.

## New York City & Company

Published in 2008, this is the city's official marketing and tourism organisation's accessibility guide. For the most-to-date information go to <http://www.nycgo.com/accessibility>.

## New York City Department of Parks & Recreation

Official website detailing accessibility in the city's parks. Also features adaptive events and programs.

## Open Doors Organization

This Chicago-based nonprofit organisation has produced a couple of useful and detailed online access guides, using on-site inspections: [Easy Access Chicago](#) and [Easy Access Springfield](#). More information about travellers with special needs visiting Chicago can be found at <http://www.choosechicago.com/articles/view/TRAVELERS-WITH-SPECIAL-NEEDS/111/>.

## TrailLink

What looks like a fairly comprehensive state-by-state list of wheelchair-accessible trails, including descriptions and user reviews.

## Travelers Aid International

With a long history, this organisation does exactly what it says: provide assistance to travellers in need. Operating primarily in metropolitan areas, its facilities are staffed by both volunteers and professionals. Of particular interest to the traveller with a disability is the 'disability resources' tab, which has an extensive list of direct web links to transport, tourism and state disability resources, as well as a long list of disabled people's organisations' websites.

## Tripility

Provides tools and information for disabled access, with a particular focus on dietary concerns and allergies. Has a searchable hotel and accommodation database with user reviews. There's an interesting and informative blog, and short city guides for New York and London.

## Wheelchair-Accessible Taxi Cab

State-by-state listings of wheelchair-accessible taxi companies and accessible van rentals.

## Wheelchair Getaways

Accessible and adapted van rentals throughout the USA.

## Wheeling Around Town

Oklahoma-based app giving details about the accessibility of restaurants.

## Wheelyapp

New York-based app gathering accessibility data from users.

## **Working Like Dogs**

US-based organisation that provides practical information, current trends and products to meet your working dog needs. They have an iPhone and Android ‘where to go’ app that shows animal relief areas in US airports.

## **Worldwide**

### **Heare**

Route-sharing app for people with low or no vision using ‘3-D augmented reality audio technology’. Intriguing, but with no reviews on the App Store we’re not sure how widely used or useful this is.

### **Hotel Accessibility**

All accommodation in this organisation’s searchable database has been assessed by themselves or their partners around the world. Although coverage is worldwide, the number of hotels in the database is not huge, particularly outside Europe. Coverage is best in its home region – the Benelux countries.

### **It’s Accessible**

Map-based, user-reviewed database of wheelchair-accessible venues, originating in Spain, but with a total of 6059 entries from around the world. Simple traffic light system: red, amber, green.

## **International Wheelchair Club**

Set up by Steve Wilkinson, this site has user reviews from 142 members of a variety of venues around the globe. There’s not a great deal of detail, simply recommendations from wheelchair users, and seemingly not much activity in recent times.

### **Wheelchair World**

Holiday reviews submitted by wheelchair users to share their experiences. The framework is set up for global coverage, but entries are as yet scant in this fairly new website. It’ll be up to you, users, to populate this.

### **Wheelmap**

See the description of Wheelmap under Germany.

## Wheelmate

Created by continence equipment manufacturer Coloplast, this user-reviewed website and app allows you to find wheelchair-accessible toilets and parking spaces worldwide. Obviously, developed countries are more densely populated and there are huge swathes of the world unrepresented. Note that icons can be present but 'unconfirmed'.

### **TOP TRAVEL TIP**

*Make sure equipment is in good working order and find out if there is a local service agent or supplier who can repair or replace it.*



## **Charm Your Way Around the World in a Wheelchair**

- Never underestimate the power of a firm handshake or a perfectly timed smile. These things will get you further than ramps, elevators or a working pair of legs ever could.
- There is no problem that cannot be solved by throwing money at it. Hill too steep for your wheelchair? Hire a taxi or a pusher. Hotel room too small? Fork out for more space.
- Wheelchairs have a high value in terms of conversational currency and the same is true of any disability. As a disabled traveller, your story is a thousand times more interesting than the average tourist's. As you trade conversational titbits, the freebies will start to flow.
- Don't bother investigating the infrastructure of a destination before arrival; just turn up, assess obstacles with your own eyes and work out how to surmount them.

***James Ballardie***

[www.lookatallthepoorpeople.com](http://www.lookatallthepoorpeople.com)





Basilica de la Sagrada Família, Barcelona  
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# Personal Travel Blogs

## 20 States on Wheels

Blog maintained by four students – one in a wheelchair – who decided to do a road trip across America in 2014 to raise awareness about accessibility information. Stay tuned for the imminent release of their book.

## A Little Moxie

‘A blog about three kids, life off the grid, disability and travel’. Meriah Nicholls’ daughter Moxie has Down syndrome, and Meriah herself has an acquired brain injury as well as being deaf, but that doesn’t stop them from enjoying life and travelling just like any other family. Read their stories here.

## Access Cebu

Blog maintained by a long-time Cebu resident and wheelchair user, with lots of insider info for wheelchair travellers to this island in the central Philippines.

## Access Now

Wheelchair-user Paula Bates has just published her first wheelchair access guidebook to Paris (\$49, inclusive of ‘unlimited book updates’), with the promise to publish guides to Rome and Barcelona in 2016. She maintains a blog with a few entries, so far limited to Paris.

## Accessible Travel Netherlands

Inbound travel agent for accessible city trips and holidays in the Netherlands. Included in this section because of the numerous very informative [blogs](#) hosted on this site, particularly by the site owner, Veroniek Matt, who has recently published an Amsterdam city guide:

<http://www.accessibletravelnl.com/blogs/New-city-guide-for-Amsterdam>.

## Accessible Travel Reviews

US-based site hosting travel reviews by and for people with disabilities. It says it’s a ‘newish website’, which may be why it’s not yet well populated.

## Accessible Travel Worldwide

Wheelchair adventurer Ashley Lyn Olson set up this website in 2006 and has since worked tirelessly to empower people with limited mobility to access and experience travel. Her well-organised and up-to-date site contains a

wealth of information, as well as first-hand stories and experiences with a firm focus on independent travel. We love her work and travel ethic!

### **Accessible Travels**

Blog maintained by Canadian electric-wheelchair user, Liz, who gives accounts of visits to several countries.

### **Accessibility Reports**

First-hand reports by wheelchair user, Declan Groeger, covering a limited number of accessible venues in Ireland.

### **Anything Is Possible Travel**

Blog maintained by Jeri and daughter Carrieanna Hess, who has MS, which she has not allowed to diminish her love of travel.

### **Cane & Able Travel**

Blog/guide maintained by Ian Hayden (of Brisbane Disabled Travel and Cairns Disabled Travel) with reviews of activities and destinations, including some access information.

### **Curb Free with Cory Lee**

Prolific and well-travelled wheelchair blogger Cory Lee maintains this entertaining and informative site that whets the appetite for travel. Tips and tricks, and interviews with other travellers with disabilities complement Cory's own articles and blogs to achieve Cory's vision of 'sharing the world from the wheelchair user's perspective'.

### **Curious Kester**

Kirsten Kester is a well-travelled woman by any standards – in fact, she is one of the top five most travelled women from Denmark, having visited some 71 countries. She is also a wheelchair user. She is such an enthusiastic traveller that she has even won awards for it, and her blog is deep and wide ranging. Her positivity should be an object lesson for us all: 'My handicap has never caused me a lot of grief. I look at my wheelchair as an aid or a tool to go wherever I like – not an obstacle. I don't see my handicap as a problem: I find solutions.' I couldn't agree more: I am not wheelchair-bound, but wheelchair-enabled!

## Diary of a Traveling Wheelchair

Martina is a young paraplegic mother who loves to travel. Read her stories from North America, Asia and Europe.

## Disabled Traveler

Justin Skeesuck offers a free e-book containing 20 accessible travel tips and resources for disabled travellers, as well as consulting services for service providers. He also offers a training video series at <http://accesstravelacademy.com/>, the first of which is free, wherein he promises to ‘show you how to travel anywhere with limited mobility...regardless of your physical disability’.

## Disabled Travelers Guide

Blog maintained by Nancy and Nate Berger, who have travelled to literally dozens of countries and have tips on each. They have a downloadable guide (that can also be read online) which includes some very handy tips and tricks for travelling with a disability. There is also an FAQ section which is worth checking out.

## Emerging Horizons

Travel information for wheelchair users and slow walkers compiled over many years and well maintained by Candy Harrington, celebrated accessible travel author and blogger. Although US-based, this site hosts information and links to accessible travel resources worldwide. Candy maintains her own blog [here](#).

## Flight of the Travel Bee

Being deaf hasn't stopped Chérie King from following her passion: travel. Her aim has been to enlighten others about the deaf and hard of hearing, but her blog – covering two dozen countries – is informative and enjoyable in its own right. You may have seen her in the Apple iPad Air international advert, ‘What’s your verse?’. She’s very active on social media, as you might imagine, given her relationship with Apple.

## Flying Chair

Blog maintained by Brazilian Laura Martins with lots of tips and articles about accessibility and living life with a disability in Brazil.

## **Gimp on the Go**

A US-based website (hence the name), which may not be fully up-to-date, but which has an extensive travel resources links page.

## **Have Wheelchair Will Travel**

Travel blog maintained by a Sydney-based family of four, including a nonverbal young man with cerebral palsy. Largely Australia-based, but with entries from the USA and Canada, too.

## **Hot Wheels Goes**

‘Hot Wheels’ Amy aims to amuse and inform, as well as perhaps make people reconsider their views towards disability. She awards an accessibility rating to every place she visits.

## **If I Can**

Being born without arms and legs did not stop Chris Koch from leading a ‘pretty normal’ life. He gets around on a skateboard – and when we say gets around, we mean all over the world. This is his amazing blog.

## **Incredible Accessible**

Blog maintained by scooter user Jeanne Allen, who blogs about her home in the Sonoma/Napa Valley region of California.

## **Jay’s On Life**

Nigerian-born London resident Jay is a polio survivor who now gets around on crutches. Check out her ‘travelling while crip’ tab for stories of her travels.

## **Legless in Dublin**

Legless in Dublin reviews bars, clubs, restaurants, music festivals, cafes etc in terms of access, but it also reviews the food, the music, the *craic* and the atmosphere.

## **Mitch St. Pierre**

Canadian Mitch recounts his global travel experiences in a blog/videoblog

## **New Mobility**

The most well-known magazine for wheelchair users in the US, *New Mobility* run by United Spinal, has a travel section with a rich archive of stories.

## **Push Living**

Deborah Davis' website is US-based and covers a lot more than just travel. With a focus on the wheelchair user, there are segments on health, romance, design, lifestyle, inspirational stories and general news, too. Under the travel menu are tours catering for people with a disability, accommodation listings, accessible house swaps, sales and rentals, as well as a holiday planning service.

## **Rexy Edventures**

Blog chronicling the 'adventures of a deaf and handsome luxury backpacker travelling the unexpected'. Well travelled, widely published and clearly not averse to self-promotion. Rex does, however, invite other deaf would-be travellers to contact him for advice.

## **Rio Wheelchair**

Blog by Brazilian wheelchair user residing in Rio de Janeiro with lots of content and reviews of accessible venues – sports arenas, bars and restaurants, museums and cultural centres, cinemas and theatres etc. (Portuguese language. Warning: some of the pages don't load on the first attempt.)

## **Sensitive Girl**

Not all disabilities are visible. Juliette Llewellyn maintains a blog and review site that caters to the needs of those with, for example, fibromyalgia, electro-sensitivity, gluten intolerance, irritable bowel syndrome, depression and social anxiety. The content is not yet very deep or rich, but the concept cannot be faulted.

## **Smiths Holiday Road**

'Travels with three kids and a wheelchair': an Australian family who shares 'our travels, experience, hints and tips and love inspiring others to travel'.

## **Special Needs Travel Mom**

Blog maintained by a mother with a severely disabled child – blind, nonverbal and in a wheelchair, but happy! There are plenty of tips for travel with a special-needs kid as well as destination reports from across North America.

## The Accessible Travel Guide

It's not a bad domain name to have captured, but the site is actually a US-based personal blog with entries listed by state – some with only a single entry and some more useful than others – plus a page of useful links (some of which may not be current). There's also the opportunity to submit your own review. There are entries for 16 states, plus Mexico.

## The Bimblers

Blog maintained by Rob and Bridget who travel around Britain and Ireland on a low budget with a wheelchair. There's lots of detail and plenty of advice (click on 'travel tips').

## Travel Wheels

Cambodian-born resident of Vancouver, Vince, contracted polio and now gets around in a manual wheelchair. Read here about his solo visits to a dozen different locations in North America and Europe.

## Traveling with MS

Blog maintained by Abhishek Behl focusing on disability travel. As he travels, he campaigns to create awareness about multiple sclerosis. He teamed up with celebrated deaf travel blogger Chérie King and others to start the interesting [Ripple Movement](#), a travel media collaboration which aims to raise awareness about various social issues through storytelling.

## Trip Buzz

A blog with tips for travelling near and far with a wheelchair.

## Wheel Adventure

Blog maintained by intrepid budget wheelchair traveller Matt Getze. This site is full of first-hand reviews of destinations he has visited in Asia, Europe, and North and South America. There are travel tips and videos to complement his blog entries.



## Wheelchairtraveller

Set up by brother and sister Tobias (a wheelchair user) and Verena Streitferdt, this not-for-profit site is an online platform to provide information for wheelchair travellers. With a focus on developing countries and emerging economies, information is presented in a user-friendly way on a destination-by-destination basis via an interactive map. They use videos

and social media to raise awareness of the opportunities and benefits for the wheelchair traveller as well as for the off-the-beaten-track regions they visit. Visitors to the site are encouraged to share their experiences and submit their own reviews of tours, accommodation, restaurants and activities (English and German language).

### **Wheels Traveler**

Blog maintained by Tim and father Darryl with trip reports from their travels in a dozen countries.

### **Wheelchair Access Travel**

Blog maintained by manual wheelchair and wheelchair tandem-bike user covering European destinations. Strong interest in adaptive cycling.



### **Wheelchair Travel**

Destination reports from around the world detailing the wheelchair accessibility of public transport, taxis, attractions, airports, hotels etc, written by triple amputee and wheelchair user John Morris. Most coverage is in the USA, with a few entries from Europe and Asia. John has called for other members of disabled community to contribute to his site with their own reviews.

### **World in a Wheelchair**

Exactly what it says: a blog with entries from around the world by this UK-based wheelchair blogger. Lots of information here.

### **World on Wheelz**

Detailed travel reviews from around the world by widely travelled wheelchair user, James Glasbergen. It's worth checking out his travel tips and FAQs, too.

## **TOP TRAVEL TIP**

*Take twice the medication you need and pack it in separate bags in case one goes missing.*

*Take a list of the generic names and spare prescriptions.*



## **Cuba: Wheelchair Accessible Against All Odds!**

- The only stress was the two-hour wait at the baggage claim to see if the wheelchair had made it in one piece.
- The infrastructure may be ancient, but it is well maintained and not once during our stay did we lack a helping hand to overcome any barrier we might face.
- *Casas particulares*, privately-run bed and breakfasts, offer Cuban flair and flexibility and hospitality at a fifth the cost of resorts, and minor adaptations are never a problem. Find a list of the most accessible ones on our website.
- Innovative ideas and goodwill overcome physical barriers: instead of riding a horse, load your wheelchair onto a horse-drawn carriage; instead of a boat snorkelling trip, sit in the crystal-clear waters of Playa Larga while fish are attracted by bait; instead of a massage in a shop, get a massage table set up right on the beach!

***Tobias and Verena Streitferdt***

<http://www.wheelchairtraveller.org>





Gothic Quarter, Barcelona

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# General Resources

## Useful Planning Websites

### Abroad with Disabilities

Although not strictly a travel resource, this relatively new website offers advice and resources for students with disabilities who wish to study, intern, volunteer or work abroad.

### Access-Able

*Seemingly defunct website (last updated 2008)* providing information about disabled travel worldwide, included here only because some of the links at this address are still live and useful.

### Access Anything

An online travel resource for people with disabilities, officially closed for business since 2012, but with a *huge* resources list that's well worth checking out for travel within the US. The owners' ongoing blog resides here: <http://accessanything.blogspot.com/>.

### Apparelyzed Wheelchair Traveller Forum

One of the US's largest spinal-cord injury peer-support networks, Apparelyzed, showcases personal stories of travels around the world. Although many of the stories may not be recent, it's certainly inspiring to see where people have gone, and many of the blog-style entries do give concrete information. There's also a dedicated [disabled traveller forum](#) and a [sports for disabled forum](#).

### Center for Autism & Related Disabilities

This organisation, based at the University of South Florida, has a useful booklet giving information on how to make travelling with autism a smoother experience.

### Epilepsy Action

Planning and on-the-road travel advice from the British Epilepsy Association.

### Epilepsy Foundation

Succinct advice for travelling with epilepsy on different forms of transport.

## European Commission

Find out what your rights are from the official European Commission page on travelling by air or rail with a disability within the eurozone.

## Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile

A very useful guide to using your disability parking permit in different countries around the world.

## Global Access News

This self-styled disabled-travel network is packed full of information, much of which has been supplied by users. There are heaps of links to disabled-travel guidebooks and country-by-country disability links, as well as a travel e-zine archive. *Warning: much of this information is dated and many of the links are broken.*



## Global Dialysis

Create a free account and login to access a comprehensive global database of dialysis centres.

## International Bureau for Epilepsy

Multilingual Travelers Handbook for people with epilepsy. The English version is available [here](#).

## Limitless Travel

This organisation's mission is to create the first comprehensive and global guide on accessible travel, which it hopes to achieve by having set up the skeleton of a wiki that could potentially 'provide detailed, objective and up to date travel information to aid travellers with any form of physical, cognitive or sensory disability'. All it needs is the buy-in of enough people to populate the wiki. A start has been made on London and Birmingham in the UK.

## Mobility International USA

Maintained by Mobility International USA, this site is not about tourism, but about empowering people with disabilities to take advantage of the same international exchange opportunities as everyone else. The National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange team helps those with a disability to study, volunteer or intern in another country. It also helps people from

other countries to come to the USA to learn English, study, gain internships or volunteer.

### **Reduced Mobility Rights**

A major news portal for people with reduced mobility (PRMs), with a focus on access to air travel. The goals of this website are to make sure service providers comply with laws; to expose those who violate the laws; to promote awareness among operators and the general public; and ultimately to reiterate everybody's right to travel, irrespective of their condition. Roberto Castiglioni, the site owner, is extremely well versed and connected.

### **Special Globe**

A Canada-based site for parents with special-needs kids to book custom trips and hotels, as well as share their experiences and learn from other parents and experts through forums and articles. Includes tips and tricks, basic travel advice, and itinerary guides with lots of useful information about special-needs travel.

### **Special Needs Group**

Organisation associated with Special Needs at Sea that has a certification system for travel agents. Visit this page to find 2250 certified travel professionals. Note that the certification does not necessarily mean a great deal: to quote from their website, 'This is a three-module, 65-minute, online certification course designed for travel professionals to increase their knowledge and earning opportunities in the accessible travel/special-needs market.'

### **The WiderNet Project**

This Disabled People's Organizations & Disability-Oriented Organizations portal, a gateway to thousands of pages from 374 websites, was created by the staff, students and volunteers of United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD), together with The WiderNet Project at the University of Iowa, with a grant from United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Searchable by disability or by region, this is a great place to start if you're looking for a disabled people's organisation relevant to your disability in a country you're visiting or relocating to.

## **Travabled**

An online community and travel adviser for people with disabilities and their companions – a sort of TripAdvisor for people with disabilities.

Travabled.com allows travellers to post questions and answers, as well as reviews, comments and photos, and to interact with each other in an online forum. The more reviews you post, the higher your ranking. At present, though, it seems quite thin on content and we haven't been able to find many reviews – most come from three Croatian members. The most functional part of the site at the moment seems to be the links to paid tours.

## **Working Like Dogs**

This US-based organisation provides practical information, current trends and products to meet your working dog needs. They have an iPhone and Android 'Where to Go' app that shows animal relief areas in US airports.

# **Websites Promoting Accessible/Inclusive Tourism**

## **Access Tourism New Zealand**

Well maintained by the very knowledgeable and well-connected Sandra Rhodda to provide news and views about tourism, travel and leisure activities that are accessible to people with disabilities, seniors and those who develop access issues as they age. There are plenty of useful links for accessible travel around the globe, as well as tools and strategies for businesses. Along with Scott Rains, Ivor Ambrose of ENAT and Bill Forrester of TravAbility, Sandra ranks among the top advocates for accessible travel in the world.

## **Accessible Outlook**

Set up by the knowledgeable and accredited access auditor Brian Seaman, who has worked with UK charity Tourism for All for 20 years, this website provides resources to help with the development of accessible tourism for older customers and those with disabilities. Although the material on this website may be of most use to businesses and professionals working in the accessible tourism industry, there's some useful information for travellers, for example about how to make a complaint to the Civil Aviation Authority, and an extensive spreadsheet of UK disabled people's organisations and useful contacts.

## **Accessible Tourism Research**

This blog, maintained by the world's leading academic in accessible tourism, Simon Darcy from the University of Technology Sydney, seeks to present a brief history of accessible tourism through reviewing key documents and presenting new research as it is published.

## **European Network for Accessible Tourism**

The European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT) is a nonprofit association for organisations that aim to be at the forefront of the study, promotion and practice of accessible tourism. Although based in Europe, and formerly funded as a pilot project (2006–7) by the European Commission, ENAT members span the globe, coming from more than 30 countries on five continents. There is a wealth of information on this website, useful for policymakers, researchers, business owners and practitioners as well as anyone interested in the field of accessible tourism. Lonely Planet has recently signed a collaborative agreement with ENAT to jointly pursue accessible tourism initiatives. (ENAT's managing director, Ivor Ambrose, reviewed this document as a technical advisor.) ENAT's page of country-by-country links is an incredibly useful resource:

<http://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.links>.

## **Rolling Rains**

The world's most well-known and highly respected accessible-travel guru, Scott Rains explores inclusive tourism and charts news, legislative developments and other issues in the sector. This is the go-to site for anybody with a serious interest in accessible travel – there's a lifetime of experience and weeks of reading to be found here.

## **Society for Accessible Travel & Hospitality**

The Society for Accessible Travel & Hospitality (SATH) is a US-based nonprofit organisation founded in 1976 whose mission is to raise awareness of the needs of travellers with disabilities, remove physical and attitudinal barriers to free access, and expand travel opportunities in the US and abroad. There's lots of information to be found on this site, including blogs, travel tips and access information, and a page of online resources (not particularly well maintained).

## Strabordo Association

Italian nonprofit association promoting accessible travel; works with tourism providers as well as offering tours directly to the public (Italian language).

## TravAbility

TravAbility was set up in 2007 by Melbourne-based Bill Forrester and Deborah Davis (also of [Pushliving.com](http://Pushliving.com)) as a vehicle to publish accessible travel information. Today, apart from arranging and booking tours and travel for people with access issues, TravAbility is a strong advocate for equality in accessibility in the hospitality and travel industries, with a particular focus on the need for change in the supply side, ie businesses providing services to travellers. Their vision statement is simply 'To make the world accessible to all'. There is an enormous amount of information on this website, including detailed guides, news and white papers that Bill has penned. Bill has also set up [PhotoAbility](http://PhotoAbility), a commercial stock image library featuring models with disabilities.

## TOP TRAVEL TIP

*Make sure your travel insurance covers you for preexisting medical conditions.*



## The USA's Most Accessible National Parks

- Yosemite National Park – Camp in the jaw-dropping Yosemite Valley, ride free shuttle buses to scenic viewpoints and waterfall trails, or take a horseback trail ride.
- Grand Canyon National Park (South Rim) – Roll along canyon-rim trails and around a recreated Ancestral Puebloan village, or join a ranger-guided program with an ASL interpreter.
- Yellowstone National Park – Watch herds of bison and elk from park roadsides, then wheel along boardwalks within spitting distance of famous hot springs and geysers.
- Arches National Park – This drive-through park with fantastical scenery offers accessible viewpoints, barrier-free trails and educational exhibits for visitors with special hearing and/or vision needs.
- Zion National Park – Ride the park's free shuttle system or take a drive past iconic desert rock formations and Southwestern canyon scenery, stopping for a shady, accessible riverside path.

*For more information search the [National Park Service website](#) using the specific term 'accessibility' and the name of the park you're visiting.*

**Sara Benson**

<http://indietraveler.blogspot.com>





Catedral de Barcelona/Museu Diocesà, Barcelona  
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# Travel Agents, Tour Operators & Commercial Websites

## Australia

### Accessibility Cruising

Travel agent specialising in cruises; also offers a free e-book, *Accessible Cruising in Australia*.

### Cairns Unlimited

Inbound travel agent catering for PwDs travelling to tropical North Queensland.

### Clubmates Travel

Long-established tour operator offering supported holidays for individuals and groups both in Australia and overseas.

### Discovery Holidays

Set up in 2013 by two women with extensive experience in disability, this domestic and outbound tour operator caters to adults seeking supported holidays and leisure experiences; families and carers seeking respite services; and visitors to Western Australia and those travelling abroad requiring travel assistance and support services.

### Special Care Travel

Long-established Queensland-based inbound (Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and cruises) travel agent and tour operator catering for people with a wide range of disabilities, including respite holidays for individuals and groups.

### TravAbility

Passionate advocate for inclusive tourism Bill Forrester has enormous experience in arranging and booking tours and travel for people with access issues. Supports both inbound and outbound travellers with disabilities.

### Wheel Adventures

Motorcycle-tour business based on the Sunshine Coast specialising in wheelchair-accessible sidecar tours. That's novel!

## **Baltics**

### **Accessible Baltics**

Tour operator covering Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania specialising in services for people with a disability or special needs.

## **Canada**

### **Rocky Mountain Wheelchair Tours**

Specialist in accessible tours for groups or individual wheelchair users in the Rocky Mountains, Canada.

### **Tarita's Travel Connections**

Certified accessible travel specialist and Flight Centre associate, Tarita arranges accessible holidays both in Canada and around the world, as well as fully accessible cruises.

## **Caribbean**

### **Accessible Caribbean Vacations**

Travel agency run by UK-based wheelchair traveller John Sage. Commercial offerings of accessible shore excursions and cruises are complemented by a series of useful port accessibility reviews.

## **China**

### **Access China Travel**

Mainstream tour company offering a limited number of accessible tour packages in China for seniors, slow walkers, wheelchair visitors and tourists with a disability.

### **Tour Beijing**

Mainstream tour company offering accessible travel and tours around Beijing.

## **Costa Rica**

### **Atente Costa Rica**

Inbound travel agent providing assisted vacations, travel assistance, lodgings and concierge services for seniors and PwDs.

## **Cyprus**

### **Accessible Cyprus Travel**

Specialist accessible tour operator based in Cyprus catering to both individuals and groups. Claims to have personally audited all service providers. Can provide a variety of equipment, including a range of mobility aids and oxygen bottles and masks, as well as personal care services. Activities include scuba diving and ocean fishing.

## **Czech Republic**

### **Accessible Prague**

Inbound travel agent in Prague, offering tours, accommodation, transfers, equipment rental and personal support workers.

## **Ecuador**

### **South America for All**

This company has been operating tours for the mobility- and hearing-impaired for the last seven years, starting in Ecuador and now branching out into Peru.

## **Egypt**

### **Egypt Deaf Travel**

Long-established inbound travel agent specialising in tours of Egypt for deaf tourists (American Sign Language).

### **Egypt for All**

Inbound travel agent specialising in catering to people with disabilities, special needs, older travellers and slow walkers.

## **Ethiopia**

### **Bale Mountain Lodge**

This eight-room boutique forest-wilderness lodge in the Bale Mountains National Park of south-central Ethiopia was opened in January 2014. Due to a spinal-cord injury sustained by the son of the owners, the whole lodge has been fitted out with accessible facilities and the owners are working to establish accessible trails. They have access to an off-road wheelchair which

requires sherpas and allows access to places where regular wheelchairs cannot go.

## **France**

### **I Need a Holiday Too**

Company offering wheelchair-accessible accommodation in a 19th-century renovated cotton mill in Brittany, northern France; wheelchair-accessible vehicles and a wide variety of equipment (often free of charge with accommodation), as well as personal support workers, are available.

## **Germany**

### **Accamino Reisen**

Outbound accessible travel agent, offering individual and group trips for wheelchair users, people with reduced mobility and seniors.

### **Berlin for All (Accamino Reisen)**

Inbound accessible travel agent, offering individual and group visits to Berlin for wheelchair users, people with reduced mobility and seniors. (English-, French- and Spanish-language options available on website.)

### **Germany for All (Accamino Reisen)**

Inbound accessible travel agent, offering individual and group trips for wheelchair users, people with reduced mobility and seniors.

## **Greece**

### **Greece4All**

Inbound travel agent (ENAT member) specialising in tours for people with a wide range of disabilities.

## **Honduras**

### **Accessible Island Tours**

Inbound tour operator for Honduras and US Virgin Islands.

## **Iceland**

### **Iceland Unlimited**

Inbound tour operator offering accessible tours of Iceland, including provision of rental cars with hand controls and quad-bike tours for the more adventurous.

## **Indonesia**

### **Bali Access Travel**

Specialist wheelchair-accessible travel agent in Bali, providing tours, accommodation, equipment hire and fully licensed nursing services. Arranges disabled diving and snorkelling expeditions for the more adventurous.

## **Israel**

### **H2A Travels**

Travel agent based in Israel providing customised tours for all types of tourists, including seniors and travellers with disabilities.

### **Israel4All**

Accessible tour company for groups and individuals with disabilities and special needs who wish to explore their Jewish, Christian or Muslim heritage in Israel. Caters for a wide range of disabilities and offers other services such as rental of mobility equipment and wheelchair-accessible vehicles, and arranging accessible accommodation and transportation.

### **Mobility Rentals Israel**

Rental of a variety of mobility equipment – beds, hoists, wheelchairs, scooters etc – in Israel.

## **Italy**

### **Accessible Emotions**

Long-established tour operator and transport/ transfer provider, offering half a dozen tours in Italy and a fleet of seven customised vans. Pantou supplier.

## **Accessible Europe**

Suspiciously dated-looking website set up by a pool of European travel agents who style themselves as experts in accessible tourism. Based in Italy they offer tours and cruises, as well as rentals of vehicles and houseboats, in Europe (although members of SATH). Links take you to partners around the world, with equally daggy websites.

## **No Barrier**

Inbound and outbound specialist accessible travel agency catering for all disabilities (Italian language).

## **Rome and Italy**

This is a mainstream tour operator based in Rome that offers customised tours, accessible accommodation, and equipment and vehicle hire for tourists with disabilities and their families. They claim to have personally tested and approved all accommodation and therefore guarantee its accessibility. Their Wheely Trekky service, which uses a specially designed sedan/rickshaw with sherpas, allows wheelchair users to access many otherwise inaccessible archaeological sites.

## **Seable**

Working in association with the Sicilian charity LIFE (Life Improvement for Everyone), this highly respected UK-based company offers accessible activity-based holidays (including scuba diving) for visually impaired, blind and mobility-impaired holidaymakers on the Mediterranean island of Sicily.

## **Viaggi per Disabili**

Inbound and outbound travel agent and tour operator run by a consultant specialising in accessible tourism, devising tailor-made trips according to individual or group needs.

## **Latvia**

### **Accessible Latvia**

Provides tours, accommodation bookings and equipment rental, as well as accessible transport throughout the country.

## **Martinique**

### **Martinique Accessible**

Inbound tour operator for this French-speaking Caribbean island, offering a variety of activities, including scuba diving and adaptive catamaran sailing, as well as rental of mobility and medical equipment.

## **Mexico**

### **Cancún Accesible**

Well-regarded company offering tours, transport, equipment rental and support services for people with disabilities and/or special needs, as well and seniors, in and around Cancún (Quintana Roo), including to Chichén Itzá and Tulum.

### **Nurses and Caregivers Cancún**

Offers similar services to Cancún Accesible, but with more of a focus on provision of nurses, support workers and medical equipment.

## **Morocco**

### **Disabled Tourist Guide**

Multilingual tour guide offering accessible tours in Morocco. Having had polio, and still using braces and crutches, El Houssaine Ichen has first-hand experience of travelling with a disability.

## **Nepal**

### **Accessible Himalayas**

This brand-new company, run by three wheelchair users, is the first in Nepal to offer accessible tours and accommodation. At the moment, they have one accessible guesthouse located near Kathmandu and are currently developing a suite of tours and activities.

## **Netherlands**

### **Accessible Travel Netherlands**

Inbound travel agent for accessible city trips and holidays in the Netherlands. Don't miss the numerous very informative [blogs](#) hosted on this site, as well as site owner Veroniek Matt's new Amsterdam city guide:

<http://www.accessibletravelnl.com/blogs/New-city-guide-for-Amsterdam>.

## **Gehandicapten**

Netherlands-based website with a selection of bookable wheelchair-accessible apartments and holiday homes in the south of France, Hungary, Thailand and the Netherlands. Represented in Thailand by [Disability in Thailand Co Ltd](#), Ban Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Thailand 77110. Maintains blog at <http://wheelchairthailand.blogspot.nl/>.

## **Meet Another World**

Travel agency specialising in cultural tours for deaf and hearing-impaired people, organised in cooperation with deaf and hearing-impaired residents and communities in host countries such as Tanzania, Ethiopia, Iceland, Russia, Mongolia and Turkey. Tours are designed to foster connections with the local culture, as well as the local Deaf culture.

## **New Zealand**

### **Ability Adventures New Zealand**

Inbound tour operator catering for a wide variety of disabilities, as well as seniors.

### **Access the World**

Outbound travel agent catering to people with mobility challenges, the visually impaired and seniors.

### **Accessible New Zealand**

Inbound tour operator for mature travellers, and travellers with physical or intellectual disabilities, particularly those who have limited mobility.

### **Making Trax**

Nonprofit company specialising in adventure travel – skydiving, paragliding, rafting, kayaking, bungee jumping etc – in New Zealand and dedicated to changing the way society thinks about disability. Works in collaboration with other outdoor activities companies, which are accredited by Making Trax director, C5 quadriplegic Jezza Williams, and supplies adaptive equipment as necessary.

## **Poland**

### **Accessible Poland Tours**

Inbound tour operator (ENAT member) specialising in tours for travellers with a wide range of disabilities and seniors; bookings available for individuals or small groups. Can provide accessible transport, guided tours, mobility equipment and personal care.

## **Portugal**

### **Accessible Portugal**

Specialist inbound operator offering accessible tours, accommodation, equipment rental and transfers.

### **Algarve Accessible**

ENAT member based in southern Portugal offering tours, transfers, accommodation and mobility aids for wheelchair users, slow walkers and seniors.

### **GoGal**

Specialist inbound tour operator offering accessible tours.

### **Madeira 4 All**

Inbound travel agent/tour operator offering everything from accommodation, activities and transport to personal assistance, equipment and even respite services in this autonomous Portuguese island off the coast of Morocco.

### **Tourism for All**

Specialist inbound tour operator offering accessible tours (as well as medical, health and wellness tours) and personal care.

## **Romania**

### **Romania for All**

New tour company (website under construction) promoting 'slow tourism' and catering for everyone, including PwDs.

### **Sano Touring**

Pantou-listed supplier of inbound tours for seniors and PwDs.

## **Russia**

### **Accessible Russia**

First company in Russia specialising in tours for travellers with disabilities now in its 11th year of operation, catering for groups and individuals as well as cruise-ship passengers. Multilingual website.

### **Impression Hunter**

There's not a lot of information about accessible travel in Russia, but this specialist accessible tour company caters for people with a variety of disabilities and can supply equipment and personal support workers. It's one of the international operators endorsed by the UK's Tourism for All.

## **South Africa**

### **Access 2 Africa Safaris**

Specialist accessible safari tour company based in Durban catering for wheelchair users, hearing- and mobility-impaired, visually impaired and blind guests. We personally know two very satisfied guests, both quadriplegics and one very high needs. This company has won awards for accessibility and inclusive tourism.

### **Enabled Online Travel**

Specialist inclusive travel agent, offering a variety of different kinds of tour, including self-drive, throughout southern Africa. Their broader involvement in inclusive tourism – including training, access audits and consulting – makes them more than just a travel agent. They can also source mobility and other equipment.

### **Endeavour Safaris**

Safari tours throughout southern Africa for seniors and people with a variety of impairments, including visual and hearing.

### **Epic Enabled**

Upmarket safari tour company operating in South Africa, offering a variety of accessible tours in and around the Kruger National Park, and able to supply a variety of equipment, including wheelchairs, walking frames, shower chairs and hoists.

## **In Car Travel Guide**

This unique company offers in-car, GPS-activated travel guides with audio descriptions and captioning for visually and hearing-impaired travellers. Their guides include accessibility information for people with special needs, such as deaf/hard of hearing, blind and mobility-impaired visitors to the country.

## **Spain**

### **Accessible Barcelona**

Although the founder, Craig Grimes, no longer takes bookings through this website, it's still a good repository of information about accessibility in Barcelona compiled by a long-term resident.

### **Accessible Madrid**

Offers guided tours on electric mobility scooters in historic Madrid, as well as a mobility-scooter rental service. Also offers inclusive and tailor-made packages for accessible tours in surrounding areas for the mobility-impaired and wheelchair users. Can also find and book accessible accommodation in the city.

### **Barcelona Enabled**

Inbound tour operator specialising in tours for wheelchair users and people with restricted mobility (PRMs). Can also supply equipment, such as hoists, shower chairs and mobility aids.

### **Barcelona Special Traveler**

Inbound tour operator specialising in accessible tourism in Barcelona, catering for disabilities of all types.

### **Barcelona Zero Limits**

Inbound tour operator specialising in accessible tours in Barcelona. Activities include accessible scuba diving and ballooning.

### **BCN Acces Tour**

Inbound tour operator (ENAT member) specialising in accessible holidays in Spain and the Balearic and Canary Islands for special needs families, seniors and PwDs.

## **Disabled Accessible Travel**

Run by British expat Alan Broadbent, this Barcelona-based travel agent offers wheelchair-accessible airport and cruise-port transfers, accessible tours and shore excursions for cruise-ship passengers, and apartment and hotel accommodation. They can also arrange wheelchair and accessible-vehicle hire. (When I visited Barcelona, Alan booked me a fabulous wheelchair-accessible apartment not too far from the centre of town with not one but two roll-in showers.)

## **Disabled Holidays in Spain**

What it says: accessible holidays in Spain from this UK holiday provider. Can provide a range of mobility aids and personal care if required.

## **Eco Tour Córdoba**

Tour company that offers accessible guided cultural tours around Córdoba and Andalucia, and mobility equipment hire.

## **Olé Tours**

Accessible tours of Seville run by a couple of women with the lived experience of disability, including private tours for up to six people, accessible transport, mobility-scooter hire and boat trips on the river.

## **Taiwan**

### **Sunable**

A commercial arm of Taiwan Access for All Association (<https://twaccess4all.wordpress.com/>), this company rents a wide variety of mobility equipment in Taipei, Taichung and Hualien. They can arrange accessible accommodation and tours, as well as accessible transport in a van or a tour bus. (Chinese-language website, but staff can respond to emails in English.)

## **Tanzania**

### **Go Africa Safaris**

ENAT member and Tourism for All, UK, associate has adapted vehicles with ramps and wheelchair locking systems to ensure safety, and can provide accessible accommodation catering for a wide range of budgets. Operates in both Tanzania and Kenya.

## Naenda Safaris

Tanzanian company offering safaris for wheelchair users and the visually impaired. Promises vehicles with access ramps and a variety of accommodation with accessible rooms.

## Thailand

### Accessible Thailand

Touting itself as the 'only disabled travellers guide to accessible Thailand', it certainly is the most comprehensive that we have been able to find. Apart from package deals, it offers basic reviews of accommodation, bars, restaurants and sites. It also gives contact details for hiring mobility equipment, medical aids and personal support workers, and gives tips on issues such as hiring wheelchair-accessible vehicles. There's also an option to add your own listing on the website. It's definitely a good place to start if you're planning a holiday in Thailand as a wheelchair user, but we don't see much information on the site for people with other disabilities.

### Gehandicapten

Netherlands-based company represented in Thailand by [Disability in Thailand Co Ltd](#), Ban Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Thailand 77110. Maintains blog at <http://wheelchairthailand.blogspot.nl/>.

### Phuket Access Travel

Established by people with first-hand experience of disability, this inbound travel agent offers accessible transport (including airport transfers), tours, accommodation and equipment, including hoists and a Hippocampe beach wheelchair.

### Wheelchair Holidays @ Thailand

Company offering package and sightseeing tours to Thailand (mainly Bangkok) for PwDs and seniors.

### Wheelchair Thailand Tours

Company offering package and sightseeing tours to Thailand (mainly Hua Hin and Bangkok) for PwDs and seniors.

## **Turkey**

### **Accessible Turkey**

Travel agent offering tours and accommodation in Antalya and Istanbul, and also a range of activities such as scuba diving, paragliding, rafting and horse riding, all suitable for differing forms of ability.

### **Turkey Accessible Travel**

Inbound tour operator in Turkey offering accessible tours for seniors and PwDs in and around Istanbul, Izmir and Kusadasi.

## **Vietnam**

### **Roll in Asia**

Specialist accessible travel agent offering a variety of tours around Vietnam for PwDs of various stripes. Also offers to arrange air transport from your home country.

## **UK**

### **Accessible Travel & Leisure**

UK-based specialist accessible tour operator for wheelchair users and less-mobile travellers covering mainly European destinations (and South Africa and Florida) whose motto is, 'If we have not seen it, we do not sell it'. Its search engine is filterable by requirements as well as location and tour type.

### **Altogether Travel**

Supported holidays arranged worldwide for older people, individuals with physical or learning disabilities, those with dementia, sensory impairment and people who are experiencing mental health difficulties. Also able to supply personal care workers and mobility equipment.

### **Can Be Done**

Outbound accessible travel agent based in the UK, specialising in Europe, North America and the Middle East.

### **Disability Holidays Guide**

Specialist travel agency for people who are disabled, elderly or infirm, offering everything from travel insurance to accommodation to full packages and cruises. Coverage is worldwide.

## **Disabled Access Holidays**

UK-based operator, offering a variety of holidays for the disabled (largely wheelchair accessible), from city breaks to cruises. They have a large stock of accessible properties, from apartments to hotels, bookable through their site. Also offers a variety of mobility equipment for hire around the world.

## **Disabled Holiday Directory**

Touts itself as the UK's largest specialist disabled travel agency with bookable accessible holidays in the UK and abroad, including accommodation, flights, adapted transfers, cruises and equipment hire. Caters for individuals, groups, carers and special needs children, and can also arrange care while on holiday.

## **Enable Holidays**

Disabled holiday specialist based in Birmingham offering holiday packages including flights, transfers and equipment, and a guarantee that the properties they offer are fully audited in person by professionals.

## **Holidays for the Disabled**

UK-based specialist travel agency offering tailor-made accessible holidays to suit individuals, including adapted transfers and equipment hire as well as personal care (in some countries).

## **Holidays with Help**

Established by a group of British Red Cross Society members, this company provides respite care breaks for people with disabilities and their carers with support from trained and experienced helpers. Although nursing care per se is not provided, medical and nursing staff are on site to offer guidance should it be needed. Bookings welcome from individuals, families or large groups.

## **Makin' Tracks**

Long-established, small, family-run company offering personalised tours of Europe for wheelchair users.

## **Sage Traveling**

Specialist accessible-travel European tour agency run by veteran wheelchair traveller and accessible-travel provider, John Sage. This site has blog-style

information under the 'advice' tab and Sage Accessibility Guides to 15 European cities are available when trip planning is purchased.

## **Traveleyes**

Traveleyes is the world's first commercial company specialising in opening access to independent world travel for blind and partially sighted people. It is a blind-founded, blind-led company based in the UK, and offers a broad range of multisensory holidays worldwide.

## **Wheelchair Travel**

Ground transport solutions for wheelchair and scooter users either resident in or visiting the UK from overseas, including airport and cruise transfers, and self-drive hire of small, medium and large cars and minibuses.

## **Wings on Wheels**

Domestic and outbound tour operator, arranging small, escorted group holidays worldwide and tailor-made holidays for people with special needs, their carers, family and friends.

## **USA**

### **Abeon Travel**

Travel agent with particular experience and expertise in families travelling with special-needs children, particularly on the autism spectrum, noted for going the extra mile in making sure that travel plans go smoothly. They've also published three books for parents planning to travel with special-needs kids.

### **Ability Travel Network**

Online booking engine specifically for travellers with disabilities wishing to book flights, hotels or cars. Given that not all search results for hotels display a wheelchair icon, it's unclear what criteria are used for their inclusion.

### **Advanced Aeromedical**

Supplies portable oxygen concentrators for use in the US and worldwide (including at airports and on cruises), as well as air ambulance services.

### **Atypical Travel**

An escorted group travel service that uses paid professionals rather than volunteers. Caters for adults with a range of disabilities.

## Care Vacations

Provides mobility scooters, collapsible wheelchairs, oxygen rentals and other special-needs equipment for cruise passengers with disabilities and seniors. Works with all major cruise lines.

## Celebrity Cruises

Autism-friendly certified cruises with training developed by the Autism on the Seas advisory team.

## Disability Travel/Accessible Journeys

Established in 1985 Accessible Journeys is a vacation planner and tour operator exclusively for wheelchair travellers, their families and friends. Check out the 'new experiences' menu on the left-hand side for blog-style reviews.

## Easy Access Travel

SATH member specialising in accessible cruise vacations and package land tours for people with disabilities and seniors.

## Flying Wheels Travel

Long-established outbound travel agency for people with physical disabilities, chronic illness and slow walkers. Offers tours all around the globe.

## Guided Tour

Long-established, US-based company specialising in arranging holidays for people with developmental challenges, such as autism and Down syndrome. Most destinations are in the USA, but there are also options for London and Ireland.

## Mobility Equipment Hire Direct

Worldwide equipment hire – everything from hoists and beds through wheelchairs and scooters to shower chairs and over-toilet seats.

## Tapooz Travel

Aïcha Nyström and Laurent Roffé, two veteran travellers and outdoor activities experts who settled in San Francisco 25 years ago, have 10 years' experience arranging tours and activities in California and across the USA for people of all abilities. Hiking in Zion, the Grand Canyon at sunset, adaptive

bicycling in California wine country, or sea kayaking on San Francisco Bay, anyone?

## Wheelie Fun Cruise and Travel

Certified Special Needs Accessibility Travel Advocate specialising in mobility issues prior to and during travel in the US, with special knowledge of Hawaii.

## Worldwide

### Booking.com

A big player in the hotel search engine market with a far less useful search function than Hotels.com: once you get to the options page, click on the 'facility' tab in the left-hand menu bar for a simple 'facilities for disabled guests' filter. (As if the needs of a wheelchair user were the same as those of a blind person...)

### Homeaway

This mainstream vacation-rental website has a [wheelchair-accessible filter](#). The usual caveat applies: potential renters beware and ensure you have full details of the suitability of any property before you make any bookings.

### Hotels.com

Thanks to a successful lawsuit in the USA, one of the world's biggest hotel search engines now has a search and booking function for different accessibility needs. Once you have selected your destination and dates, click search; when the options page opens click on 'accessibility features' in the left-hand menu bar to filter according to your needs. Access criteria are not specified in detail, so further enquiries are essential prior to booking.

### Matching Houses

Accessible house-swap website with 405 members in 34 countries (mostly developed).

### OxygenWorldwide

This organisation is based in Spain but operates internationally with associates worldwide. Its customer service staff speak five languages: English, Spanish, German, French and Dutch. OxygenWorldwide arranges oxygen delivery worldwide for oxygen users on holiday or staying abroad for a longer period of time, and can also cater for travellers on tours through several countries.

## Special Needs at Sea

Worldwide rental of all special-needs equipment, servicing hotels, resorts, convention centres and all major cruise lines.

## Travel O2

Rental and sale of medical oxygen, adaptive equipment and medical supplies.

## **TOP TRAVEL TIP**

*Most importantly, don't feel limited by your disability, however minor or severe it is.*



## **Travellers with Disabilities Visiting Japan Can Look Forward to Excellent Facilities**

- The Japanese train system is highly efficient and wheelchair-friendly. The stations alone are a great resource for wheelchair travellers as most have accessible restaurants and restrooms, not to mention convenience stores. On the shinkansen and other long-distance trains, there is a marked wheelchair accessible car with widened doorways, spaces for wheelchairs and an accessible restroom.
- Bathrooms in hotels and public places have wonderful design and function.
- Japan is the originator of using tactile paving to help the vision-impaired navigate.
- Elevators have a priority button for disabled users.
- The kindness and generosity of strangers is overwhelming.

***Ashley Lyn Olson***

[www.wheelchairtravelling.com](http://www.wheelchairtravelling.com)





Mercat de Sant Josep de la Boqueria (La Boqueria), Barcelona  
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# Specialist Sports Organisations

## Flying

### Wheelies with Wings

An Australian nonprofit charity that offers PwDs the opportunity to gain flying experience and even a licence.

## Mountain Sports

### Ski2Freedom

This registered charity has created a fabulous global information resource providing comprehensive information not only for skiing, but for *all* mountain activities for those with a disability. There is a page of detailed information about skiing with a variety of different disabilities, from hemiplegia to muscular dystrophy, as well as links to disability skiing in Europe and worldwide. Just wow!

## Sailing

### America's Freedom Sailor

Based in New Orleans, LA, this organisation is in the process of building the world's first tall ship based on the principles of Universal Design, to enable those with disabilities to sail alongside their able-bodied family and friends. Watch this space.

### Blind Sailing International

An organisation associated with World Sailing (ISAF), the world governing body for sailing, dedicated to furthering the opportunities for visually impaired people to participate in competitive sailing. There are member organisations around the world, but sadly no links to individual country organisations on the home page. Use the contact address to find out if there is an affiliated organisation in your home country.

### Hansa Class Association UK

Official UK association for the universally designed sailing dinghies of Chris Mitchell.

## Imago Maris Foundation

Provides the opportunity to participate in international sailing voyages on an accessible tall ship for the blind and visually impaired from all over Europe. Sighted participants are also welcome to share the experience. 'We want our sea voyages and training to be not only wonderful sailing adventures but also a chance for you to visit different countries, learn and understand Europe's multicultural dimension and variety, as well as overcome your limits.'

## International Federation for Disabled Sailors

The Disabled Sailing Committee of the International Federation for Disabled Sailors has been authorised by World Sailing to be responsible for disabled sailing worldwide. The DSC promotes all types and levels of sailing for people with all types and degrees of disability.

## Jubilee Sailing Trust

A registered charity whose mission since 1978 has been to promote the integration of people of all physical abilities through the challenge and adventure of tall-ship sailing aboard two ships, *Lord Nelson* and *Tenacious*.

## Sailability

Nonprofit, volunteer-based, worldwide organisation committed to providing opportunities for many disadvantaged groups, including people with a disability, to sail. This page gives links to associated organisations worldwide, with the exception of New Zealand, which can be found here: <http://sailabilityauckland.org.nz/>. As a quadriplegic, I recently learned to sail with the Victorian branch.

## Sailing for All

Company based in Northamptonshire, UK, producing Hansa class sailing dinghies and catamarans, endorsed/licensed by Chris Mitchell of Sailing for Everyone. Click on the 'clubs' tab to find UK sailing clubs using these dinghies.

## Sailing for Everyone

Foundation based in New South Wales, Australia, whose Hansa sailing dinghies have been developed and designed by Chris Mitchell along Universal Design principles and are therefore suitable for everyone. There's a blog with news of affiliated/similar organisations around the world.

# Scuba Diving

## Disabled Divers International

Based in Denmark, DDI is a nonprofit organisation founded in 2010 to promote, develop and conduct disabled scuba diving training programs for professional and nonprofessional students. The majority of accredited programmes are in Europe, but there are some in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, too.

## Dive Pirates

Registered US charity run by a group of volunteers to support, train, equip and provide dive travel to individuals with disabilities.

## Diveheart

A nonprofit Illinois-based organisation providing educational scuba diving programs for children and adults with a disability. Also runs programs in Atlanta, GA, and Miami, FL.

## Diveheart UK

UK-based sister organisation to the above: a registered charity offering scuba diving programs not only for people with disabilities, but also their carers.

## Handicapped Scuba Association

Long-established California-based association providing independent, international diver training and certification services; the disabled equivalent of PADI. You can search for affiliated organisations, instructors, programs and even dive buddies worldwide.

## International Association for Handicapped Divers

Netherlands-based, internationally certified nonprofit organisation specialising in training people with a disability to scuba dive.

# Skydiving

## Dropzone

The Skydivers with Disabilities branch of this general skydiving forum appears to be quite active.

## **Skydive Ramblers**

This Queensland skydiving company has experience offering tandem dives to wheelchair users and even has qualified paraplegic dive masters. They offer no guarantees for acceptance, but are very happy to assess the suitability of wheelchair users on an individual basis.

## **SkydiveBC North**

This British Columbian organisation has been running an adaptive skydiving program since 2008.

## **Surfing**

### **Adapt Surf**

Set up by the godfather of adaptive surfing, Pirata, in 2007, this nonprofit association not only runs an adaptive surfing program, but also promotes social inclusion of PWDs to access to leisure, sport and culture.

### **International Surfing Association**

Learn about the history of adaptive surfing on this page of the official International Surfing Association. You can register your interest in adaptive surfing or enter details of your business that provides adaptive surfing programs, or you can order your free copy of the *Surfing for All* handbook.

## **USA**

### **Adaptive Adventures**

Nonprofit organisation providing opportunities (largely in the Midwest and Colorado) for people of all ages with physical disabilities to participate in a variety of sporting activities, from cycling and kayaking to rock climbing and waterskiing.

### **Disabled Sports USA**

Umbrella organisation offering year-round outdoor sports and activities, including instruction and adaptive equipment, for people with disabilities. Click on the 'chapters' tab to find a local affiliated organisation.

### **National Sports Center for the Disabled**

The NSCD offers a variety of year-round sports and recreational activities for individuals with almost any physical, cognitive, emotional or behavioural condition.

## **Northeast Passage**

This nonprofit organisation, operating out of the University of New Hampshire, offers innovative barrier-free recreation programs for people with disabilities, encompassing both recreational and competitive sports. They also offer equipment rentals. There's a seemingly exhaustive list of web resources for a huge range of sporting and outdoor activities.

## **Special Needs Vacation by V**

Special Needs Group–certified accessible travel agent/tour operator catering particularly to families with a member with disabilities, owned and operated by a PwD.

## **Wheeling Forward**

New York–based organisation providing wheelchair users with advocacy, mentorship and support services. Mentioned here for the adaptive sporting programs – in particular waterskiing – that they offer.



With Wind, Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz  
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# Acknowledgements

## This Book

This 1st edition of Lonely Planet's *Accessible Travel Online Resources* was produced by the following:

**Compiled by** Martin Heng

**Designer** Marika Mercer

**Proofreader** Imogen Bannister

**Technical adviser** Ivor Ambrose, European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT)

Thanks to Brendan Dempsey, Liz Heynes, Cheree Broughton, Kate Mathews and Lyahna Spencer.

Special thanks to Aïcha Nyström and Laurent Roffé of Tapooz Travel for organising a lovely day trip to Alcatraz for a bunch of wheelie mates, and to Yoko Whyte for being a wonderful travel companion on my round-the-world trip last year.

## Cover photograph

City Palace, Jaipur

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## Internal photographs

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Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd  
ABN 36 005 607 983  
1st edition – Dec 2015  
ISBN 978 1 76034 444 3

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