

# Traveling companion

Website can help fulfill travel bucket list

Summer is typically the busiest season for travel, especially for those restricted by the school year. But fall is a great time to take a trip if you can. The weather is still nice, and you'll probably pay less and avoid the biggest crowds in many places. Winter offers its own reasons for traveling, either to play in the snow or to get as far away from it as you can. Spring break vacations are a great way to shake of the cold, dark days of February and anticipate the returning sunshine of summer:



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InSites

So really, it's always a good time to travel, so when you take your trip often determines where you are going to go. **Thrillist.com** can help you pick destinations for whenever and wherever you want. The travel site's homepage leads off with a collection of teasers that are replaced with fresh content regularly. There's a main

teaser on the left and three smaller ones stacked next to it on the right. Each teaser is a link to an article and consists of a photo, headline and a brief description.

The main feature as I write this is an article about must-visit small towns in each state. There's a brief synopsis of each town and why it's worth visiting. It has photos from some of the towns. I was pleased to see that I have visited the recommended towns in Connecticut, New Jersey and Delaware. Surprisingly, I have not visited, or even heard of, the town in Pennsylvania. It's a little town north of Philadelphia called Ambler that apparently has a lot of culture to enjoy.

The secondary teasers on the home page are about a Beyoncé-themed drink, watching bats leave their roost at night on a bridge in Austin, and the coolest, weirdest and best museums in Nashville. The articles are written in a sort of breezy, informal

style, but they cover the who, what, where, when, why and how basics of journalism.

Below the main teasers is a horizontal slider of city guides. It features 24 big cities in the U.S. from Atlanta to Washington, D.C. Each guide is accessed by a line drawing of the city's skyline. Clicking on the drawing brings you to a page with a robust guide of the city's offerings. They cover places to eat and drink, things to do, places to see, special events and some of the unique offerings of each city.

As you scroll further down the home page there are sections called Eat, featuring restaurants and recipes, Drink, featuring bars and drink recipes, Travel, which has articles on destinations, Watch, which contains articles on cool things to do in cool places, and Thrillist TV, which is a collection of mostly short videos of stunning destinations around the world.

Other sections of the site can be accessed via the navigation bar across the top of the site. The bar features most of the same sections as above, with the addition of a Shop section dedicated to travel gear and accommodations, and a Cannabis section featuring marijuana-themed travel experiences. There's also a couple drop-down menus on the site that connect you with all the sections mentioned, plus a Make Fun section, which is a collection of video recipes, and Thrillist Serves, which lets you buy merchandise, gift cards or even take out from restaurants around the country.

Thrillist is a nicely-designed, easy-to-navigate site with lots of interesting information on many places I'd like to visit.

**KEVIN O'NEILL** is a staff artist for The Times-Tribune. Share your favorite websites with him at [koneill@timesshamrock.com](mailto:koneill@timesshamrock.com).

