



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



Supported by:



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

Germany
The travel destination



www.germany.travel

INTRODUCTION.....	5	UK	31
COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY RESOURCES	8	USA	39
Argentina	8	Worldwide	42
Australia	8	PERSONAL TRAVEL BLOGS	46
Austria	11	GENERAL RESOURCES.....	55
Barbados	12	Useful Planning Websites	55
Belgium.....	12	Websites Promoting Accessible/ Inclusive Tourism	57
Brazil	13	TRAVEL AGENTS, TOUR OPERATORS & COMMERCIAL OPERATORS	62
Canada	13	Australia	62
Croatia	15	Azores	62
Cuba.....	15	Baltics	63
Cyprus	16	Canada	63
Denmark	16	Caribbean	63
Estonia	16	China	63
Europe	16	Costa Rica	63
Finland	16	Cyprus	63
France	16	Czech Republic	64
Germany	18	Ecuador	64
Greece	22	Egypt	64
Hong Kong	22	Ethiopia	64
Hungary	22	France	64
Ireland.....	22	Germany	64
Israel	23	Greece	65
Italy	23	Honduras	65
Japan	24	Hong Kong	65
Korea.....	24	Iceland	65
Malta	25	India	65
Mexico	25	Indonesia	65
Morocco	25	Israel	65
Netherlands	25	Italy	66
New Zealand	25	Kenya	67
Peru	26	Latvia	67
Poland.....	26	Malta	67
Portugal	26	Martinique	67
Romania	26	Mexico	67
San Marino	26	Morocco	67
Serbia	26	Nepal	67
Singapore	26	Netherlands	69
Slovenia	26	New Zealand	69
South Africa	27	Poland	69
Spain.....	27	Portugal	70
Sweden	30		
Switzerland	30		
Taiwan	30		
Thailand	30		

Romania.....	70
Russia	70
South Africa	70
Spain	71
Taiwan	72
Tanzania	72
Thailand	72
Turkey	73
Vietnam	73
UK	73
USA	76
Worldwide.....	77

SPECIALIST SPORTS ORGANISATIONS ... 81

Flying	81
Mountain Sports	81
Sailing	81
Scuba Diving	82
Skydiving	82
Surfing	84
USA	84

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS87

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. 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 are searchable databases of venues and facilities; others 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. This 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 also contain 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, some are outbound and some are both.
- Specialist sports organisations. This is the least comprehensive section – we'd love to add to it if you can lend us your collective wisdom and experience.

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.

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



Female wheelchair-user holding hands with man, Baden-Württemberg
© TMBW/DÜPPER

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 material directly relevant to travellers, the [listing of businesses](#) accredited by the Argentinian Ministry of Tourism for their accessibility may be useful.

AUSTRALIA

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, especially as there are versions powered by ReadSpeaker for the visually impaired.

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 PwDs creating and experiencing art, Arts Access Victoria is the state's leading arts and disability organisation. Includes News and Events tabs.

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](#) shows accessible routes, toilets, telephones, road gradients and accessible entrances to buildings, among other things. Also available as an app: Brisbane Access Map by Touchism.

Can Go Everywhere

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

City of Melbourne

The City of Melbourne disability services page has links to accessible amenities (including downloadable mobility maps), accessible parking, taxis and public transport. The City of Melbourne has also produced an online [map with a mobility filter](#) showing different gradients throughout metropolitan Melbourne in three categories: up to 1:20, up to 1:14 and steeper than 1:14.

City of Port Phillip

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

Clickability

Clickability is an Australian disability service directory that features ratings and reviews from the people who use the services. It covers everything from car and home modifications to nursing care, and holidays to therapists. It currently appears to be in beta format covering only Victoria, but promises to be Australia-wide in the future.

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.

First Stop Transport (New South Wales)

Transport New South Wales' landing page for passengers with access issues: you will find all you need to know about how to use public transport in the state, including a trip planner that has filters for accessible services and to limit the amount of walking you will need to do.

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 PwDs, seniors, their families and carers. Click on 'start search', then 'Out & About' for some very useful links and access reviews.

Lonely Planet

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, [Accessible 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 PwDs. 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.

Public Transport Victoria

Everything you need to know about accessible transport in Victoria. Their Journey Planner has filters for accessible services and stops. Also available as an [app](#), with the same accessibility filters, which can be saved as your preferences – I use it all the time and it's awesome!

Push Adventures

Inclusive tourism consultancy based in South Australia, dedicated to enhancing nature-based and adventure tourism experiences for physically disabled people and their travel companions. Although this is a business-oriented organisation, the [Places to Go](#) tab has some very useful resources if visiting South Australia with restricted mobility or in a wheelchair.

Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

This page has links to various websites that will assist PwDs 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 that 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 extensive and very user-friendly 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 (Queensland)

Official Queensland government Department of Transport site giving all the information you need about accessible public transport in the state.

Visit Victoria

Official Visit Victoria accessible information page, which has been upgraded significantly in the last 12 months to include some useful information and links.

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 is even

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

Salzburg

Official barrier-free guide to Salzburg (multilingual).

BARBADOS

Fully Accessible Barbados

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 PwDs. There's heaps of information on this website covering everything from accessible bathrooms and parking to accessible hotels and restaurants.

BELGIUM

Access-i

This site, covering the French-speaking region of Wallonia, allows you to identify the level of accessibility of a building/venue or event based on on-site audits. They use a simple colour-coded system: green means accessible independently; orange means you should phone ahead; white means an information sheet is available for you to make your own judgement as to the suitability.

On Wheels

Map-based way-finding app showing the location of 24,000-plus wheelchair-accessible venues, toilets, shops and parking 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. Also available in English, French, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish and German.

Visit.Brussels

Brussels works hard to be accessible to all, with elevators in metro stations, tactile paving, audible signals at pedestrian crossings, adapted taxis, and assistance in the metro and on trains. This is the landing page for visitors to Brussels with restricted mobility. You'll find a link to [Brussels for All](#), now celebrating 10 years of providing comprehensive information for visitors to Brussels with access issues, including detailed access information on individual venues using pictograms (in French, Dutch and English).

VisitFlanders

This is one of the tourism bodies setting a fantastic example in promoting accessible travel. A 100-page downloadable guide to the [Flemish Coast, Accessible for All](#), is available in English, French, Dutch and German or in hard copy for free.

Their up-to-date and comprehensive 60-page [Bruges, Accessible for Everyone](#) provides information about museums and attractions, pubs, restaurants, public toilets, tourist information offices, accommodation, care, transport and parking. The handy map, downloadable from the same page, tells you exactly how to avoid obstacles if you have restricted mobility or are a wheelchair-user.

Their 128-page downloadable English-language [accessible day trips brochure](#) is packed with detailed access information useful for wheelchair-users, people with a food allergy, the deaf and hearing-

impaired, the blind and visually impaired, and people with a learning disability.

A **Great War Centenary 2014–2018. Flanders Fields – Accessible to Everyone** is also available in hard copy for free.

A complete list of VisitFlanders' accessible travel publications, including accessible holiday accommodation catalogues and a selection specifically for visually impaired visitors, can be found [here](#).

BRAZIL

Lonely Planet

Lonely Planet sent wheelchair user Emily Rose to write **Accessible Rio de Janeiro** to coincide with the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It includes neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood accessible top tips, where to surf and samba with local disabled people's organisations, and how to explore the lively nightlife scene and take in amazing beach views from Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain). From what to expect when you land and how to avoid the hassle of unexpected barriers, to planning an accessible weekend, this guide has it all. The International Paralympic Committee ordered a consignment of these guides to provide to Paralympic athletes as part of their welcome pack. It's available to the public as a free downloadable e-book.

CANADA

Access to Travel

This website provides information on accessible transport and travel across Canada for PwDs 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 the vast majority 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.

Adaptive Adventures

Established by nonprofit charitable organisation Community Recreational Initiatives Society (CRIS), Adaptive Adventures, based in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, provides adaptive hiking, cycling, paddling, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing day trips.

Lonely Planet's Accessible Travel Online Resources



© TTG/BARBARA NEUMANN



© TMB-FOTOARCHIV/YORCK MAECKE

Top:

Man and woman in wheelchairs with three people on a park bench enjoying the sun in egapark, Erfurt

Middle:

Male wheelchair-user and kneeling woman with Rheinsberg Palace in the background, Brandenburg

Bottom:

Male and female wheelchair-users on the Hamburg waterfront

© HHT/ANDREAS VALLBRACHT



Adaptive Travel

Another initiative of CRIS, Adaptive Travel provides multiday adaptive adventures and camps for individuals and groups across Western Canada and the USA, from remote hiking and kayaking excursions to cycling trips, caving adventures and rock climbing and rappelling.

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.

Société de Transport de Montréal

All you need to know about how PwDs can use public transport in Montréal.

The Accessible Road

Set up and maintained by Kéroul, 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 PwDs can use public transport in Toronto.

CROATIA

Village for All

See entry [below](#).

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 Disabled Peoples' International (DPI), and is probably the best contact for PwDs heading to Cuba.

CYPRUS

Visit Cyprus

Official Visit Cyprus landing page for PwDs. 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 – of everything from ferries to libraries, petrol station to parking – who have joined the Accessibility Label scheme. Caters to disabilities of all kinds, including asthma and/or allergies and reading disabilities. Also covers Iceland. Indispensable for visitors to Denmark who have a disability.

Aarhus Pilot

Set up by [Kirsten Kester](#), this is an accessible guide to Denmark's second city. Although the focus is on wheelchair access, there is also information for people who are sensitive to sound due to migraines or acquired brain injuries. Kirsten gives an overall rating, as well as ratings for wheelchair accessibility and noise level for all sorts of things, from cafes and restaurants to museums and art galleries.

ESTONIA

InvalInfo

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.

FINLAND

Easy to Move (Helppo Liikkua)

Map-based, user-reviewed search engine for accessible places, filterable by type of location as well as life situation – including parents of young children, aged or disabled, but also student, builder and architect! Click on Advanced Search to select 'easy or hard to move' (ie navigate/manoeuvre) (Finnish language).

FRANCE

Handibooking

Accommodation search engine, filterable by type of disability, that

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.

Handycairn

This very user-friendly and extensive searchable database of tourist and leisure activities is filterable by type of disability, region, type of activity and type of accommodation/restaurant/service. What's more, there's detailed access information under each entry. This is the English-language entry point.

Infomobi

Detailed information about public transport in the Île-de-France, the region surrounding Paris, filterable by type of disability – mobility/visual/hearing/cognitive. Also available in French language (of course).

Jaccede

One of the most successful user-generated-content data-gathering organisations, alongside wheelmap.org in Germany, this French database contains some 75,000+ points of

interest, the vast majority of them in France, assessing them for their suitability for people with reduced mobility or visual, auditory or cognitive impairment. Their modus operandi is to hold an event in successive cities to raise public awareness. Also available as an iPhone or Android app.

Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau

ACCESSIBLE PARIS GUIDE

Available in French or English as a soft-copy download or in hard copy from information points on the ground, this brochure provides information useful for people with motor, visual, hearing or cognitive impairments.

Where to Eat Official Paris Info Visitors Bureau eating-out guide for patrons with a disability, helpfully categorised by type of disability: motor, 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 that 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 [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

Nine areas of Germany putting a particular emphasis on developing inclusive tourism infrastructure and information have formed the Association for Barrier-free Destinations in Germany, where you will find information in German, English, Dutch, French and Polish.

Baden-Württemberg

If you're visiting historic southwest Germany, including the Black Forest, with access issues, make this your first stop – there's a search engine for accessible accommodation and a link to a German-language accessible guide to the Black Forest.

Bavaria

Landing page for barrier-free Bavaria, with transport options, accommodation, leisure activities and cultural attractions suitable for people with access issues. Click through to the [journey planner](#) and you can filter your results according to your access needs.

Berlin for the Blind

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

Brandenburg

Brandenburg Tourism's page dedicated to 'handicapped accessible travel', including a downloadable brochure. The Brandenburg Academy of Tourism has created the website [Barrier-Free Brandenburg](#), which provides detailed access information on accommodation, leisure activities and dining venues for people with a variety of impairments, all checked by experts.

Bremen

Information on many of Bremen's public building, art and entertainment venues, restaurants, bars, churches and hotels. There's lots of information here, including a list of accessible toilets. There is the promise of a barrier-free Bremen guide and two maps to assist PwDs, but links to these were not available when we visited the page.

Deutsche Bahn

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

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.

Düsseldorf

Official barrier-free Düsseldorf landing page. There's also a downloadable English-language [Düsseldorf accessible city guide](#).

Frankfurt

Frankfurt's landing page for barrier-free travel, including a downloadable brochure and detailed information about sightseeing attractions and transport.

German National Tourist Board

The German National Tourist Board is putting a great deal of effort and a lot of resources into accessible travel, and certainly leads the world in terms of destination management organisations' commitment to accessible travel. This is their official landing page, with a search engine encompassing 145 destinations and points of interest selected for their exemplary accessibility. There are also links to two downloadable brochures: the 54-page *Enjoy with Ease* and the 24-page *Barrier-Free Tourism in Germany*. Both of these are essential reading if travelling to Germany with a disability or access issues.

Enjoy with Ease is packed full of practical information for PwDs about transport and points of interest, but also has links at the back to useful companies and organisations, as well as to the regional tourism management organisations' accessible tourism pages.

Barrier-Free Tourism in Germany is more of a manifesto, documenting Germany's

commitment to ensuring access for all tourists, but still contains a great deal of useful information as well as descriptions of and links to different regions of the country.

Hamburg

German-language barrier-free Hamburg Tourism page packed full of useful information for visitors with disabilities. There are links to separate pages for blind people, deaf people or wheelchair-users. If you type in 'barrier free' to the search engine on the main English-language **Hamburg Tourism page**, a list of 63 accessible hotels and facilities is returned – you could probably try this on any official German tourism board site!

Hesse

Accessible travel page for this central German state that includes Frankfurt, with links to different locations and experiences.

Lower Saxony

Accessible travel page for this northern German state bordering the Netherlands. Follow the links for more information look out for the 'accessibility certified' tick.

*TOP TRAVEL TIP

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

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



© TMGS/SYLVIO DITTRICH

© AÍCHA NYSTRÖM, WWW.TAPOOZTRAVEL.COM



Top:

Man and woman with guide canes in Dresden with Frauenkirche in the background

Bottom:

Female wheelchair-user reaching up to touch colourful Chinese paper dragon

With Wind, Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Accessible travel page for this northern German state that borders the Baltic Sea. There doesn't appear to be a great deal of information apart from a list of wheelchair-accessible piers, breakwaters and beaches on the Baltic Sea. However, you are invited to contact the tourism body for further assistance.

Mobidat

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

Munich

Official Munich tourism page for accessible travel with tonnes of valuable information available either online or in PDF format. Covers everything from travel preparations to transport, accommodation, sites and eating out. Click advanced options on the official [Munich journey planner](#) for a full list of accessibility filters, from pushchairs through to ramp-equipped vehicles.

Rhineland-Palatinate

Accessible travel page for this southwestern German state bordering France. There's not a lot of detailed information on this page, but navigate to the individual regions on the top left of the page and scroll down to the bottom of the page for accessible packages and information about accessibility of establishments in each region.

Saxony for All

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

Thuringia

Accessible travel page for this central eastern German state. Again, there is little information on the homepage, but click through to individual locations and venues and you will find detailed accessibility information, including pictograms.

Travelable Berlin

Travelable is a project of the nonprofit organisation Sozialhelden, the organisation behind Wheelmap. Accessible Berlin, presented on this page, provides PwDs with detailed travel and tourist information collected, edited and updated in cooperation with local stakeholders presented under a number of well-considered categories. (Bilingual German and English site.)

VisitBerlin

A very useful landing page with links to lists of accessible hotels and events in Berlin, as well as to separate pages for people with visual impairments and/or hearing impairments and people with restricted mobility.

Wheelmap

This is almost certainly the largest database of accessible locations in the world (640,000 and counting), 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.

HUNGARY

We Love Budapest

No less than a mini accessible Budapest guide for people with reduced mobility, with comprehensive information about transport around the city as well as information about major tourist sites and the city's numerous festivals, and lists of accessible restaurants, cafes and bars.

IRELAND

Access Earth

User-reviewed map-based database with grand ambitions! The majority of establishments reviewed – everything from cafes and restaurants, through

hotels and shops to entertainment venues and even places of study – 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.

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.

Dublin Airport

Information for PwDs using Dublin Airport; although the page is entitled 'Reduced Mobility', there is also information useful for the vision- and hearing-impaired. Importantly, this page gives contact details for the Access Officer should you require additional assistance.

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.

Mobility Mojo

Search engine for accessible places and transport in Dublin with quite detailed access information on each reviewed venue. Venues are geo-located on a map. Also available as an app.

Wheelchair Travellers

Relatively new user-review website, with a handful of hotels and a solitary pub in Ireland reviewed by the site founder, Paul Colley. Includes detailed access information and photographs.

ISRAEL

Access Israel

Links to information on accessible trips, leisure activities, transport, rental equipment and accommodation, as well as to commercial tour operators.

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) put together these itineraries with detailed access information.

ITALY

Accessible Tourism

The cooperative Florence Planet provides very useful and detailed access information on places of interest and public transport in Florence and Siena. As a partner of **Village for All**, they have also accredited a handful of hotels in the region. See also the **entry** under tour operators.

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 **below**.

HandySuperabile

This Italian social enterprise aims to improve the accessibility of tourism services in Italy and abroad, and provide validated information to travellers with special needs: motor and sensory disabilities, food allergies, dialysis, elderly and families with children. They offer members discounted accessible holidays in Italy and around the world through their partners.

Tourism without Barriers

Searchable database of accessible attractions and accommodation throughout Tuscany. Also features suggested itineraries, and an extensive list of 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, B&Bs and farm stays in Italy (Italian language). Kudos to the web designer for making this site highly accessible. Includes a few listings in Slovenia and San Marino. (English translations are not complete.)

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), and 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 An extremely useful list of accessible, partially accessible and inaccessible museums in Florence, with access information for those museums that are accessible.

Art for the Visually Impaired A short article focusing on access to 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 and an excellent series of videos, not to mention a great list of essential Japanese phrases for PwDs travelling in Japan.

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 Japanese PwDs, 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.

Odigo

This Japan-based trip-planning website has put together a Tokyo daytrip for wheelchair users that you can view online or download as a PDF.

Wheelchair-Accessible Tokyo

Short but informative article about public transport in Tokyo. Don't miss the accessible Tokyo daytrip link at the bottom of the page.

KOREA

Accessible Korea

Founded in 2007 by wheelchair-user and seasoned traveller Seoyoon Jane Hong, this website is slowly building up content and progressively translating its information into English. There is currently information about travel and transport for PwDs and access information for a dozen major tourist

sites. This is not a commercial site, but the volunteer administrators can provide advice for travellers and introduce them to local travel agents and tour operators. There's a lot more information on the associated blog, [Travel with Wheels](#), but you need to read Korean as Google translate doesn't seem to work on this site!

Visit Seoul

Official tourism office landing page, giving travel tips for PwDs visiting Korea. Provides a little more detailed information on transport around the capital, but nothing about the accessibility of tourist sites.

MALTA

Visit Malta

The official tourism body provides very scant information on this page, despite a declared intention by the government to promote and invest in accessible tourism.

MEXICO

All Accessible (Todo Accessible)

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

MOROCCO

Native Hotels

See [below](#).

NETHERLANDS

Accessible Utrecht

Searchable database of accessible buildings in Utrecht, including public buildings as well as pubs, restaurants

and cafes etc. Sadly, only the homepage and Find a building links appear to be functional.

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.

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.

Weka

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.

PERU

Accessible Peru

On this page of the Accessible Peru website, a wide-ranging Peruvian disability blog, is a list of accessible places. There's also a downloadable PDF about accessibility in Lima. (All Spanish-language.)

POLAND

Tourism for All

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

PORTUGAL

Native Hotels

See [below](#).

Visit Portugal

Scant information about accessibility in Portugal from the official tourism body. Sadly, the link to www.portugalaccessivel.com, featured in our previous edition and containing a lot more information, has expired.

ROMANIA

Motivation Romania Foundation

This nonprofit NGO, established in 1995 to support Romanians with disabilities, maintains a searchable, map-based database of accessible venues. Click on 'EN' – the direct link to the English-language page doesn't appear to be working.

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](#).

SERBIA

Serbian Railways

Information for PwDs.

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

Ljubljana

The City of Ljubljana paired up with UK organisation DisabledGo to produce an [online access guide](#). The city has also produced an [informative video](#) about its accessibility.

Slovenian Tourist Board

Accessible tourism landing page from the Slovenian Tourist Board.

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

Searchable guide produced by Valencia Tourism for PwDs, covering hotels, restaurants, leisure facilities, sites and transport. (Spanish language.)

Accessible Info

Searchable database of accessible facilities of all kinds in Spain, including tourist accommodation. Participating venues pay an annual fee for a seal of approval (differing categories are awarded) following an on-site audit. (Spanish-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 that has all the information you need to know, as befits a city in the vanguard of promoting inclusive tourism: a search engine for accessible places of interest and accommodation, how to get around the city on public transport and links to organisations offering tours and adaptive sports.

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 Accessible

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

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



© YOKO WHYTE, MISSAPPLEHEART.TUMBR.COM



© HHT/ANDREAS VALLBRACHT

© HHT/ANDREAS VALLBRACHT



© TMN



Top:

Male wheelchair-user in front of the Taj Mahal

Middle Left:

Man and woman signing to each other in Hamburg

Middle Right:

Male wheelchair-user and female companion in a beach chair, Lower Saxony

Bottom:

Man and woman with guide canes crossing the street in Hamburg

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.

Málaga

Themed accessible itineraries produced by the City of Málaga, including cultural, commercial, botanical and monuments. (Spanish-language, but illustrated with numerous photographs.)

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 language).

Spain-holiday.com

BARCELONA

A short guide to this accessible tourism Mecca.

MÁLAGA

An overview of Málaga's 'Accessible Agenda' and the city's accessibility.

TENERIFE

A short accessible guide to this Spanish resort island.

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 Accesible

Information about accessible transport and leisure activities on the largest of Spain's Canary Islands in English, German and Spanish, together with a map-based search engine for accessible places, put together by SINPROMI (Society for the Promotion of Disabled Persons). There's also a downloadable 72-page English-language [guide](#).

The municipality of Arona, in the southern part of the island, also published a detailed 80-page accessible [guide](#) in 2009.

Tenerife Blue Badge Mobility

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

TUR4AI

Database of more than 2400 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 5109 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 – the 'official' website of Taiwan Access for All Association. Using Google translate, the 'Wiki Shenghuoziliao library' tab is particularly useful for reviews of accessible venues under [Accessible Taiwan](#). See also [entry](#) under tour operators.

Taiwan Access for All 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. You can post travel enquiries, equipment rental and transport requests. Their commercial arm is [Sunable](#).

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 and beach access. Some kind soul created this with My Google Maps – thank you!

Thaizer

This article is a good general introduction for PwDs 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 London Theatre

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

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 assist-Mi smartphone app is not just for travellers. It uses location-based technology and two-way messaging to connect PwDs 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 great 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).

Check My Bus

Informative article on the accessibility of long-distance coaches in the UK and, to a lesser extent, Europe on this site that allows you to search for coaches between cities.

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; and 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 type 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](#) and [A Disabled-Friendly Guide to London](#). For other destination guides produced by DisabledGo, click on the [Places to Go](#) tab and navigate via the right-hand menu.

They recently partnered with [Attitude Is Everything](#), an organisation dedicated to improving PwDs' access to live music, to produce a database of detailed accessible information to [music venues](#) across the UK.

There's also a 'useful links' tab that's worth a look.

Euan's Guide

Fast-growing, UK-based database of user-reviewed accessible venues. Also available as an iPhone or Android app. We partnered with them to produce our two Scottish festival guides: [Accessible Edinburgh: A Festival Guide](#) and [Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide](#).

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 the 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 VisitEngland 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 guide, with dozens of listings containing detailed access information.

Inclusive Britain

Searchable database of accessible UK venues, covering everything from hotels to tourist attractions and restaurants to toilets 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, and filterable by disability. Also available as an app.

Lonely Planet

This is the Travel for All page on www.lonelyplanet.com, where there is an introduction to the Travel for All project, as well as a series of articles related to accessible travel, including our top 10 accessible destinations for 2015.

BRIGHTON

A collaboration between Lonely Planet, UMOJA and [The Fed Centre for Independent Living](#), a local disabled people's organisation, [Accessible Brighton: A Festival Guide](#) is the first in a series of guides we are publishing to five festival cities in the UK. In addition to access information for all the major festivals, there are detailed access reviews for all major tourist sites, comprehensive transport information for PwDs, and LP reviews of eating,

drinking and entertainment venues supplemented by detailed access information. There's also access reviews of the top three accessible hotels in the city, plus links to full, detailed access reviews for others on the [UMOJA](#) website. All books in this series are available as free downloadable PDFs.

EDINBURGH

[Accessible Edinburgh: A Festival Guide](#) is the second in our festival guide series, covering the UK's most celebrated festival city, produced in collaboration with [UMOJA](#) and [Euan's Guide](#).

GLASGOW

[Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide](#) is the third in our festival guide series, covering Scotland's second city, also renowned for its great festivals. Produced in collaboration with [UMOJA](#) and [Euan's Guide](#).

National Rail

Main accessibility page for National Rail, UK. See also [Travel Assistance](#) for further information, primarily for UK residents, including a link to book for assisted travel.

National Trust

The National Trust Visitors with Disabilities page.

Peak District

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

Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (Rica)

Comprehensive overview of accessible public transport in the UK for people

with a variety of impairments, with useful links and tips.

Rivertime Boat Trust

Registered charity providing boat trips between Windsor and Oxford for PwDs and disadvantaged people on a purpose-designed 42-foot boat equipped with a ramp and lift for wheelchairs and an accessible toilet. As befits a charity, the cost is incredibly reasonable – so much so that it belongs here rather than in the commercial section of this document.

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 6th 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 to digital technology and travel demonstrates 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 Fed Centre for Independent Living

This Brighton & Hove charity has produced a very detailed accessible city guide from its members user reviews. You can search venues by category or alphabetically, filtering by neighbourhood. We partner with them to produce our [Accessible Brighton: A Festival Guide](#).

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, also maintains her own [personal travel blog](#).

Lonely Planet's Accessible Travel Online Resources



© AÍCHA NYSTRÖM, WWW.TAPOOZTRAVEL.COM



© VISITENGLAND/VISITBRITAIN/PAWEŁ LIBERA

© VISITFLANDERS/KRIS JACOBS



© VISITFLANDERS



Top:

Three wheelchair-users on Alcatraz Island

Middle Left:

Porter helps wheelchair-user into an accessible black cab outside the Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Canary Wharf, London

Middle Right:

Couple pushing daughter in a wheelchair, Antwerp

Bottom:

Female with guide cane and female companion exploring Talbot House, Poperinge, Belgium

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, such as when lifts (elevators) are out of order.

Transport Scotland

Everything you need to know about accessible transport in Scotland.

Travel in Scotland

Links to 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.)

Tryb4uFly

This registered charity runs an awesome program that allows disabled adults and children to try out the products used in aircraft in a realistic and supportive environment so that they can make

informed choices, as well as to give them the experience and confidence to travel by air. They operate from centres in Carshalton, Surrey and Leeds. They also offer a travel equipment hire service for destinations within the UK and, by arrangement, the EU.

UK Airport Car Parks

Useful information for any PwDs who want to park their car at any UK airport.

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 that loans wheelchairs.

VisitBirmingham

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 VisitEngland in its [Access for All](#) project.

VisitBrighton

Accessibility information from the official tourism guide to Brighton, a city that 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'. VisitBrighton kindly provided images for our [Accessible Brighton: A Festival Guide](#).

VisitBritain

A high-level guide to Britain for PwDs.

VisitEngland

The tourism bodies in the UK took the opportunity of London hosting the Olympics in 2012 to put significant resources into developing accessible tourism. VisitEngland is now a world leader in helping English destinations and tourism venues provide accessible experiences. The national tourism body provides **tips and ideas on accessible travel** for people with accessibility requirements. Under their **Access for All** project, VisitEngland has recently produced downloadable PDFs for accessible coastal breaks, accessible countryside escapes and accessible city breaks, and a guide containing award-winning accessible places to stay and visit from across the country. There is also information on the National Accessible Scheme, which rates the accessibility of visitor accommodation, giving disabled travellers peace of mind when booking.

VisitLincoln

Guide to accessible Lincoln, covering transport, accommodation, attractions, and eating and drinking, produced under the VisitEngland **Access for All** initiative.

VisitLondon

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.

VisitScotland

The official tourism body used the 2014 Commonwealth Games as

an opportunity to ramp up their commitment to accessible travel. This accessible tourism landing page lists 11 accessible accommodation providers. VisitScotland kindly provided images for both our Scottish festival guides: **Accessible Edinburgh: A Festival Guide** and **Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide**.

VisitWales

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 accessible tourism 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 PwDs, no matter the 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.

Yes4Access

A directory of wheelchair-accessible holiday properties, all with accessible bathrooms, filterable by type of holiday, type of accommodation and many other categories; also geo-located. There are some 100 properties listed in the UK and half a dozen in the rest of Europe.

USA

Ableroad

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

Access Map (Seattle)

The AccessMap project is an effort to enable accessible sidewalk trip planning in Seattle for people with limited mobility. It's still in beta mode, but they seem to have much of the city pretty well covered.

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 Travel Reviews

US-based website containing travel reviews by and for PwDs and their families, grouped by places to go, places to stay, places to eat and ways to get there. The majority of geo-located reviews – with a simple five-star rating for overall quality and physical accessibility plus text reviews of varying length and detail – are clustered in the northeast United States, with a handful as far away as Europe. Also features a list of useful websites and books under the Other Resources tab.

Accessible Vans of America

Offers nationwide wheelchair-accessible van rentals.

Autism on the Seas

Information about cruises for adults and families living with autism, Down syndrome and similar disabilities, with booking services in collaboration with Royal Caribbean International.

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.

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council

County-by-county transport information and services for people 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.

***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.

Greyhound

Greyhound bus' information page for PwDs – 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).

Johnny's Pass

User-reviewed database (star system) helping the mobility-challenged community to find accessible venues of all types in Michigan, filterable by type of venue, location and keyword.

Muscular Dystrophy Association

This MDA page hosts links to the disability support pages for the top 12 American airlines – very handy! There's also a link to a toll-free hotline for air travellers with disabilities and a summary of passenger rights and the obligations of airlines.

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 [here](#).

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 [here](#).

The Disabled Foodie

David Friedman is a foodie who uses a wheelchair living in New York City on a

one-man mission to rate every eatery he visits in terms of its adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Most of the restaurants he has reviewed are in NYC, but there are some scattered down the east coast as far afield as Puerto Rico. Not only does he give detailed access reviews, but he also posts photos.

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 PwDs 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.

Trivago

The indefatigable Cory Lee Woodard has teamed up with Trivago to produce accessible guides to the following cities:

CHICAGO

ORLANDO

LOS ANGELES

WASHINGTON DC

Wheelchair-Accessible Taxi Cab

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

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

AbleThrive

Curated content from around the world about all aspects of living with a disability. The Sports and Travel tabs contain interesting and useful stories.

Access Now

Map-based user-review website established in August 2015, now with some 7000 venues reviewed according to a simple traffic-light system: accessible, partially accessible and not accessible (with a handful of 'patio access only' designations), the vast majority of which are in Toronto, but with some as far afield as Europe, Australia and South Africa. Although there is the facility to leave a text review, it appears to be unused. Also features a blog page.

Getaboutable

User-reviewed database of accessible venues and activities, searchable by disability, type of listing or location.

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.

Paratransit Watch

Blog and jaw-droppingly broad-ranging directory of wheelchair-accessible and assisted ambulatory community transport. Although the majority of entries relate to the USA, there are several other countries covered: scroll to the bottom of the home screen for the full list of 'labels', including state, country and type of transportation.

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 swaths of the world unrepresented. Note that icons can be present but 'unconfirmed'.

When We Travel...

US-based site that has some really handy lists of information for wheelchair-users. Click on the different categories in the left-hand menu, and you'll find a wheelchair-accessible filter.

WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE CAMPGROUNDS AND RV PARKS

The wheelchair-accessible RV parks listed on this page and in the following locations are campgrounds where the public facilities like showers and restrooms are wheelchair-accessible. Search by destination (eight different countries), price, setting, maximum stay, amenities and more.

WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE BED AND BREAKFAST INNS

The wheelchair-accessible bed and breakfast inns listed on this page and in the following locations have at least one room that is wheelchair-accessible. You can browse the inns by clicking on a destination. Search by location (about two dozen countries), price range, amenities and more.

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

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



Wheelchair and mobility scooter meet-up in front of Dresden Zwinger, Saxony

© TMGS/SYLVIO DITTRICH

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

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 & Vacations

Blog maintained by wheelchair-user Alan Vuong from Calgary, Canada. Most entries are in North America, with one article covering his trip to Machu Picchu and another to Dubai.

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**.

Accessible Travel Reviews

US-based site hosting travel reviews by and for PwDs. 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 Matters

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

AccessiTrip

Blog maintained by Irina Martinez from Valencia who has travelled with a disabled relative and operated an

accessible travel agency for a couple of years. Her informative and detailed blog, including very useful photographs, covers her home in Valencia, plus Alicante, Rotterdam and a cruise on the Norwegian Jade.

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.

Bourne Accessible

Blog maintained by wheelchair-user Jeff Bourne documenting the accessibility of numerous places in his native British Columbia in both words and pictures.

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.

Carrie-Ann's Travel Blog

Tourism for All UK's Carrie-Ann Lightley's frequently updated personal travel blog.

Curb Free with Cory Lee

Prolific and well-travelled wheelchair blogger Cory Lee Woodard maintains this entertaining and informative site that whets the appetite for travel. Tips and tricks, and interviews with other PWDs 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! She has recently set up **Arhus Pilot**, an accessible guide to Denmark's second city.

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**, 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 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.

Look at All Poor People

Blog by BAFTA-winning TV producer and wheelchair-user James Ballardie recounting his 15-month round-the-world trip with his girlfriend. I was lucky enough to meet James and his long-suffering girlfriend, Sam, when they passed through Melbourne. He is as witty and droll as his blog would suggest – a highly entertaining and informative read!

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



© VISITFLANDERS

© VISITFLANDERS/KRIS JACOBS



Top:

Woman pushing male wheelchair-user in front of Gravensteen (Castle of the Counts), Ghent

Bottom:

Woman with a guide cane touching a tombstone at the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium

Lost Abound

Two-year account of the adventures of Australian wheelchair-user Jerome and his British girlfriend Jess they travel through 30-odd countries in their 1994 Toyota Land Cruiser.

Martyn Sibley

Disability Horizons (online UK magazine) and Accomable cofounder, Martyn Sibley, recently set up his own website, much of which is devoted to his travels around the world.

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 PwDs, 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.

Rouletes et Sac-à-Dos (Wheels and a Backpack)

French-language blog maintained by well-travelled wheelchair-user Audrey Barbaud 'to show that disability and travel are not incompatible' and to share information so that others have the confidence to travel despite their disability. She encourages questions and suggestions and is active on social media.

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-

*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.

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.

Simply Emma

Emma, from Scotland, is a wheelchair-user due to a muscle-wasting condition and maintains a lifestyle blog because 'I want my disability to be seen in a positive way rather than a burden'. She has a passion for travel and shares her travel tips, and wheelchair-access reviews on attractions, music venues and holiday destinations in the hope that it might inspire others to start travelling.

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 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').

The Geordie Traveller

Anthony is on a mission to be the first wheelchair-user to visit every country in the world! This is his blog, covering

Europe, Asia and Australasia so far. There's also a page of guest blogs.

The World on Wheels

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

TrailRider Tales

David Stratton (together with John Kenwright of Parks Victoria) was instrumental in bringing the TrailRider – 'a one-wheeled cross between a wheelbarrow and sedan chair' from Canada, where it was developed, to Australia. This innovative piece of equipment allows wheelchair users with the assistance of 'sherpas' to access trails where wheelchairs are unable to go. This is his blog, replete with words, pictures and videos.

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.

Travels with Pain

Liz Hamill, author of Moon guides to California, also suffers from chronic pain and bladder disease. In her personal blog, she aims to help travellers with hidden disabilities explore the world, providing practical advice derived from her personal and experiences.

Trip Buzz

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

Viaggiare per Tutti (Travel for All)

Blog maintained by Domenico to inspire people with a permanent or temporary disability to travel more. Covers destinations in Italy, but also in other parts of Europe (Italian language).

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).

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.

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>

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



Female wheelchair-user looking up at the statue of the Knight Roland, Bremen marketplace

© LEA KLEINSPEHN/BTZ BREMER TOURISTIK-ZENTRALE

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 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](#).

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.

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.

Disabled Travel Guide

Although not exactly the 'comprehensive' guide it claims to be, this is a good starting point for planning a trip if you have a disability or you are travelling with someone with a disability. It steps you through the different areas you need to think about when planning your trip and picks its top 20 disability-friendly cities.

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 *Traveller's Handbook* for people with epilepsy.

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

*TOP TRAVEL TIP

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

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 PwDs 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.

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 PwDs, 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 (2006–07) 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.

Rolling Rains

The world's best-known and highly respected accessible-travel guru, the late 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. Scott's passing is a huge blow to the accessible travel sector.

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](#)) 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](#), a commercial stock image library featuring models with disabilities.

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>

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



Woman pushing male wheelchair-user outside the Oude Vismijn (Old Fishmarket), Ghent
© VISITFLANDERS/KRIS JACOBS

Travel Agents, Tour Operators & Commercial Operators

AUSTRALIA

Access Holidays

Travel agent specialising in small group tours for PwDs both domestic and international.

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 run by the knowledgeable, enthusiastic and affable Peter Negri.

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.

Leisure Options

Travel agent specialising in local, national and international holidays for individuals and groups with physical and

cognitive disabilities; can also arrange additional assistance and personal care for those who need it.

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!

AZORES

Azores for All

Inbound tour operator specialising in inclusive tourism to this group of nine volcanic islands in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean (an autonomous region of Portugal), including active, cultural and nature-based holidays.

BALTICS

Accessible Baltics

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

CANADA

Access Revolution

Primarily a business-oriented organisation, providing consulting services, this 'social-impact business' also host events and day trips for private groups. Focusing on hiking and paddling adventures in British Columbia, they are committed to enhancing opportunities for people of all abilities to experience nature. Check out the Adaptive Recreation BC tab under Resources for a list of the many organisations they have partnered with that offer outdoor recreation opportunities in the province.

Accessible Travel

Outbound travel agent and tour operator servicing a host of destinations. Despite the name, this company also seems to offer mainstream travel services. The site also features accessible travel tips and a blog.

Rocky Mountain Wheelchair Tours

Specialist in customised accessible tours for groups or individuals with particular physical, audio, visual or cognitive needs 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 that requires sherpas and allows access to places where regular wheelchairs cannot go.

FRANCE

Adaptour

Outbound travel agent offering customised individual tours worldwide. They claim to have visited and approved all accommodation and services that they offer.

Anaé

Established 60 years ago by the Scouts and Guides of France, this nonprofit is dedicated to enhancing opportunities for PwDs to engage in outdoors sport and recreation. They offer accessible and supported holidays and accommodation in three different destinations, from snow-covered mountains to the seaside.

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.

HONG KONG

Diamond Cab

This (social) private enterprise provides safe and reasonably priced 24/7 wheelchair-accessible transport around Hong Kong in their seven wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

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.

INDIA

Access 4 All

Touts itself as the only wheelchair-accessible van service in Mumbai.

Planet Abled

Inbound tour operator specialising in accessible travel. Full marks for the

accessible website, but the links under Book Your Tours were not working when we visited.

UMOJA

This 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 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. Lonely Planet has partnered with them to produce a series of accessible UK festival city guides.

INDONESIA

Accessible Indonesia

A new inbound travel agent that welcomes clients with 'any kind of disability'.

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

Inbound tour operator 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.

SmarTrip

Inbound tour operator that has worked with PwDs since its establishment to provide a variety of accessible tours using their own adapted vehicle. Caters to speakers of many different languages.

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.

Accessible Tourism

The cooperative Florence Planet is an inbound tour operator in Florence and Tuscany specialising in tours for people with physical and visual impairments. They also offer adapted transport (as partner of Hertz) and rental of mobility aids. See also the [entry](#) under Italy.

Gondolas 4 All

Wheelchair-user visiting Venice? Here's a company that will enable you to experience the city iconic mode of transport.

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 PwDs 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.

Termetour

Inbound travel agent and tour operator offering a variety of accessible tours in Tuscany, including tactile tours with audio guides for the blind and partially sighted. They can also arrange rental cars with hand controls, wheelchair-accessible vans with a driver, adaptive sporting activities, nursing assistance and personal care, and rental of mobility equipment.

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.

KENYA

Fika Safaris

Tailored safaris and beach holidays in Kenya and Tanzania for people with limited mobility, with accessible accommodation, wheelchair-adapted vehicle and mobility equipment hire. Assisted travel and medical services are also available.

LATVIA

Accessible Latvia

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

MALTA

Accessible Malta

UK-based travel agent specialising in accessible holidays in Malta, providing flights and transfers as well as excursions and a variety of accommodation types.

MARTINIQUE

Martinique Access'île

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 PwDs and/or special needs, as well as 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

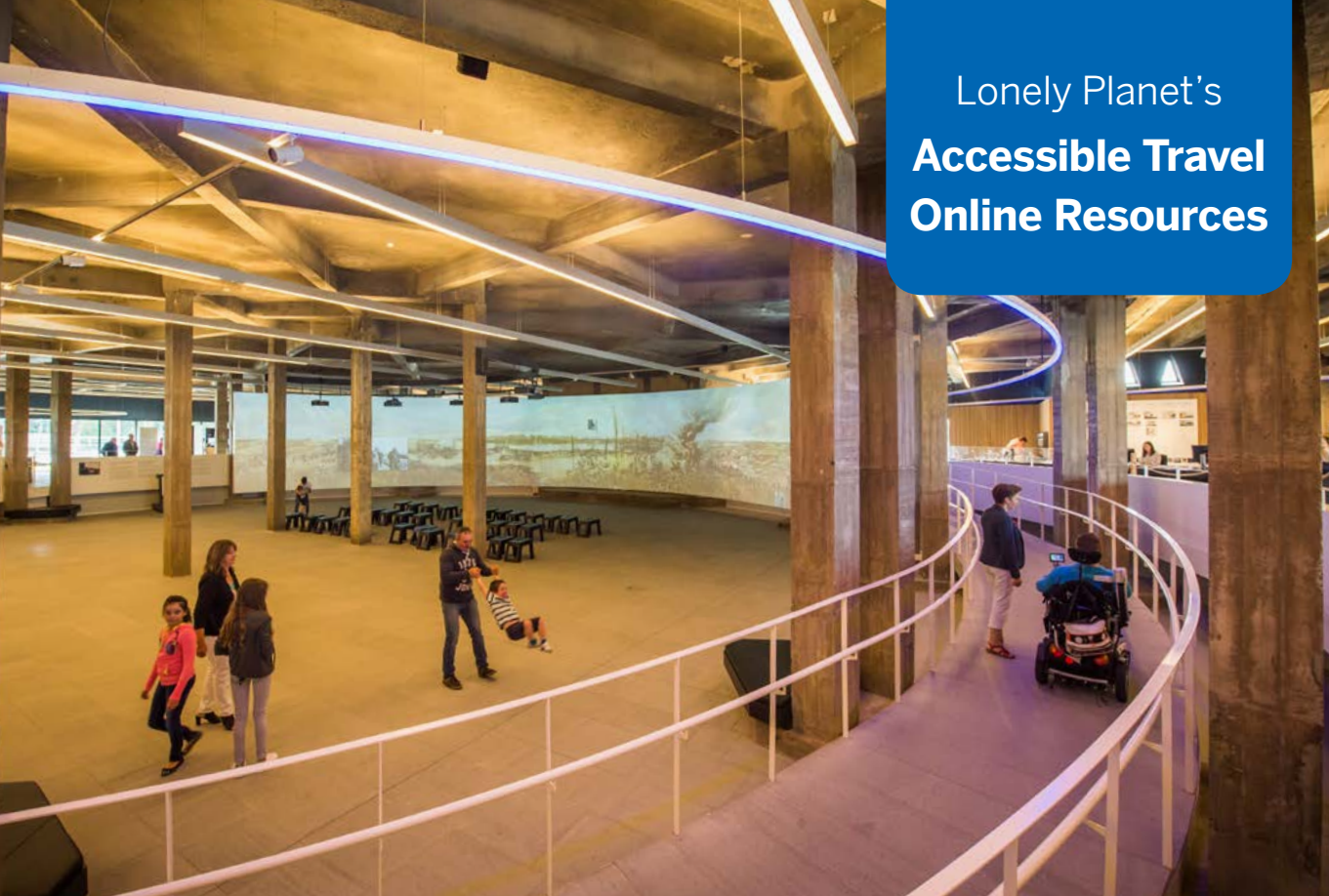
Multilingual tour guide offering accessible tours in Morocco. Having had polio, and still using braces and crutches, El Houssaine Ichen has first-hand experience of travelling with a disability.

NEPAL

Accessible Himalayas

This nonprofit 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.

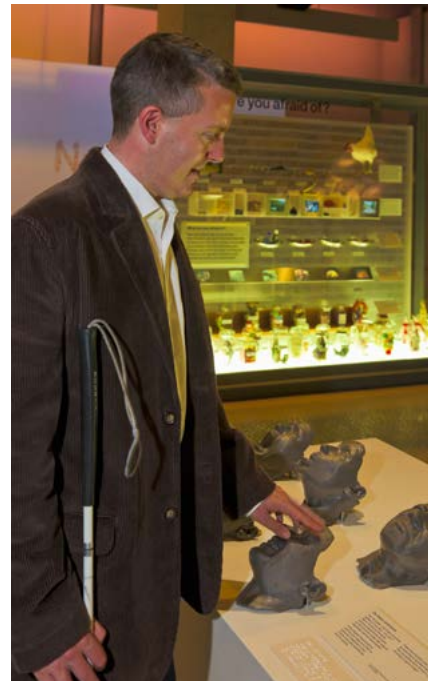
Lonely Planet's Accessible Travel Online Resources



© VISITFLANDERS/KRIS JACOBS

© VISITENGLAND/VISITBRITAIN/
PAWEL LIBERA

© VISITFLANDERS/KRIS JACOBS



Top:

Male wheelchair-user exploring the Westfront Nieuwpoort visitor centre, Belgium

Bottom Left:

Male and female members of staff at the STAM (Ghent City Museum) giving a sign-language guided tour to a female visitor

Bottom Right:

Man with a guide cane touching an exhibit at the Science Museum, London

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](#).

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](#). There's also an informative [blog](#).

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.

Accessible New Zealand

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

Freedom Mobility

New Zealand's largest mobility vehicle rental company offering an extensive range of more than 100 modified cars and vans for disabled drivers and disabled passengers. They provide for vehicle instruction on all driving and disability equipment, as well as 24-hour telephone assistance and free road service cover.

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.

Oyster Accessible Travel

Travel agent specialising in travel and tours for domestic and international travellers with mobility needs. You can book accommodation, activities and transport as well as hire equipment. What makes this site different is the great, detailed access information given for many of the tourist attractions and bookable accommodation. Don't miss the informative blog and useful local links tabs. This site aspires to be an accessible travel resource, not simply a commercial provider.

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.

Madeira4All

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

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

RUSSIA

Accessible Russia

First company in Russia specialising in tours for PwDs 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.

Travel with Renè

Quadriplegic Renè Moses offers various tours in South Africa, including a whale-watching tour (September/October). She specialises in providing wheelchair-accessible transport and transfers, and touts herself as the only company in South Africa hiring self-drive wheelchair-accessible vans.

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.

Bask for All

Inbound travel agent specialising in customised tours in the San Sebastián/Basque area, including cultural and culinary options as well as adaptive sports (golf, sailing, surfing).

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 Andalucía, and mobility equipment hire.

Olé Tours

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

Touradapt

Inbound travel agent offering vacation packages and tours, from cruises to camping, tailored to different types of disability.

Travel for All

Inbound and outbound travel agent and tour operator offering a wide variety of accessible tours and adventurous activities, including adaptive surfing, sailing, abseiling and horse riding for the blind and otherwise disabled.

TAIWAN

Sunable

A commercial arm of [Taiwan Access for All Association](#), 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**. There's also an informative [blog](#).

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.

Thailande Handicap

Longtime resident and wheelchair-user offers wheelchair-accessible guest rooms in Chang Mai, as well as a great deal of practical information about wheelchair travel in Thailand on this website (French language).

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.

Saigon Buddy Tours

Here's a novel idea: accessible motorbike tours around Ho Chi Minh City in southern Vietnam. In addition to their original discovery tour, they also run street food and craft beer tours, as well as customised tours. Their website claims that all 'buddies' speak fluent English; photos show manual wheelchairs strapped on the back of the motorbikes! This sounds like a really cool idea if you're game...

UK

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 hoists and slings.

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.

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.

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.

All Clear Travel Insurance

Many travel insurance companies won't insure you with a pre-existing medical condition; this company specifically caters for precisely this market.

Altogether Travel

Supported holidays arranged worldwide for older people, individuals with physical or learning disabilities, those with dementia or 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.

Disabled Access Holidays

UK-based operator offering a variety of holidays for PwDs (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.

***TOP TRAVEL TIP**

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

Disabled Holiday Directory

Inbound and outbound accessible holiday specialist that arranges holiday packages, as well as 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.

Disabled Holidays

Inbound and outbound accessible holiday specialist with a wide variety of holiday types in many countries, also offering mobility equipment hire, adapted transfers and travel insurance for PWDs.

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 Holiday Shop

Essentially an accessible holiday home-booking site where you rent properties directly from the owner – or list your own. Although UK-based, and there are properties listed from all around the world.

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 with Help

Established by a group of British Red Cross Society members, this registered charity 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.

Your Companion

This company provides a travel/holiday companion service to elderly, frail or disabled people who need assistance, support and company during their trip. Services offered range from assistance and advice with bookings to 24-hour support during a trip, including assistance with washing, bathing and dressing.

USA

Abeon Travel

Travel agent with particular experience and expertise in families travelling with special-needs children, particularly on the autism spectrum. They've also published three books for parents planning to travel with special-needs kids.

Ability Travel Network

Online booking engine specifically for PwDs 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 holiday 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 holidays and package land tours for PwDs 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.

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.

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? They've recently begun diversifying to other parts of the USA, as well as now organising adaptive cycling trips to the Netherlands, and tours to Spain and Scandinavia.

Wheelchair Getaways

Company that rents wheelchair- and scooter-accessible vans in almost every city in the USA.

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.

Wilderness Inquiry

Founded in 1978, this nonprofit adventure travel organisation believes in 'access, inclusion and opportunity' and arranges nature- and activity-based holidays all around the world

for PwDs. Their activities encompass sea kayaking, canoeing, rafting, hiking, safaris and dogsledding in countries as far afield as New Zealand and Tanzania, as well as their home country.

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.

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

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



Woman reading Braille information panel, Bruges

© VISITFLANDERS/KRIS JACOBS

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 also for all mountain activities for PwDs. 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

Blind Sailing International

This organisation associated with World Sailing (ISAF), the world governing body for sailing, is 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 blind and visually impaired people 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*. The *Tenacious* is currently based in Australia and New Zealand, while the *Lord Nelson* will be in Canada in 2017.

Sailability

Nonprofit, volunteer-based, worldwide organisation committed to providing opportunities for many disadvantaged

groups, including PwDs, to sail. This page gives links to associated organisations worldwide, with the exception of New Zealand, which can be found [here](#). 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.

Sailors with Disabilities

SWD is an Australian nonprofit organisation that uses sailing as a tool to build confidence, self-esteem and new relationships for PwDs, as well as the socially disadvantaged. They provide free sailing and training programs for PwDs, disadvantaged children and adults, and their carers.

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 programs 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 and Miami.

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.

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



© VISITFLANDERS/KRIS JACOBS

© VISITFLANDERS/KRIS JACOBS



Top:
Three hand cyclists on a leafy country lane in Heuvelland, Flanders

Bottom:
Two hand cyclists passing through farmland in Heuvelland, Flanders

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

Access Surf

This Hawaiian nonprofit, celebrating its 10th back anniversary, provides community-based programs for anyone with a physical or cognitive disability to enjoy water-based activities – not just surfing, but also swimming, kayaking and paddling.

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.

Surfability UK

This community interest company – profits are reinvested to develop

methods and purchase equipment to enhance the program – was founded in 2013 to offer PwDs and their carers the opportunity to participate safely in this sport using tandem surfboards, surfing helmets, buoyancy aids and beach access wheelchairs. It also uses iPads with communication software and instructions in pictures in simple formats to ensure participants with learning difficulties are able to understand and respond appropriately.

USA

Achieve Tahoe

Formerly known as Disabled Sports USA Far West, established in 1967 and based in North Lake Tahoe, this organisation seeks to provide affordable adaptive sports and recreational activities for PwDs.

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 PwDs. Click on the 'chapters' tab to find a local affiliated organisation.

Life Rolls On

Founded by world champion quadriplegic surfer Jesse Billauer in 2001, Life Rolls On is a nonprofit organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life for young people affected

by spinal cord injury. The organisation hosts numerous adaptive surfing and skating events in multiple states. Spaces are limited so book early.

Maine Adaptive

Founded in 1982, this nonprofit organisation provides a variety of programs for PwDs to participate in both winter (skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing) and summer (golf, cycling, hiking, tennis, fishing and paddling) outdoor activities.

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.

New England Disabled Sports

New England Disabled Sports (NEDS) is a nonprofit organisation (a chapter of Disabled Sports USA) founded in 1987 that provides adaptive summer and winter sports instruction to adults and children living with physical and

cognitive disabilities. Headquartered at Loon Mountain Ski Resort in Lincoln, NH, and at the Bretton Woods Ski Resort at Omni Mount Washington Resort, NEDS also runs a unique Pre-Adaptive Coach (PAC) training program for high-school-age volunteers interested in learning how to become a coach to students with disabilities.

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.

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.

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



Wheelchair-user on a guided tour of the Royal Gallery, Houses of Parliament, London

© VISITENGLAND/LUKE ROGERS

Acknowledgements

THIS BOOK

This 2nd edition of Lonely Planet's *Accessible Travel Online Resources* was produced by the following:

Compiled by Martin Heng

Designer Wibowo Rusli

Proofreader Pete Cruttenden

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

Thanks to Brendan Dempsey, Barbara Di Castro, Ryan Evans, Liz Heynes, Andi Jones, Jaci Langford and Lyahna Spencer (Lonely Planet); Olaf Schlieper (German National Tourist Board); Pieter Ghijsels (VisitFlanders); Ross Calladine (VisitEngland).

Special thanks to Yoko Whyte for being a wonderful travel companion on my round-the-world trip in 2014.

Cover photograph

City Palace, Jaipur

© Yoko Whyte, missappleheart.tumblr.com

Internal photographs

Page 7

Female wheelchair-user holding hands with man, Baden-Württemberg

© TMBW/Düpper

Page 14

Top

Man and woman in wheelchairs with three people on a park bench enjoying the sun in egapark, Erfurt

© TTG/Barbara Neumann

Middle

Male wheelchair-user and kneeling woman with Rheinsberg Palace in the background, Brandenburg

© TMB-Fotoarchiv/Yorck Maecke

Bottom

Male and female wheelchair-users on the Hamburg waterfront

© HHT/Andreas Vallbracht

Page 20

Top

Man and woman with guide canes in Dresden with Frauenkirche in the background

© TMGS/Sylvio Dittrich

Bottom

Female wheelchair-user reaching up to touch colourful Chinese paper dragon *With Wind*, Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz

© Aïcha Nyström, www.tapooztravel.com

Page 28

Top

Male wheelchair-user in front of the Taj Mahal

© Yoko Whyte, missappleheart.tumblr.com

Middle left

Man and woman signing to each other in Hamburg

© HHT/Andreas Vallbracht

Middle right

Male wheelchair-user and female companion in a beach chair, Lower Saxony

© TMN

Bottom

Man and woman with guide canes crossing the street in Hamburg

© HHT/Andreas Vallbracht

Page 36**Top**

Three wheelchair-users on Alcatraz Island

© Aïcha Nyström, www.tapooztravel.com

Middle left

Porter helps wheelchair-user into an accessible black cab outside the Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Canary Wharf, London

© VisitEngland/VisitBritain/Pawel Libera

Middle right

Couple pushing daughter in a wheelchair, Antwerp

© VisitFlanders, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

Bottom

Female with guide cane and female companion exploring Talbot House, Poperinge, Belgium

© VisitFlanders/Kris Jacobs, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

Page 45

Wheelchair and mobility scooter meet-up in front of Dresden Zwinger, Saxony

© TMGS/Sylvio Dittrich

Page 49**Top**

Woman pushing male wheelchair-user in front of Gravensteen (Castle of the Counts), Ghent

© VisitFlanders, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

Bottom

Woman with a guide cane touching a tombstone at the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium

© VisitFlanders/Kris Jacobs, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

Page 54

Female wheelchair-user looking up at the statue of the Knight Roland, Bremen marketplace

© Lea Kleinspehn/BTZ Bremer Touristik-Zentrale

Page 61

Woman pushing male wheelchair-user outside the Oude Vismijn (Old Fishmarket), Ghent

© VisitFlanders/Kris Jacobs, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

Page 68**Top**

Male wheelchair-user exploring the Westfront Nieuwpoort visitor centre, Belgium

© VisitFlanders/Kris Jacobs, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

Bottom left

Male and female members of staff at the STAM (Ghent City Museum) giving a sign-language guided tour to a female visitor

© VisitFlanders/Kris Jacobs, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

Bottom right

Man with a guide cane touching an exhibit at the Science Museum, London

© VisitEngland/VisitBritain/Pawel Libera

Page 80

Woman reading Braille information panel, Bruges

© VisitFlanders/Kris Jacobs, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

Page 83

Top

Three hand cyclists on a leafy country lane in Heuvelland, Flanders

© VisitFlanders/Kris Jacobs, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

Bottom

Two hand cyclists passing through farmland in Heuvelland, Flanders

© VisitFlanders/Kris Jacobs, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

Page 86

Wheelchair-user on a guided tour of the Royal Gallery, Houses of Parliament, London

© VisitEngland/Luke Rogers

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

2nd edition – Sep 2016

ISBN 978 1 76034 444 3

© *Lonely Planet* 2016

Photographs © as indicated 2016

Lonely Planet Global Inc is the publisher. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise and no part of this publication may be sold or hired, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of the publisher and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. The publisher does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, including but not limited to retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: lonelyplanet.com/ip.

Although the publisher and its authors have taken all reasonable care in preparing this publication, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and advise users that the publication contains views and recommendations of third parties which may or may not reflect the views of the publisher. To the maximum extent permitted, the publisher disclaims all liability arising from its use.