

# Hotels.com, Expedia to now offer amenities for disabled travelers

August 19, 11:46 AM · Joe D'Aquisto - Tucson World Travel Examiner



Now travelers with disabilities will have more options

Thanks to the pursuance of two disabled women, Hotels.com and Expedia.com will now redesign their online booking process so those with disabilities can reserve rooms with accessible options. Previously Hotels.com would not guarantee availability when patrons requested wheel-chair accessible rooms. Disabled travelers had no way of knowing whether the room would be available until after they had reached their destination hotel.

The two women who filed the lawsuit in California were represented by Public Justice ([www.publicjustice.net](http://www.publicjustice.net)), based in DC. Public Justice is a national public interest law firm that is widely known for representing civil, environmental, consumer and detainee rights. Bonnie Lewkowicz and Judith Smith, both in wheelchairs stated that disabled travelers very rarely have a chance to get the same low price deals as other travelers since their needs can't be met. Lewkowicz and Smith are members of AXIS Dance Company, a non-profit organization of professional dancers both with and without disabilities.

Now Hotels.com and Expedia.com will publish information regarding their hotel's accessible features and will ensure these accommodations can be guaranteed to be booked online. Information will include whether or not the hotel has features such as: Wide doorways, grab bars, accessible bathrooms, visual or hearing impaired features like Braille signage or text telephones. The additional web site information is expected to be available before the end of this year.

Disabled travelers spend billions of dollars every year and now that Hotels.com and Expedia.com are offering these new services, expect their revenue to increase. You can also expect other travel sites to adopt this new policy.

For more information on this Lawsuit navigate: [www.publicjustice.net](http://www.publicjustice.net) and navigate to the Civil Rights & Liberties Case Index

*Copyright 2009 Examiner.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

**Author**



Joe D'Aquisto is an Examiner from Tucson. You can see Joe's articles at:  
["http://www.Examiner.com/x-14096-Tucson-World-Travel-Examiner"](http://www.Examiner.com/x-14096-Tucson-World-Travel-Examiner)