

June 2014

The 2014 Traveler's Road to Decision



think with Google™

Background and methodology

Google commissioned Ipsos MediaCT, an independent marketing research company, to conduct a travel-tracking study to better understand the role of the internet in making travel-related decisions. The current report reflects the total sixth wave of this research.

Respondents completed a 20-minute A&U survey focused on travel habits and attitudes. If qualified, respondents were routed to one of five deep dive sections: Airline, Cruise, Lodgings, Car Rental, and Vacation Packages.

Interviews were conducted from May 12 to June 4, 2014, yielding a total sample of 5,000 consumers (3,500 personal and 1,500 business) who have traveled at least once for personal reasons (or a minimum of three times for business purposes) in the past six months. Also interviewed were 1,500 affluent (\$250k+ household income) individuals who has traveled for personal reasons in the past six months.

To qualify, respondents had to be 21–64, live in the U.S., have no sensitive industry employment, go online at least once per month, and have some involvement in their personal/business travel decisions.



Inspiration



Research



Mobile



TV & Video



Family Travel



Inspiration

Travelers rely on social/video/photo sites and search engines for trip inspiration

Travelers agree that they turn to the web **early on** in the travel process

I generally begin researching online before I decide where or how I want to travel.

Leisure
65%

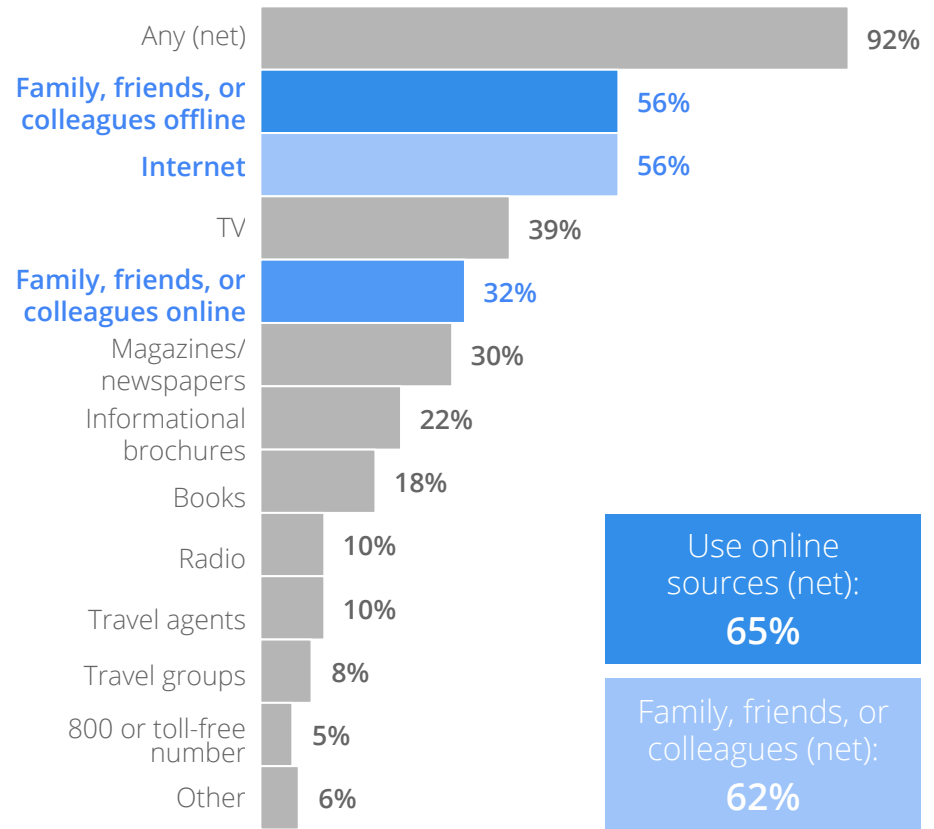


Business
69%

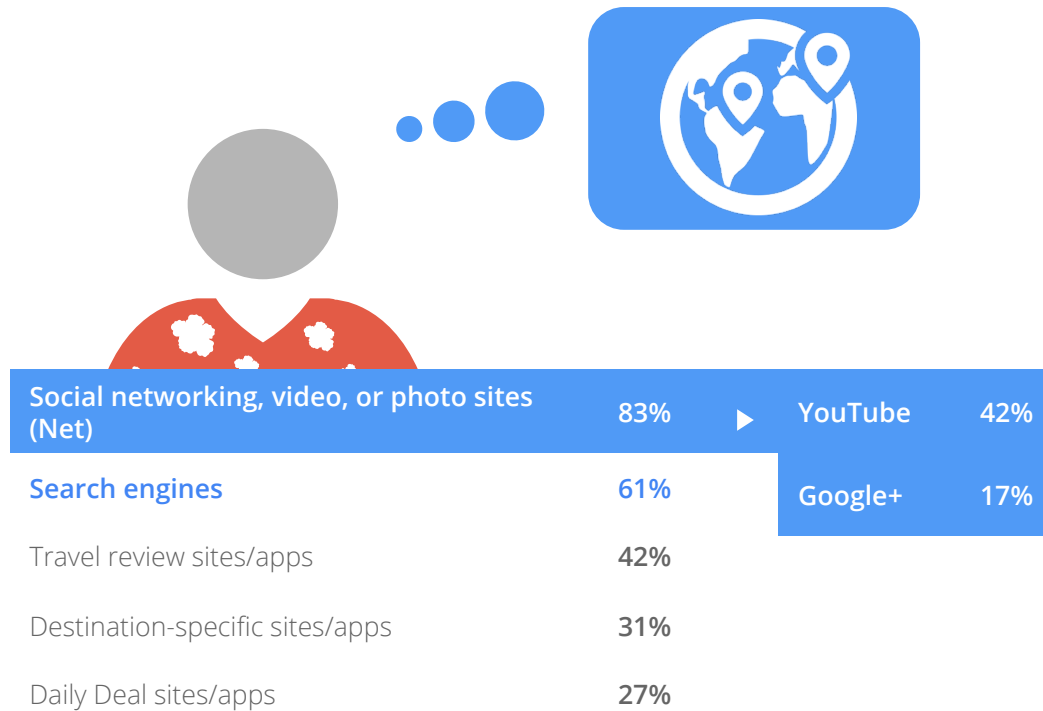
Friends/family and online sources are critical to travel inspiration



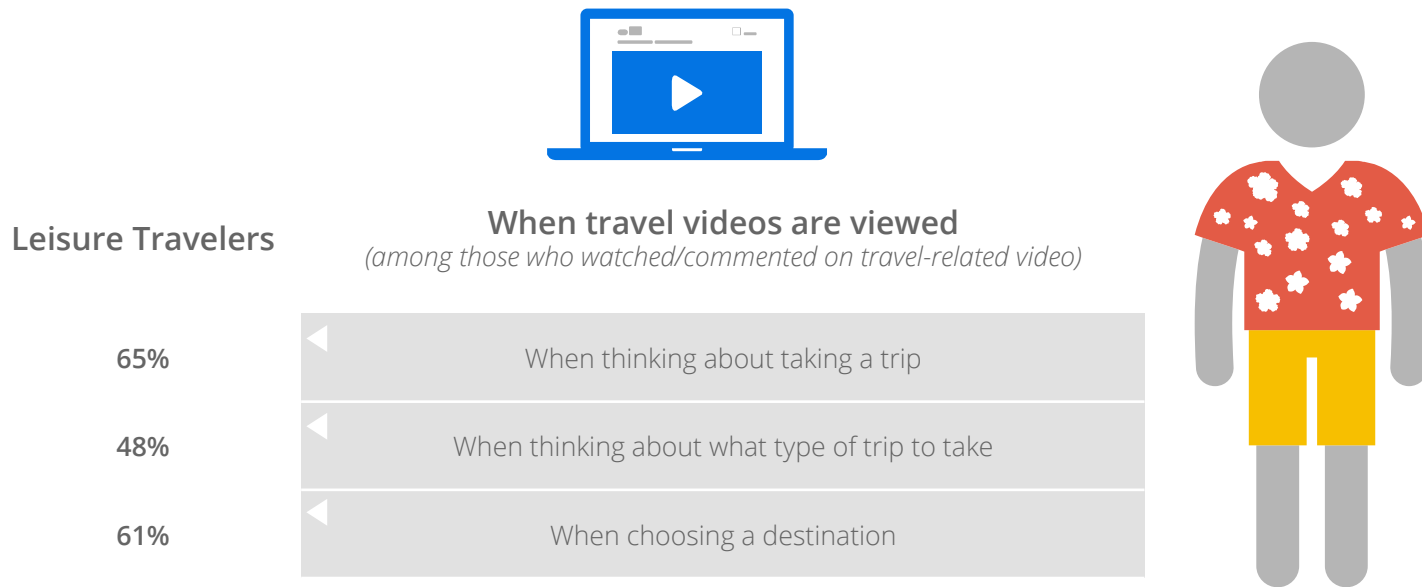
SOURCES OF INSPIRATION (LEISURE TRAVEL)



Search engines and YouTube are **top online sources of inspiration**



Online travel videos are **influential in early stages**





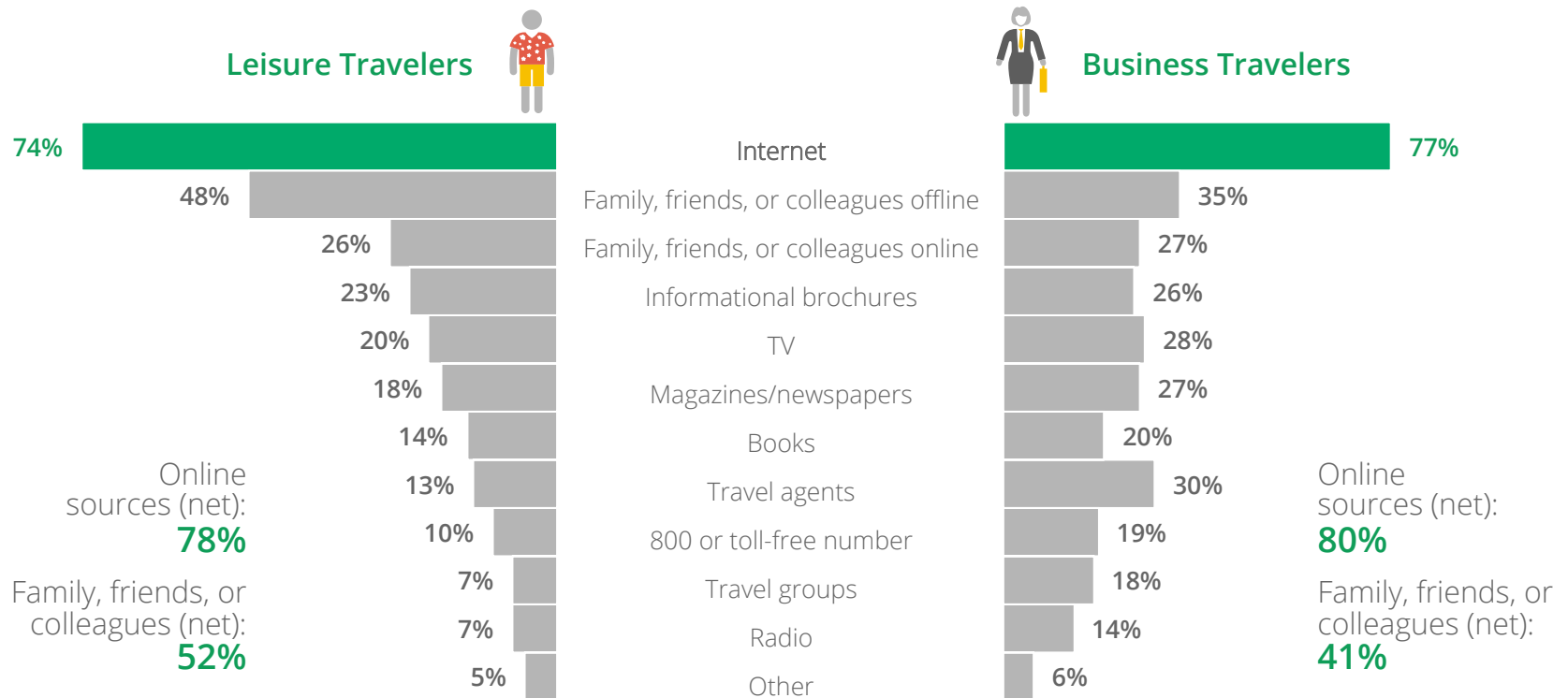
Research: Digital is key

The path to purchase is still complex, and traveler search activity is intensifying



The internet is the top source for both leisure and business travel planning

TRAVEL PLANNING SOURCES



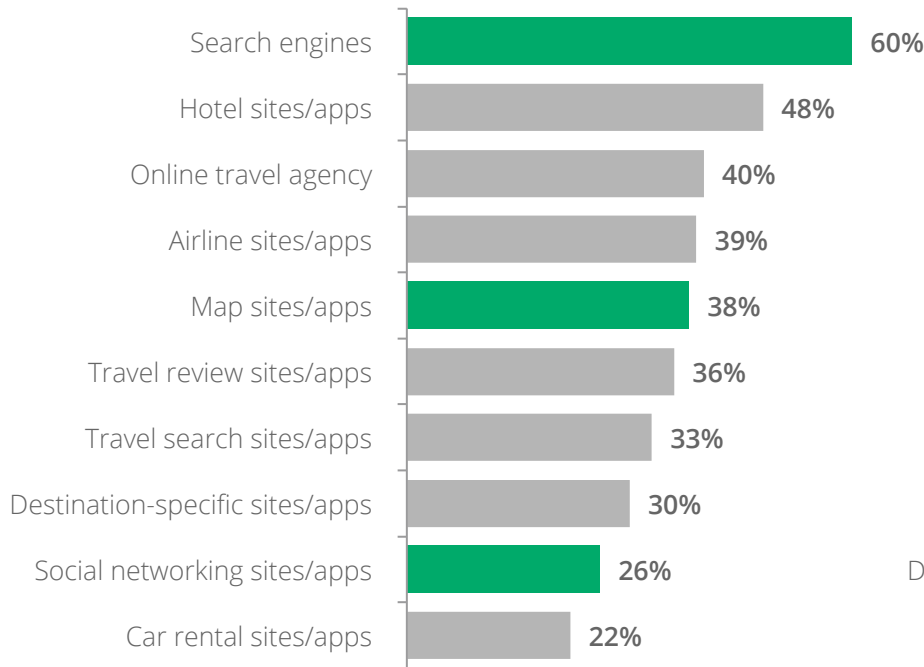
Base: Personal quota (n=3500); Business quota (n=1500)
 Q7: Which of the following sources do you typically use to plan personal or leisure trips/business trips? (Select ALL that apply.)
 Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

Search engines are among the **most popular online planning sources for travelers**, particularly among leisure travelers

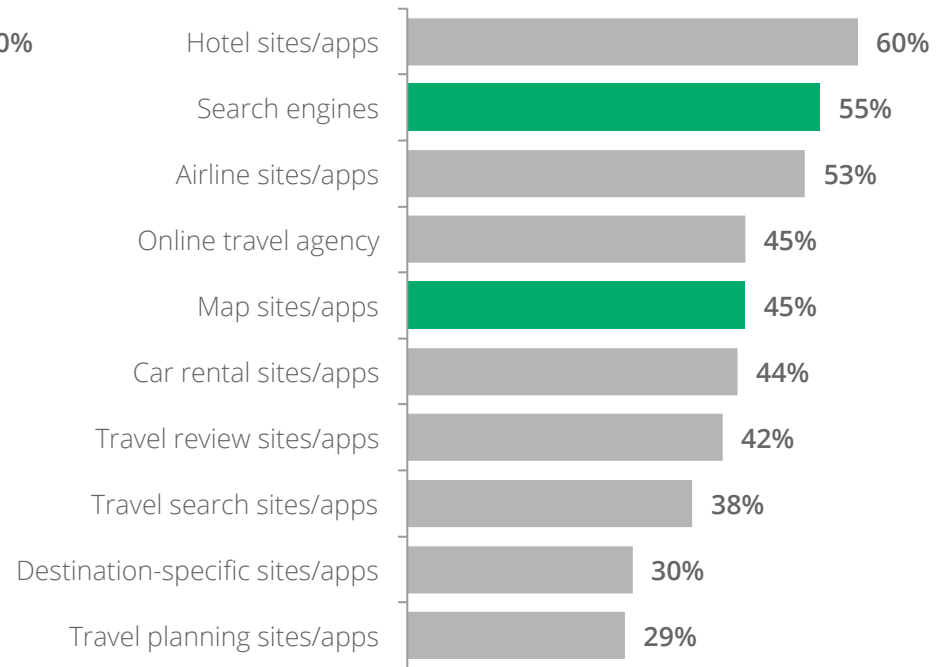
TOP 10 ONLINE SOURCES USED IN TRAVEL PLANNING



Leisure Travelers



Business Travelers



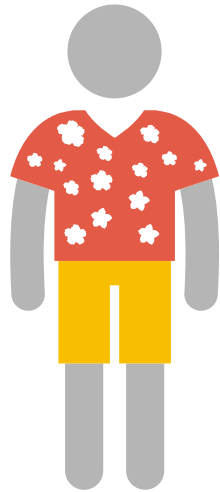
Base: Use internet to plan travel (Personal n=2734, Business n=1199)

Q10: Which of the following online sources do you typically use to plan personal or leisure trips/business trips? (Select ALL that apply.)

Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT



Leisure
57%



Business
64%







I always start my travel booking and shopping process with Search.

Base: Total Respondents (Personal n=3500; Business n=1500) Q21: Here are some (more) statements that may or may not describe your attitudes and opinions related to travel. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement. [IF BUSINESS TRAVELER: Please think of all types of travel, including personal or leisure (non-business related) or business trips.] (Select ONE for each statement.)

Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

Leisure travelers are increasingly **turning to search engines first** vs. brand sites/apps for online trip planning

SITE/APP* WHERE LEISURE TRAVELERS TYPICALLY *FIRST START* ONLINE TRAVEL PLANNING

Top 2		2014	2013
Car Rental 	Brand sites/apps	38%	44%
	Search engines	24%	16%
Air travel 	Brand sites/apps	45%	49%
	Search engines	18%	13%
Overnight accommodations 	Brand sites/apps	31%	37%
	Search engines	26%	18%
Cruises 	Brand sites/apps	36%	36%
	Search engines	19%	14%



Note: brand sites/apps = airline/hotel/car/cruise sites/apps

Base: Personal Quota who OTAs, search engines, airline/hotel/cruise/car sites, travel review sites, destination sites, online video sites, social networking sites or daily deal sites to plan trips (floating base) Q10e: When looking for information on the following for your personal or leisure trips, where do you typically first start your online travel planning? (Select ONE for each)

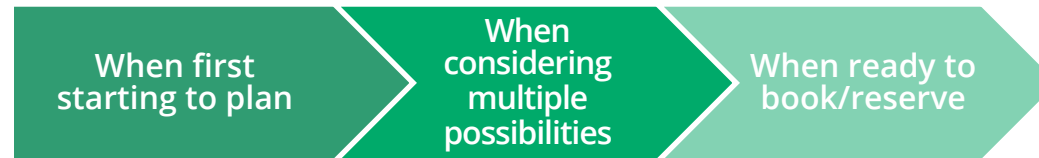
* In 2013, sources were referred to as "sites", while in 2014, sources were referred to as "sites/apps"

Source: Google Travel Study, Waves 4, 5, and 6, April to May 2012 and May to June 2013, 2014, Ipsos MediaCT



Travelers rely on **generic and branded searches** across planning stages

SEARCH TERMS THAT LEISURE TRAVELERS USE IN PLANNING



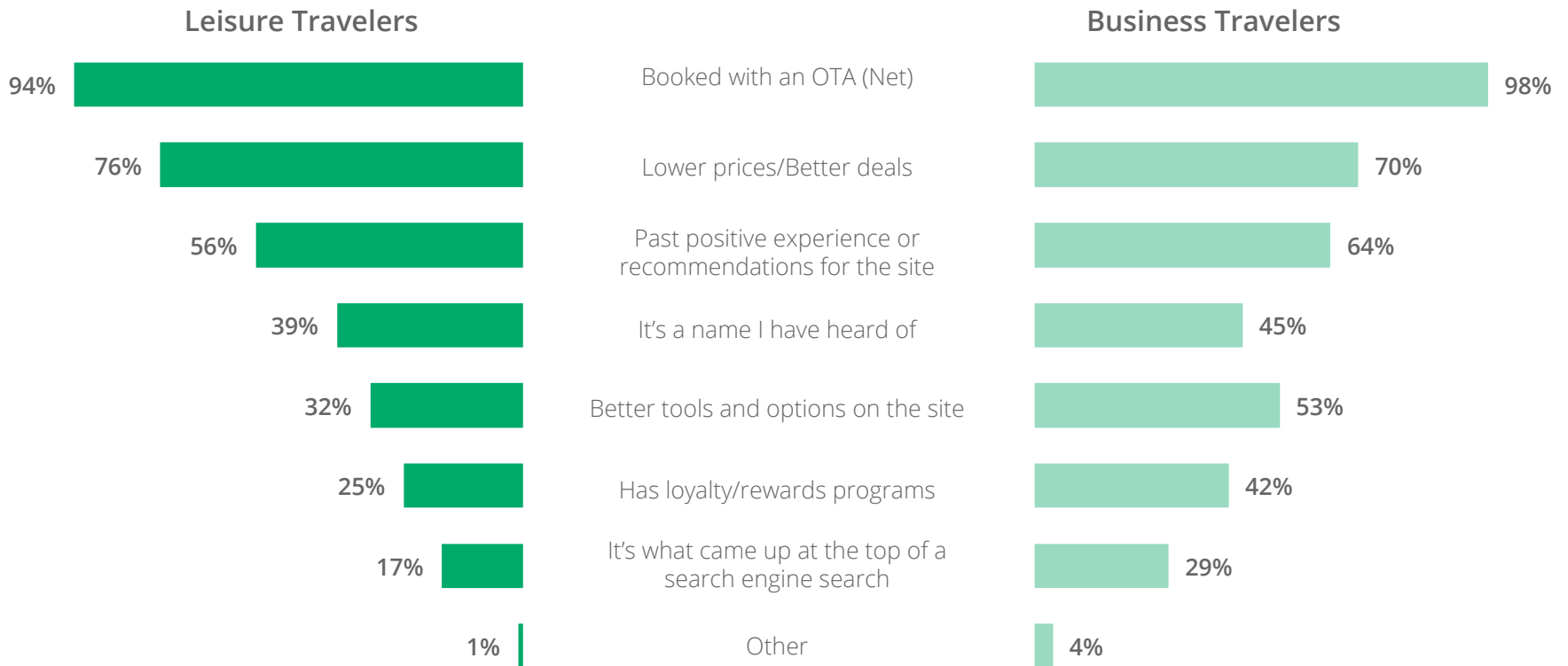
	When first starting to plan	When considering multiple possibilities	When ready to book/reserve
Destination-related terms	51%	48%	20%
Price-related terms	41%	49%	23%
Specific brand or website names	31%	48%	30%
Activity-related terms	36%	49%	20%
Terms related to specific needs or wants	32%	43%	22%



Base: Used search engines to plan trips (Personal travelers n=1634) RESEARCH3: You mentioned you use search engines (e.g., Google, Bing, Yahoo!) to plan your personal or leisure trips. At what point do you typically type in these different kinds of words and phrases in search engines like Google, Bing and Yahoo!? (Select ALL that apply for each keyword.)
 Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

One in three leisure travelers and one in two business travelers select an **OTA for its superior site tools and options**

REASONS FOR BOOKING ON SPECIFIC ONLINE TRAVEL AGENCY SITES/APPS



Base: Use OTAs for travel planning (Personal n=1099; Business n=540)

RESEARCH4: You mentioned you use online travel agency sites/apps (e.g., Expedia, Travelocity, Priceline, Orbitz) to plan your personal or leisure trips / business trips. If you booked any component of your trips with online travel agency sites/apps, for which reasons did you choose the specific online travel agency site(s)/app(s) (e.g., Expedia, Travelocity, Priceline, Orbitz)? (Select ALL that apply.)

Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

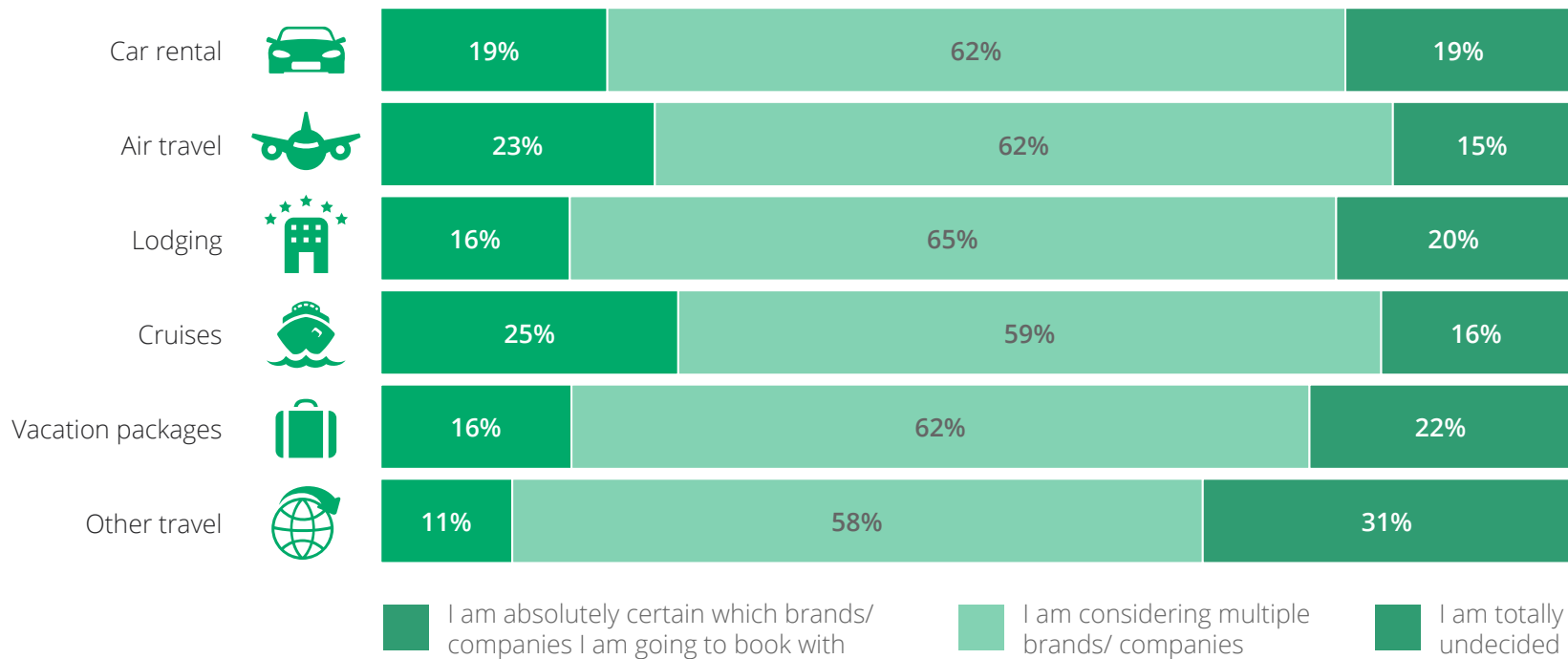


Research: A brand opportunity

Most travelers are undecided about which brand to book with and how brands are differentiated

Many leisure travelers go into planning **undecided** on a brand

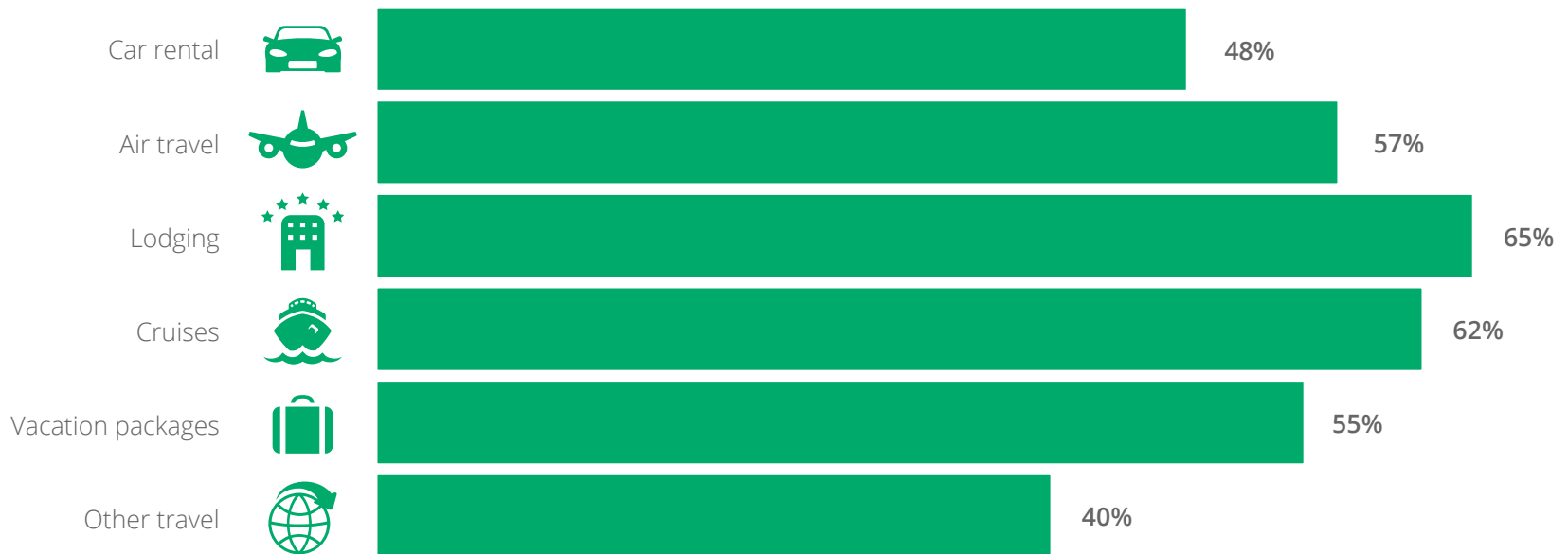
CERTAINTY OF SPECIFIC BRAND/COMPANY TO USE
(among leisure travelers)



Base: Personal quota and component included in trip in past six months (Cruises n=614; Air travel n=1923; Car rental n=1440; Vacation packages n=1052; Lodging n=2717; Other travel n=3500). RESEARCH1: When you first begin looking for information for your personal or leisure trips, typically how certain are you about the specific company/brand you want to book with before you begin researching? (Select ONE for each component.) Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

Many leisure travelers are also **unclear about the differences** among brands

PERCEIVED DIFFERENCE AMONG BRANDS (T2B*)
(among leisure travelers)



Heavy business travelers are more likely to see a difference, but not substantially more

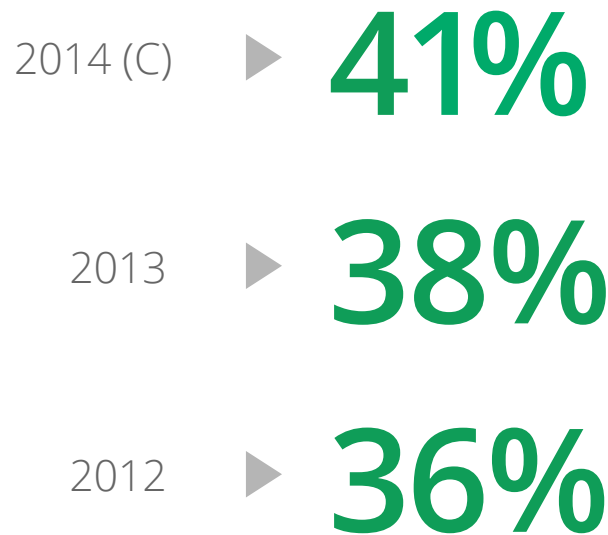


***Top 2 box on a five-point scale:**
5 = I see a clear difference
...
1 = I see no difference

Base: Personal quota and component included in trip in past six months (Cruises n=614; Air travel n=1923; Car rental n=1440; Vacation packages n=1052; Lodging n=2717; Other travel n=3500). RESEARCH2. And, thinking beyond price, which of the following best describes your perceptions of the companies/brands providing services for each component? (Select ONE for each component.)
Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

Loyalty influence declining for business travelers, who are normally among the most loyal

I am less likely to plan business travel based on loyalty programs or points in [current year] than I was in [prior year]



2 in 3 business travelers (67%) are open to trying new loyalty programs if they provide a new, different, or unique experience

Base: Business Quota (2014 n=1500; 2013 n=1500; 2012 n=1495)

Q26: Using the scale below, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about traveling for business purposes in the next year. (Select ONE for each statement.) Letter indicates a significant difference from comparable group at the 95% confidence level. Only significant differences from 2014 are noted.

Source: Google Travel Study, Waves 4, 5, and 6, April to May 2012 and May to June 2013, 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

Travelers would switch to programs with **better perks** and **easier path to rewards**



Personal travelers

Business travelers

Affluent travelers

Reasons for switching to a different loyalty/rewards program

Personal travelers	Business travelers	Affluent travelers	Reasons for switching to a different loyalty/rewards program
88%	93%	92%	Would switch for any reason (net)
54%	55%	65%	Better perks
52%	54%	65%	Faster/easier to earn free flights, hotels rooms, rental cars, etc.
31%	40%	33%	Exclusive benefits
27%	34%	36%	Larger network/multiple routes or locations
26%	34%	34%	Ability to leverage points with other specific companies/partner hotels
13%	21%	10%	Personalized recommendations either pre-trip or during trip
4%	4%	3%	Other

Base: Loyalty/reward program members (Personal n=2364, Business n=1346);
 Affluent travelers who are loyalty/reward program members (n=1422)
 LOY7: For which reason(s) would you switch to or try a different loyalty/rewards program? (Select ALL that apply.)
 Source: Google Travel Study, May to June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT



Multi-screen activities

Travelers extend their activities from desktops and tablets to smartphones across all stages



Smartphones are used throughout the travel process



Leisure Travelers

Business Travelers

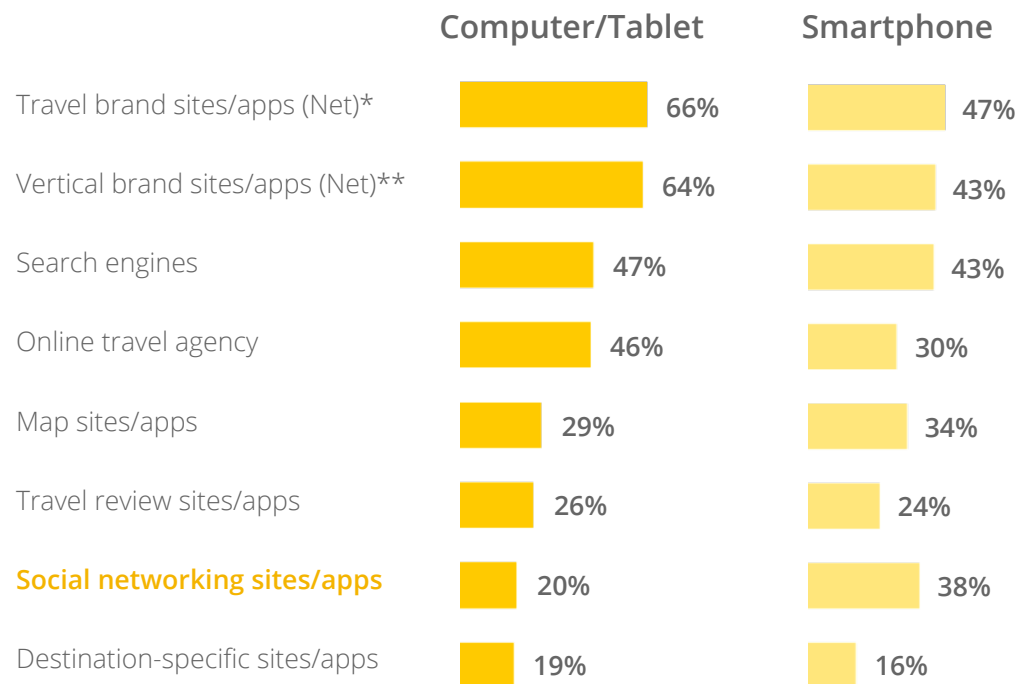
	Computer/ Tablet	Smartphone	Computer/ Tablet	Smartphone
Used during any phase (Net)	94%	67%	97%	78%
Inspiration The time when you identified you wanted or needed to book travel	73%	31%	74%	39%
Research The time when you actively looked and researched your trip or travel plans	88%	27%	86%	36%
Purchase/booking The time when you booked your trip	81%	14%	84%	28%
Experiencing/traveling Any behavior you may have participated in <i>during</i> your trip	57%	50%	67%	54%
Post traveling Any behavior you may have participated in <i>after</i> you took your trip	63%	37%	67%	42%

Base: Personal quota and use device to access the internet. DEVICE0: Please think about how you typically use the Internet to gather information for your personal or leisure trips. Which device(s) do you use during each of the following phases? (Select ALL that apply for each phase.) Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

Base: Business quota and use device to access the internet. DEVICE0: Please think about how you typically use the Internet to gather information for your business trips. Which device(s) do you use during each of the following phases? (Select ALL that apply for each phase.) Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

Travelers go to the **same types of sites on smartphones** as they do on desktop/tablet ... and sometimes more so

TYPES OF SITES VISITED BY TRAVELERS FROM VARIOUS DEVICES









Base: Personal quota and use device for sub-vertical planning or booking
 SCREEN7: Which online sources did you access on each device to plan or book your [component]? (Select ALL that apply for each device). Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT. *Travel brand sites/apps includes Vertical brand sites/apps and Tour operator sites/apps. **Vertical brand sites/apps includes Airline sites/apps, Hotel sites/apps, Car rental sites/apps, and Cruise operator sites/apps



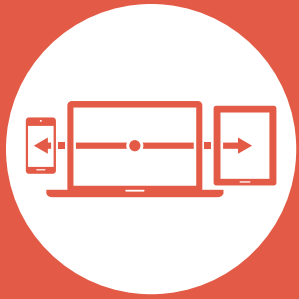
Leisure travelers **research and book across devices**, regardless of category



		Research		Booking	
		Computer/ Tablet	Smartphone	Computer/ Tablet	Smartphone
Car rental		82%	26%	75%	20%
Air travel		89%	23%	85%	15%
Lodging		85%	26%	77%	19%
Cruises		76%	29%	72%	25%
Vacation packages		80%	26%	76%	21%
Other travel		75%	22%	65%	15%

Base: Travel component included in personal trips in past six months and use device to access the Internet (floating)
 SCREEN1: How have you researched each of the following trip components while planning the trips you took in the past 6 months?

Base: Travel component included in personal trips in past 6 months and use device to access the Internet (floating)
 SCREEN2: And, how have you booked each of the following trip components that were part of the trips you took in the past 6 months?
 (Select ALL that apply for each component) Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT



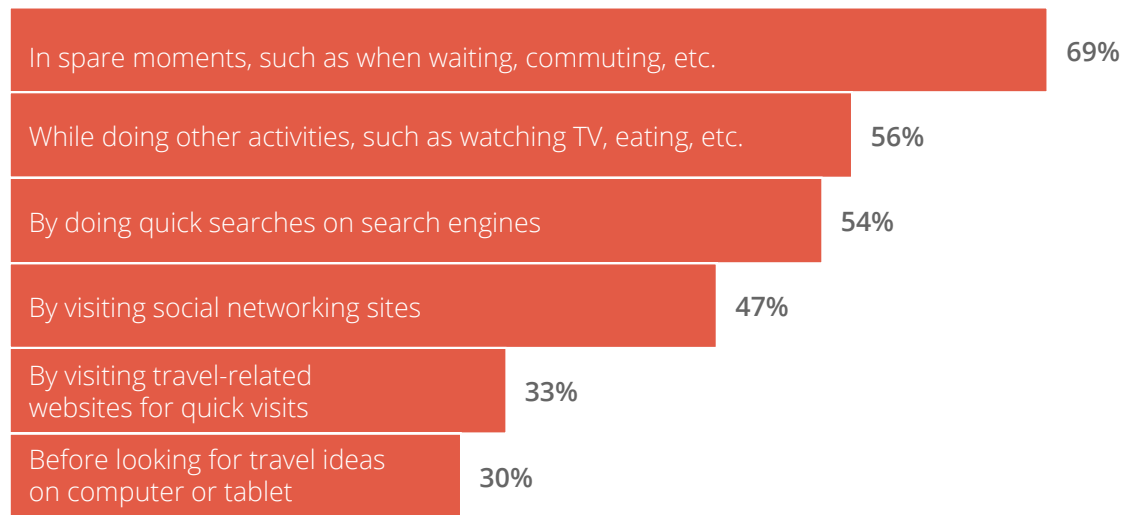
Cross-device movements

Early actions on mobile influence booking decisions

Smartphones are often used for travel inspiration in “snacking moments” before planning



USAGE OF SMARTPHONE TO INSPIRE LEISURE TRAVEL



77% Usage of smartphone for travel inspiration in spare moments, such as when waiting, commuting, etc. by affluent travelers

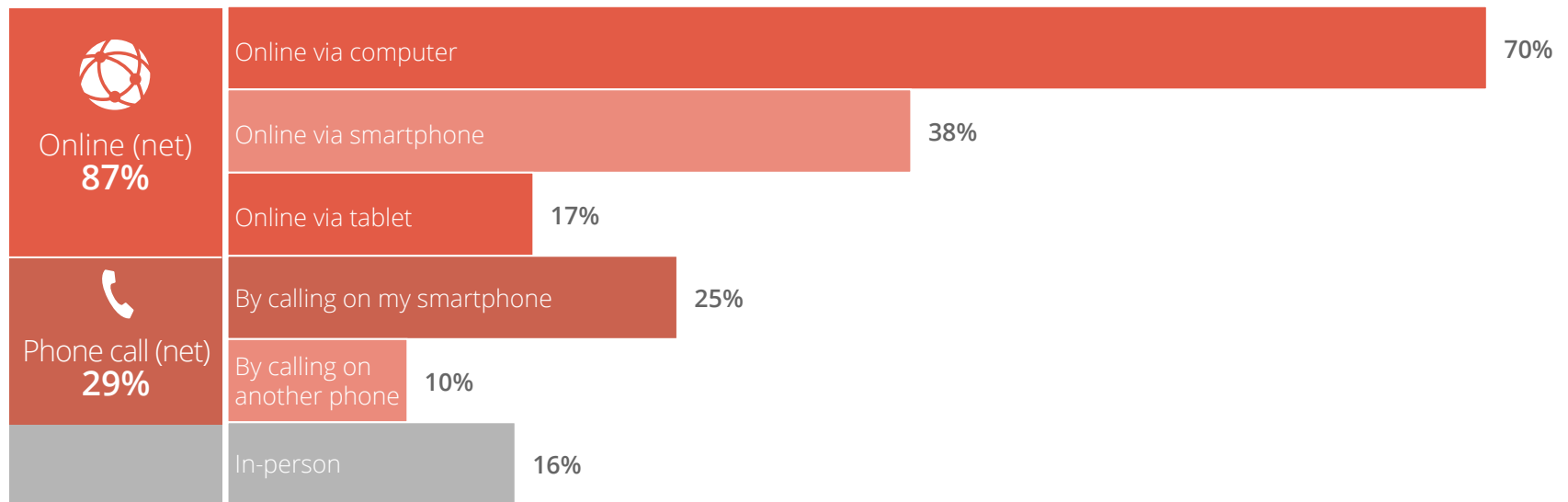
Base: Personal quota and use smartphone during Inspiration phase (n=707) and Base: Affluent travelers who use smartphone during Inspiration phase (n=348)

INSPIRE2: You mentioned that you typically use your smartphone to access the Internet during the Inspiration phase. Which of the following, if any, describe how you use your smartphone when you are seeking inspiration for your personal or leisure trips? Do you typically look for travel ideas on your smartphone...? (Select ALL that apply.)

Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

Nearly half of those who use their smartphone for leisure travel inspiration **ultimately book through some other method**

BOOKING METHODS AFTER USING SMARTPHONE FOR LEISURE TRAVEL INSPIRATION



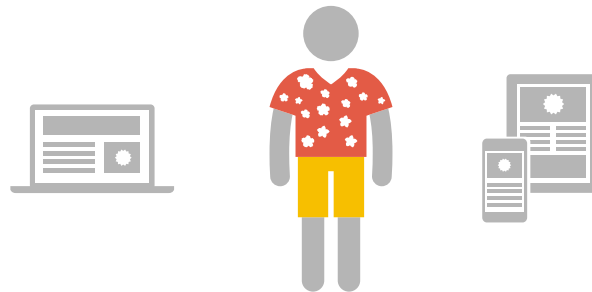
48% Ultimately book *another way*



47% of affluent travelers book *another way*

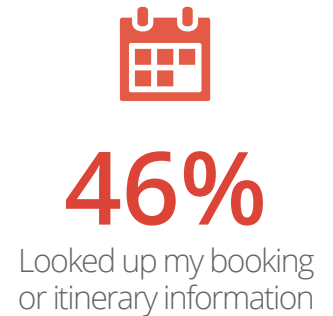
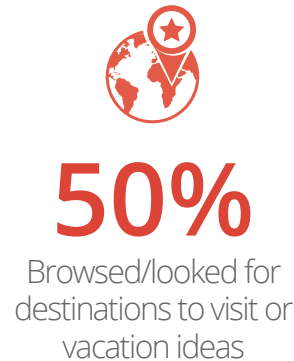
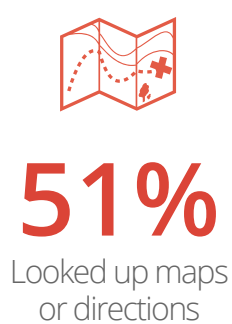
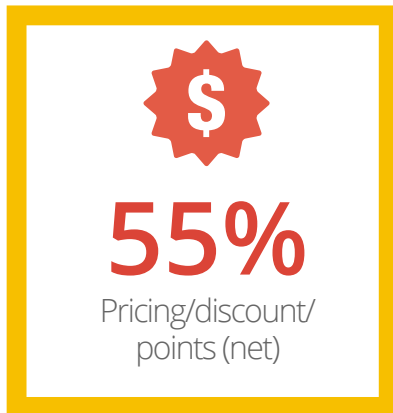
Base: Personal quota and use smartphone during Inspiration phase (n=707); Affluent travelers who use smartphone during Inspiration phase (n=348) INSPIRE3: And, when you have used your smartphone to seek inspiration, how have you ultimately booked components of those personal or leisure trips? (Select ALL that apply.)
 Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

Leisure travelers **switch between devices** for a variety of activities



Sequential device activities for travel planning/booking






(among leisure travelers who use devices for sub-vertical planning or booking and engage in a specific activity)



Across categories, 75% of leisure travelers **switch between devices to plan or book**

SEQUENTIAL DEVICE USAGE FOR TRAVEL
(among leisure travelers who use devices for sub-vertical planning or booking)



	Any	Car rental 	Airline 	Lodging 	Cruise 	Vacation packages 
Ever (Net)	75%	74%	71%	71%	90%	87%
Always	11%	10%	8%	8%	27%	14%
Frequently	21%	17%	19%	17%	36%	29%
Sometimes	27%	28%	26%	26%	17%	32%
Rarely	17%	19%	18%	20%	10%	12%
Never	25%	26%	29%	29%	10%	13%






87% of business travelers switch between devices to conduct the same travel-related activity



Base: Quota group among personal travelers who use devices for sub-vertical planning or booking and Base: Business travelers who use devices for sub-vertical planning or booking
SCREEN12: When planning for your [component] in the past 6 months, how often did you start a travel-related activity or task (e.g., read reviews, watch videos, look for pricing information) on one device, but continue it or finish it at a later time on a different device?
Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

Leisure travelers most commonly switch **between devices through search**

METHOD OF MOVING BETWEEN DEVICES FOR SEQUENTIAL USAGE
(among leisure travelers who ever did sequential for component)

	Any
 Conduct a search on another device	39%
 Navigate directly to the destination site (using a web browser or an app)	35%
 Send an email/link to myself	34%
 Save bookmarks, shopping cart, or favorites in my account	22%
 Sync to an online service (such as Dropbox, Google Docs)	7%
Other	10%

Base: Personal travelers who ever did sequential for component (n=2106). "Any" refers to any component
 SCREEN14: You mentioned that you have started [component]-related activities on one device and then continued them on another device. In what ways did you "move" between devices? (Select ALL that apply.)
 Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT



Mobile sites vs. apps

Travelers still rely heavily on both, and encountering a poor site experience results in a negative impact on a brand and the bottom line



More leisure travelers book via mobile websites, while business travelers mostly book via apps—**both are still key**

METHOD OF BOOKING ON SMARTPHONE <i>(among those who booked on the device)</i>	Leisure Travelers	Business Travelers
Online (Net)	71%	86%
Via the website using a browser	45%	55%
Used mobile apps (applications)	40%	63%
Phone call	44%	44%



One in five leisure travelers downloaded a travel-related smartphone app due to a **poor mobile site experience**

REASONS FOR DOWNLOADING/USING TRAVEL-RELATED SMARTPHONE APPS (among Leisure Travelers who downloaded/used a travel-related app on their smartphone)



78%

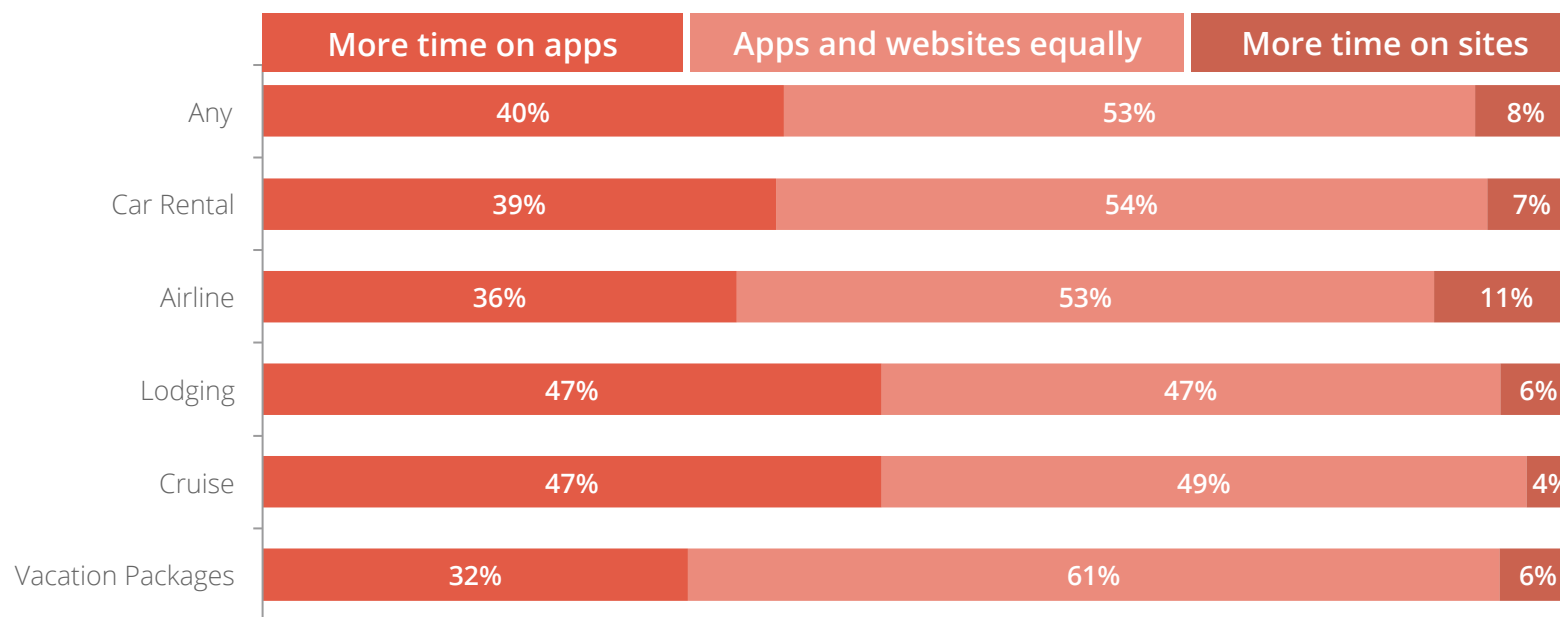
of leisure travelers have
downloaded/used a travel-
related smartphone app

	Any
Better than mobile site (Net)	53%
Easier to reserve or book than on mobile site	42%
Mobile site for the brand not meeting needs	20%
To save personal information/setting	39%
Plan to access information from the brand frequently	37%
For a brand with which I have rewards/loyalty membership	36%
Recommendations from friends, family, or colleagues	31%
Ratings/Recommendation in an app store	28%



Even after they download travel apps, travelers still use sites

TRAVELER TIME SPENT: SITE V. APP
(among Leisure Travelers who downloaded/used a travel-related app on smartphone)



Base: Quota group among personal travelers who downloaded/used an app on the smartphone (Any n=396, Car rental n=41*; Airline n=74; Lodging n=79; ; Cruises n=153; Vacation packages n=109)

*Caution: Small sample size (n<50)

SCREEN9: After you downloaded a travel-related app for your [component], did you typically...? (Select ONE.)

Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT



83% of leisure travelers have encountered a travel site that was not mobile optimized or friendly



Only **23%** of those who have encountered a mobile site that wasn't optimized actually pushed through



A poor mobile experience forces travelers to **move elsewhere** ... and has a negative impact on brand

Connected with brand a different way (Net)	68%
Accessed the same site on computer or tablet	51%
Looked to see if the site's brand had a downloadable app	27%
Called the site/company	17%
Negative impact on brand (Net)	40%



Base: Personal travelers who accessed site that was not mobile optimized or friendly (n=423); SCREEN10: Which of the following, if any, have you done after trying to access a travel site that was not optimized for mobile or was not mobile-friendly when planning or booking your [component]? (Select ALL that apply.) Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT.



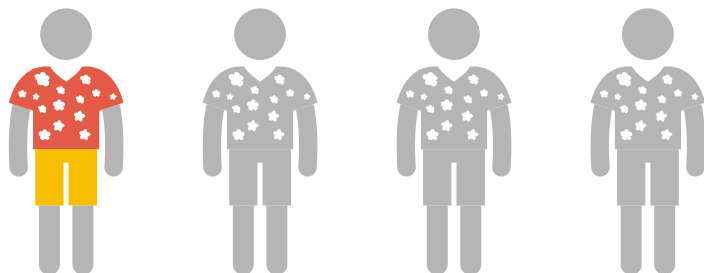
Mobile & in-destination

The smartphone is the go-to device for local information when traveling



Travelers often call airlines and hotels for information from the road

Leisure Travelers



Have you ever called an airline for more information while traveling?

28%

Have you ever called a nearby lodging location for more information while traveling?

28%

Business Travelers



Have you ever called an airline for more information while traveling?

57%

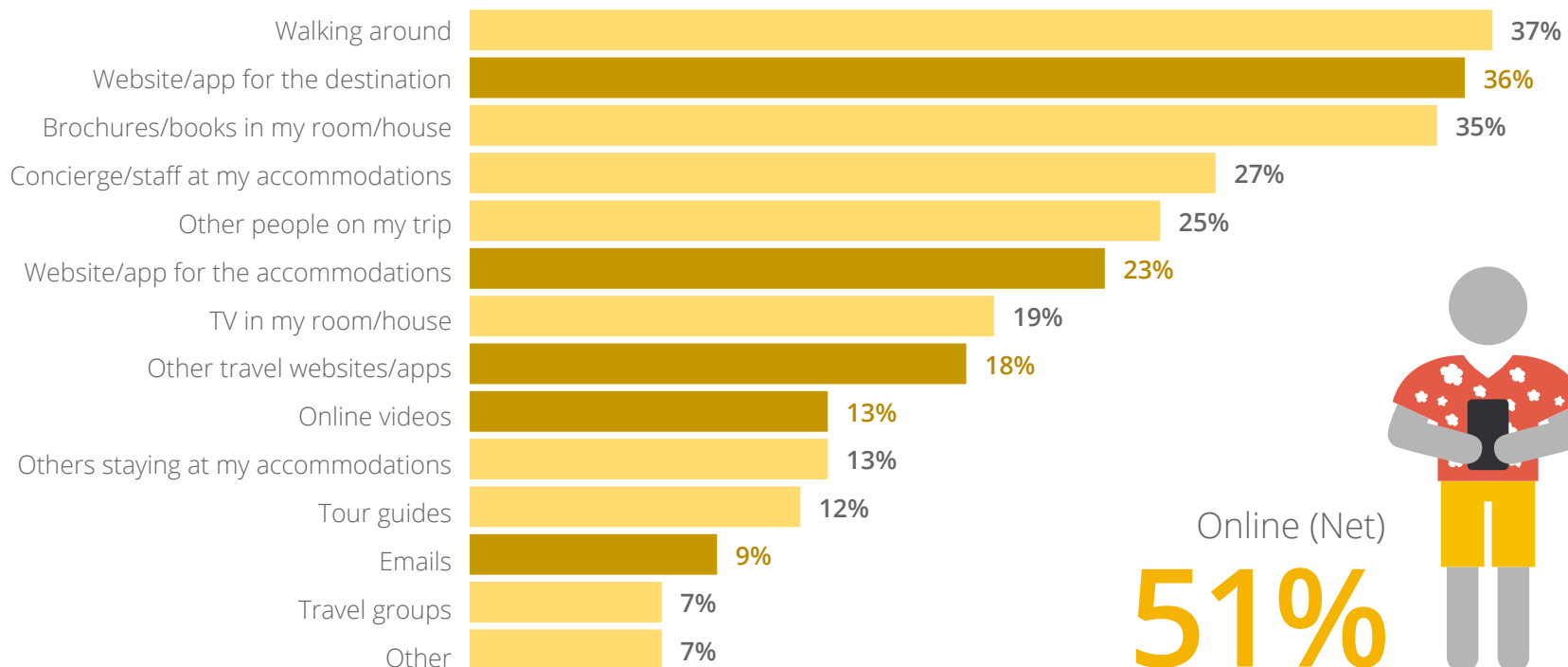
Have you ever called a nearby lodging location for more information while traveling?

46%



To decide on activities once at their destinations, leisure travelers rely on a **mix of sources**

SOURCES USED FOR ACTIVITIES/EXCURSIONS



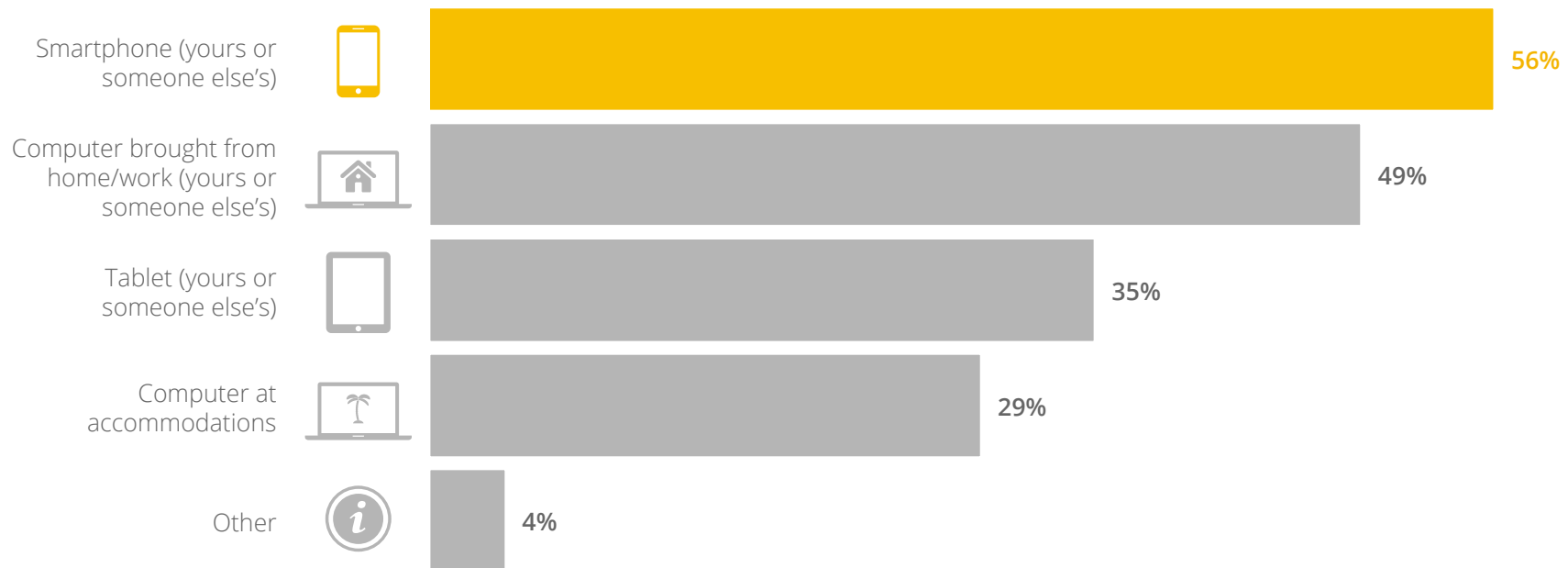
Base: Personal Quota (n=3500)

QD11: When you are on a personal or leisure trip, which sources do you typically use to decide on activities/excursions to participate in once you have arrived at your destination? (Select ALL that apply.)



To decide on activities once at their destinations, leisure travelers **rely on smartphones the most**

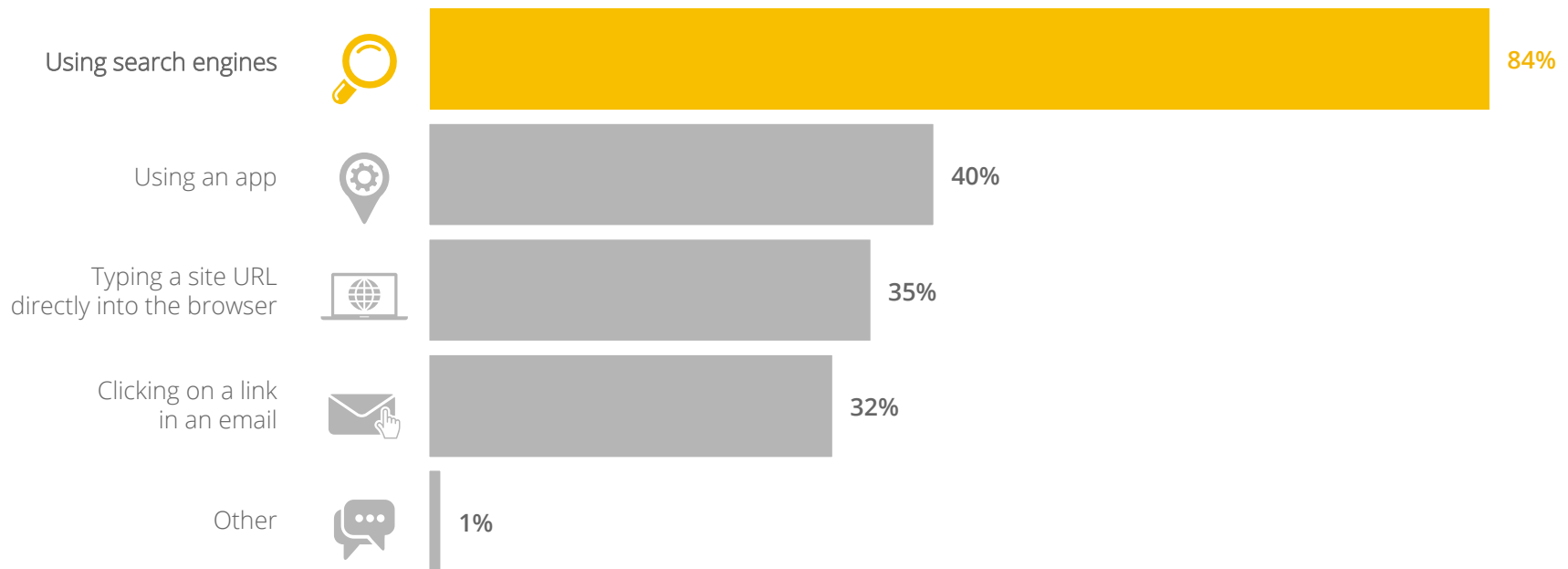
DEVICES USED TO DECIDE ON ACTIVITIES/EXCURSIONS





Leisure travelers overwhelmingly **rely on search engines via smartphones** to find local information

METHODS OF ACCESSING INFORMATION ABOUT ACTIVITIES/EXCURSIONS ON THE SMARTPHONE





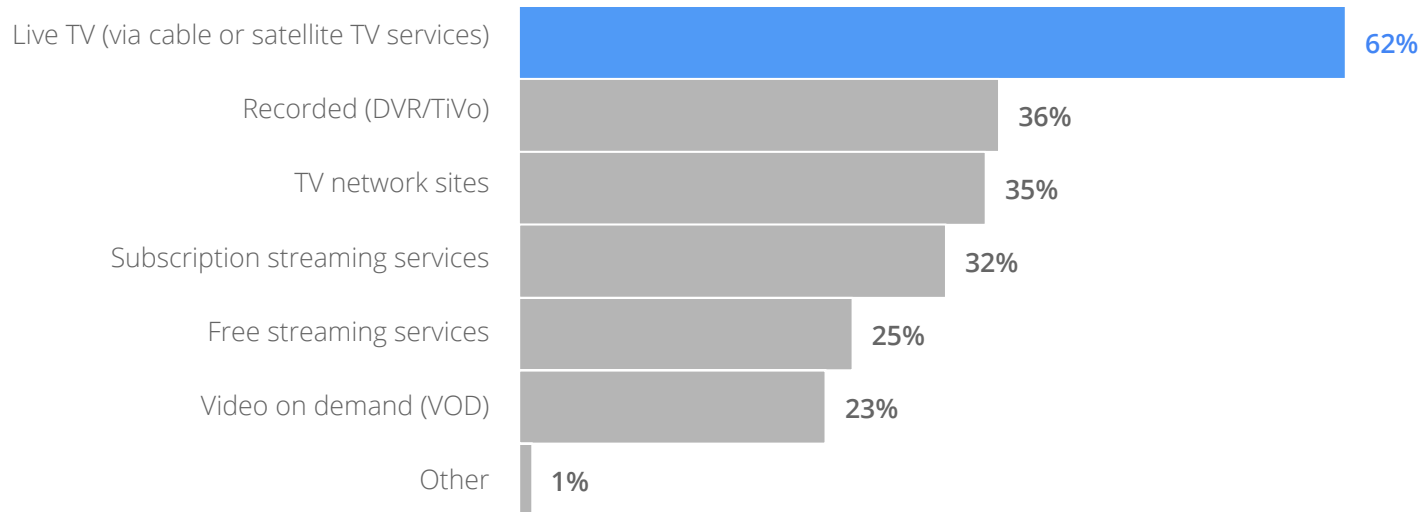
TV viewing habits

*Travelers are watching in more ways than ever before,
and attention continues to fragment*



One in three travelers watch their favorite programs outside of live TV

METHODS OF WATCHING TV



Live/recorded/VOD

78%

Streaming services/online

58%


Streaming services

43%



Even when they watch live TV, **four in ten travelers don't watch the commercials***

ACTIVITIES DONE DURING COMMERCIAL BREAKS WHILE WATCHING TV PROGRAMS

	Live TV 
Fast-forward through the commercial	N/A
Watch the commercial	58%
Leave the room to do something else (e.g., get a snack, go to the bathroom)	52%
Do something else in the room (e.g., eat, read, talk to someone)	51%
Change the channel	42%
Use another device (e.g., computer, tablet, smartphone)	30%
Mute the commercial	25%

Base: Watch TV programs via specified method (n=3117)




QTV2: And, what do you do when a commercial comes on while you're watching your favorite TV programs live, recorded, or on-demand? (Select ALL that apply for each way of watching TV.) Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

*Only "Watch the commercial" is included in sum for those who watched the commercial. Leave the room, Do something else, Change channel, Use another device, and Mute the commercial all contributed to "Don't watch" sum.



When given the option, most travelers **fast-forward through commercials**

ACTIVITIES DONE DURING COMMERCIAL BREAKS WHILE WATCHING TV PROGRAMS

	Live TV 	Recorded 	Video on-demand 
Fast-forward through the commercial	N/A	78%	42%
Watch the commercial	58%	23%	39%
Leave the room to do something else (e.g., get a snack, go to the bathroom)	52%	30%	35%
Do something else in the room (e.g., eat, read, talk to someone)	51%	27%	38%
Change the channel	42%	N/A	N/A
Use another device (e.g., computer, tablet, smartphone)	30%	22%	29%
Mute the commercial	25%	17%	22%

Base: Watch TV programs via specified method (Live TV n=3117; Recorded n=1805; Video on-demand n=1141)
 QTV2: And, what do you do when a commercial comes on while you're watching your favorite TV programs live, recorded, or on-demand? (Select ALL that apply for each way of watching TV.)
 Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

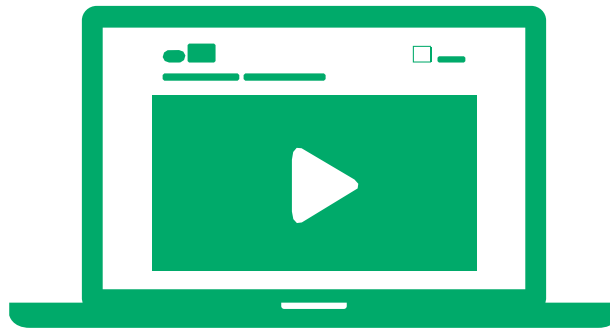


Video: The next frontier

Travelers engage heavily with online video and watch more than just travel content



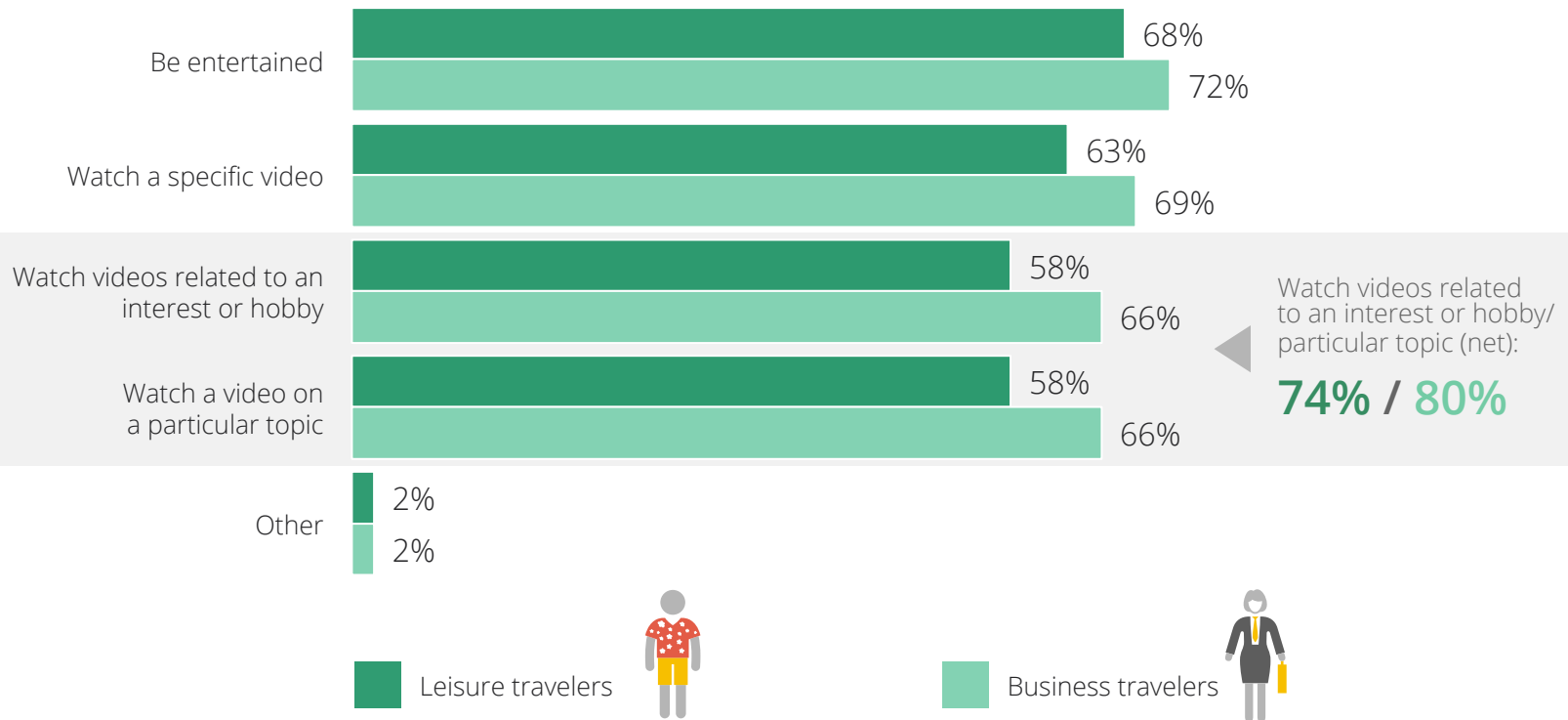
97% of travelers who watch online video did so within the last month





Travelers are engaged on YouTube, with three in five leisure and two in three business travelers visiting to pursue passion points

REASONS FOR VISITING YOUTUBE



Base: Watched videos on YouTube in the past month (Personal n=2688, Business n=1214)
 VIDEO1: For which reason(s) do you visit YouTube? (Select ALL that apply.)
 Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

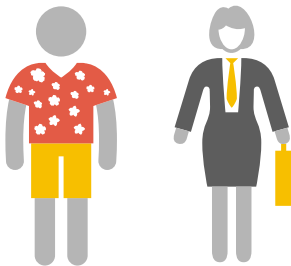












Travelers who watch online video most commonly watch music, TV shows, and movie clip/trailer videos

TOP 10 TYPES OF VIDEOS WATCHED ONLINE IN PAST MONTH
(among those who ever watch online video)

97%*

Leisure/business travelers watched videos in the past month (net)



	Music	50%		Full-length movies	43%
	Full-length TV shows	50%		Food	42%
	Movie clips and trailers	49%		Sports	35%
	Humor	46%		Weather	34%
	News	45%		Celebrity	34%

*Base: weighted average of Personal and Business Travelers
 Base: Ever watch online videos (Personal n=3184, Business n=1436)
 Q3: What types of videos have you watched on the Internet in the past month?
 Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT



35%

Leisure Travelers



56%

Business Travelers



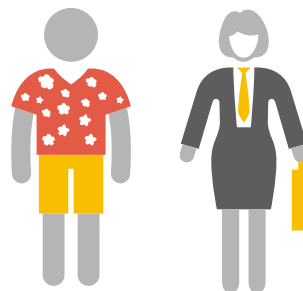
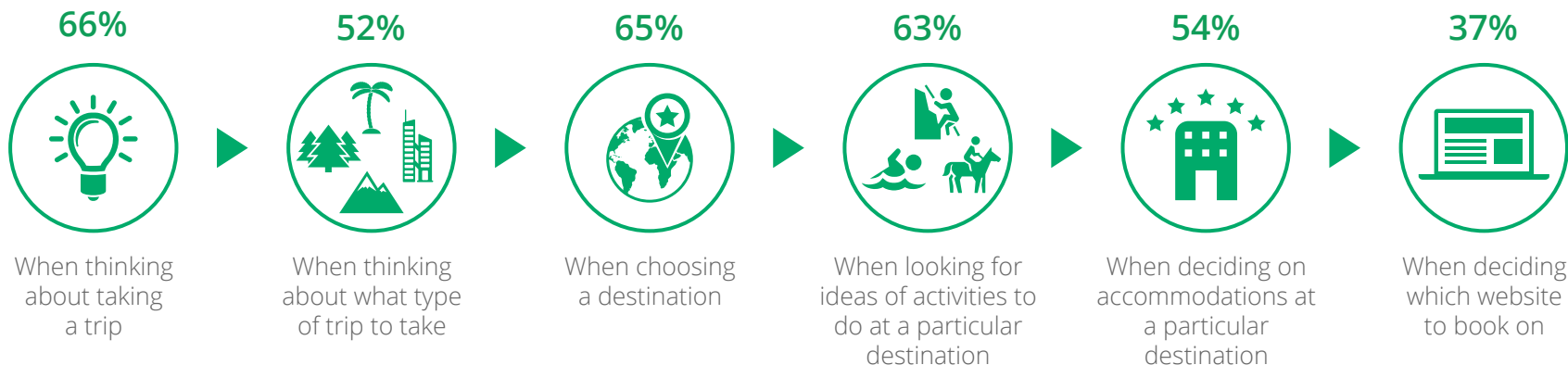
Engaged in travel-related video activities
within the past six months



Online videos are viewed throughout the travel journey, particularly **before decisions are made**

WHEN TRAVEL VIDEOS ARE VIEWED

(Among leisure and business travelers who watched/commented on travel-related video)

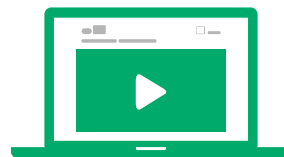




Online videos from brands are viewed by **more than half of travelers**



Leisure Travelers



Types of travel videos viewed (among those who watched/commented on travel-related video)



Business Travelers

55%



Trip reviews from people like me



60%

55%



Trip reviews from experts



61%

54%



Videos from travel-related channels



65%

53%



Videos from hotels, airlines, cruises, tours, etc.



64%

49%



Videos made by people like me



56%

37%



Commercials or ads from companies or brands



49%

34%



Videos made by friends and family



47%

3%



Other



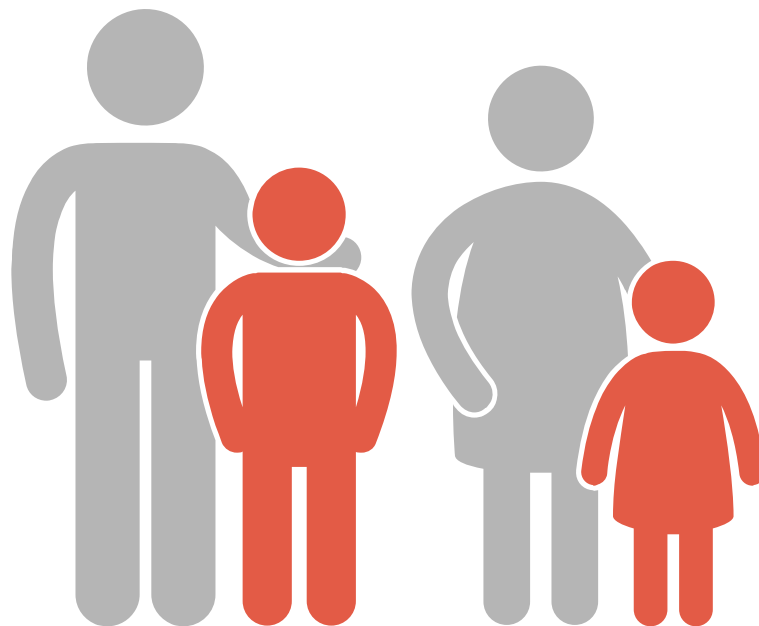
2%



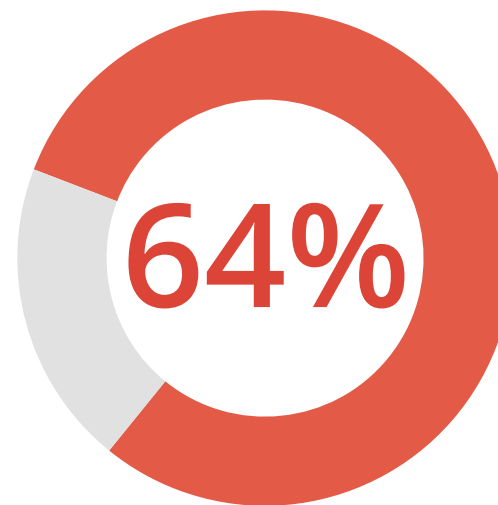
Family travel

Children's preferences influence decision making

A majority of families take **at least two trips together per year**



Travelers who take two or more family trips per year

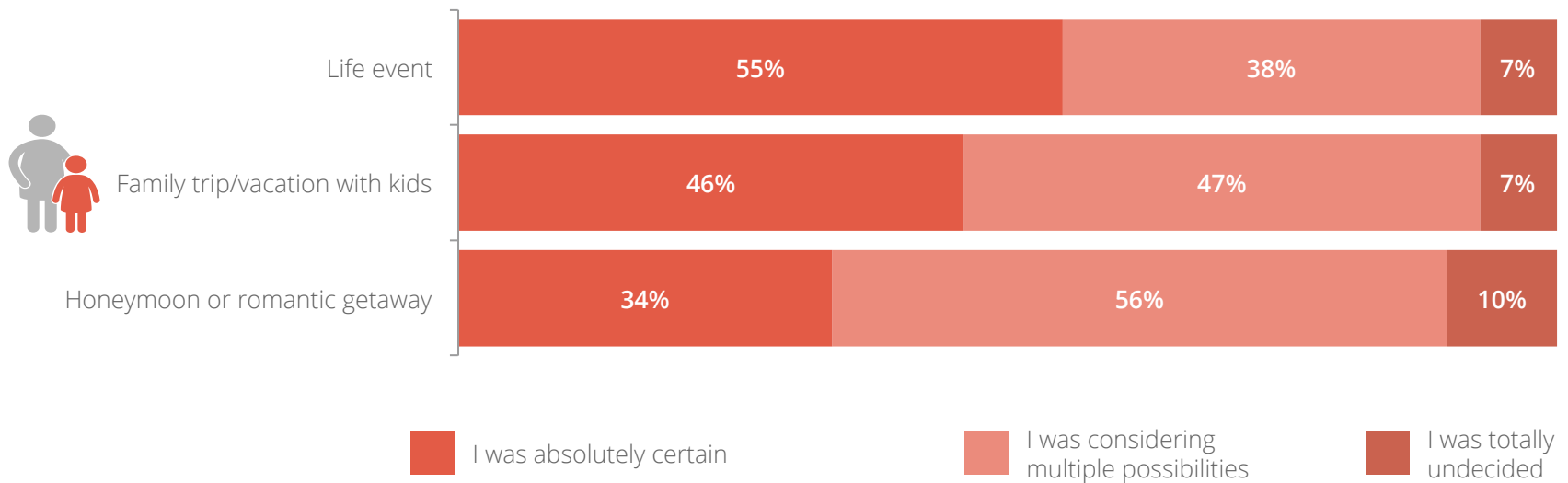


45% of leisure travelers plan to travel more frequently with their family in the coming year

Source: Google Consumer Surveys, May 2014 and Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT
Base: Personal travelers who take trips with kids (n=1016)
Q23: Using the scale below, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about traveling for personal/ leisure purposes in the next year. (Select ONE for each statement.)

Many are undecided when they **begin planning family trips**

CERTAINTY OF DESTINATION AT THE BEGINNING OF LEISURE TRAVEL PLANNING



Family trip/vacation with kids

Honeymoon or romantic getaway

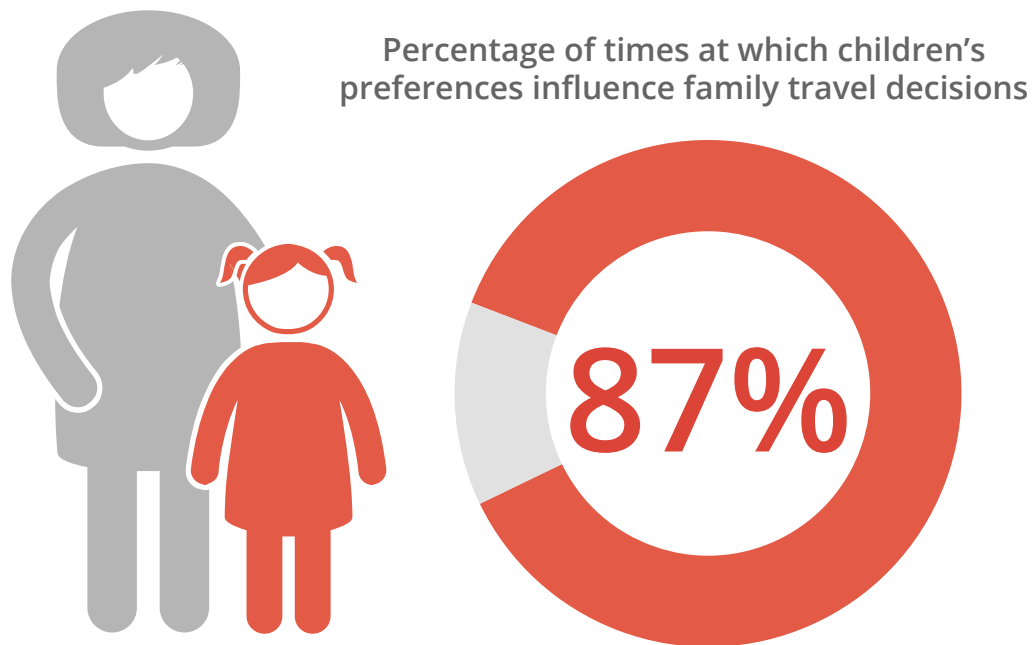
I was absolutely certain
 I was considering multiple possibilities
 I was totally undecided

Base: Personal quota and took specific types of personal trips (Go on a family trip/vacation with kids n=1147; Go on a honeymoon or romantic getaway n=486; Celebrate a life event n=641).

LEISURE2: When you first began planning each of the following personal or leisure trips you took in the past six months, typically how certain were you about where you would go? (Select one for each.)

Source: Google Travel Study, June 2014, Ipsos MediaCT

From a young age, children play an influential role in family travel destination decisions

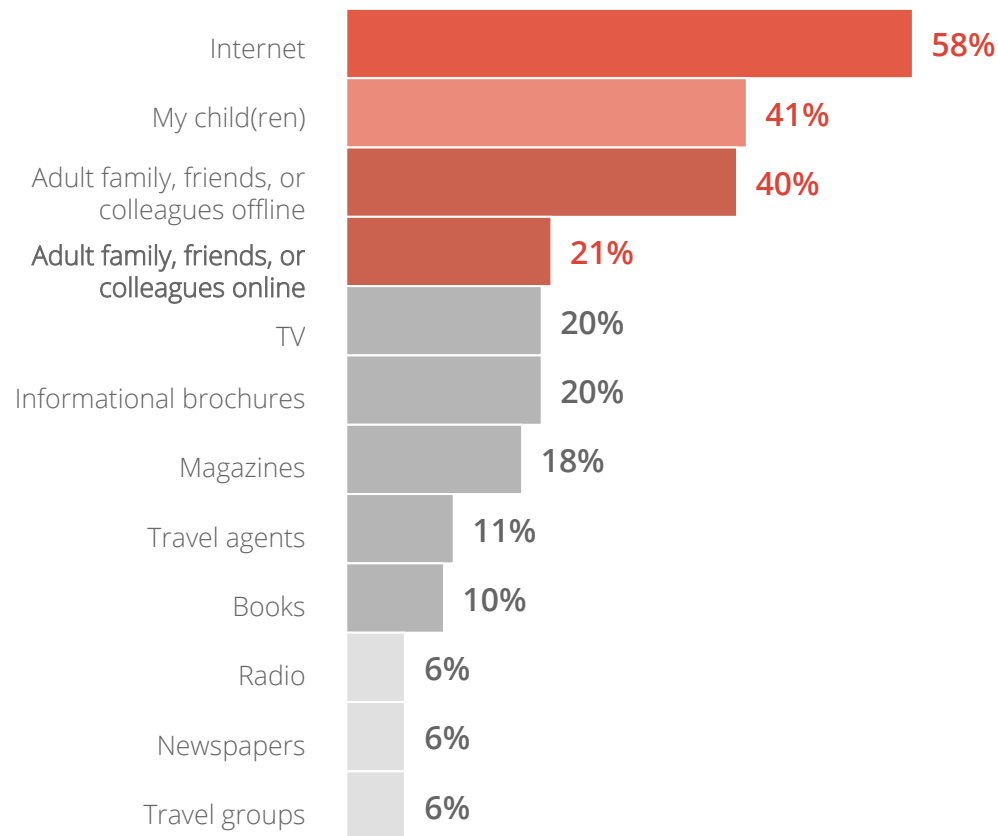


8 Years Mean age at which children's preferences influence decisions



Online sources play a critical role in **family travel planning**

SOURCES USED TO HELP DETERMINE FAMILY TRIPS OR VACATIONS WITH KIDS



Key Takeaways

Digital is the primary source of travel inspiration: 65% of leisure travelers are inspired by online sources, most notably through social/video sites and search, while 42% of travelers are inspired to travel by YouTube content.

At the onset of planning, travelers increasingly turn to search first: The most notable year-on-year increases in travelers starting with search were exhibited with car rentals and accommodations. Travelers use a variety of search terms (both branded and nonbranded) throughout the research process.

The research phase is a clear branding opportunity for marketers: A majority of leisure and business bookers consider multiple brands when researching (regardless of category).

Mobile is critical at all stages and influences booking decisions: Smartphones are used throughout the travel process, including for inspiration during “snackable moments.” Nearly half of those who use their smartphone for leisure travel inspiration ultimately book through another method/device. Only 23% of those who encounter a non-mobile-optimized site actually push through to complete their activity.

TV viewing habits continue to fragment, and video is key for inspiration and planning: One in three travelers (38%) watch television outside of live programming; when given the option, most fast-forward through commercials. Conversely, 66% of travelers watch online travel videos when they’re thinking about taking a trip, and 65% watch when they’re choosing a destination.

Family trip planners are up for grabs: Half of travelers are not set on a destination at the onset of planning. 45% plan to travel more with family in the coming year and often take children’s preferences into account.