

By Kristine Hansen

Dozens of hotel-only booking sites promise rock-bottom deals in a variety of lodging choices, from budget to luxury accommodations. We test-drove a few sites in search of the best and the not-so-best, taking into consideration the ease in making the reservation, how much information about each hotel is revealed, if customer reviews are provided, what fees are involved and best of all -- if it truly is a rock-bottom deal.

Best: getaroom

We clicked on a link on getaroom (www.getaroom.com) titled "European fall hotel deals from \$75" and then, Eden Leidse Square Hotel in Amsterdam, which promises a \$75 rate. (Good news! We found even better on the same site: \$72.86 for a double-room in mid-December.) If you find a lower rate within 24 hours of booking, from another U.S.-based travel site, Getaroom.com will refund the difference. Canceling or altering the reservation carries no penalty, so long as it was a published rate -- and not a call-center only special (in that case, it's a \$25 fee). And, with Arthur Frommer's endorsement on the home page -- calling Getaroom.com a place that has "shaken up the world of hotel discounters" -- that extra layer of credibility is a positive push to book your next hotel stay through the site.