





- Tell Your Story
- 09 Chapter Two: Lead with Your Guest Rooms
- 14 Chapter Three: Provide Social Proof
- 19 ^C

- Chapter Four: Promote Special Offers
- 24 Chapter Five: Be Mobile
 - Ready To Drive More Bookings?

Your Hotel Website is Your Digital Storefront

Today's travel market is highly fragmented. Travel shoppers can research and book hotels through a countless number of channels. But none is more powerful (or more profitable) than your hotel website.

In fact, a <u>2017 Travel Website Behavior Study</u> found that your hotel website is THE MOST influential factor when researching and booking a hotel – more influential than Word of Mouth, OTAs, Search Engines and Review Sites. Your website is your digital storefront; the place people come to for more information about your property and to decipher if it can meet their needs. For branded properties especially, a standalone website is your opportunity to stand out from others under the same umbrella. Driving Direct Bookings Boils Down to 3 Critical Elements:



Driving Traffic





Conversion-Driven Website

Booking Engine Integration

In this Look Book, we focus on stage 2 - creating a hotel website that converts. Read on to see our **5 best practices for a conversion-driven website**, along with practical examples from real hotels reaping the rewards!

Tell Your Story

To drive more direct bookings, you should distinguish what makes your hotel better than any other in your comp set. And your hotel website is the perfect place to do this! For branded properties especially, this is something that won't be done on your brand's website.

Your hotel website should be engaging, using a blend of words, images, captions, videos, and virtual tours to showcase what makes you unique. We call this **visual storytelling**.

Visual storytelling works because we as humans love stories! We connect with stories. And we remember stories. Stories conjure up memories and create an emotional connection, which is important because this has been found to influence purchase intent. Your story should focus on what travel shoppers want to know:

- 1. What makes your hotel different? How will you make a traveler's trip more fun, comfortable or efficient?
- What do your rooms look like? Travel shoppers want the whole story

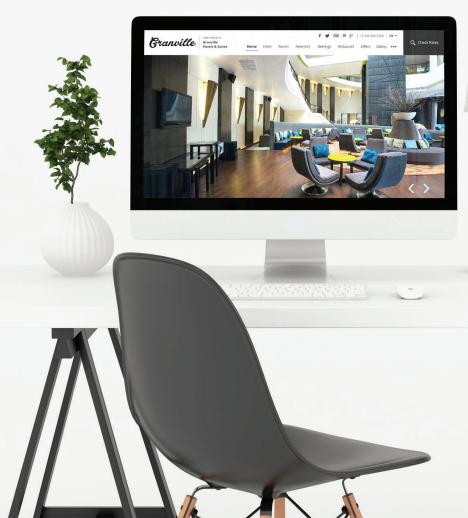
 images of the bed, desk, sitting area, washroom, amenities, etc., to help them visualize their experience.

3. Can they get a deal?

Travel shoppers need a reason to book now and book direct. Provide some special offers that motivate them to take action.

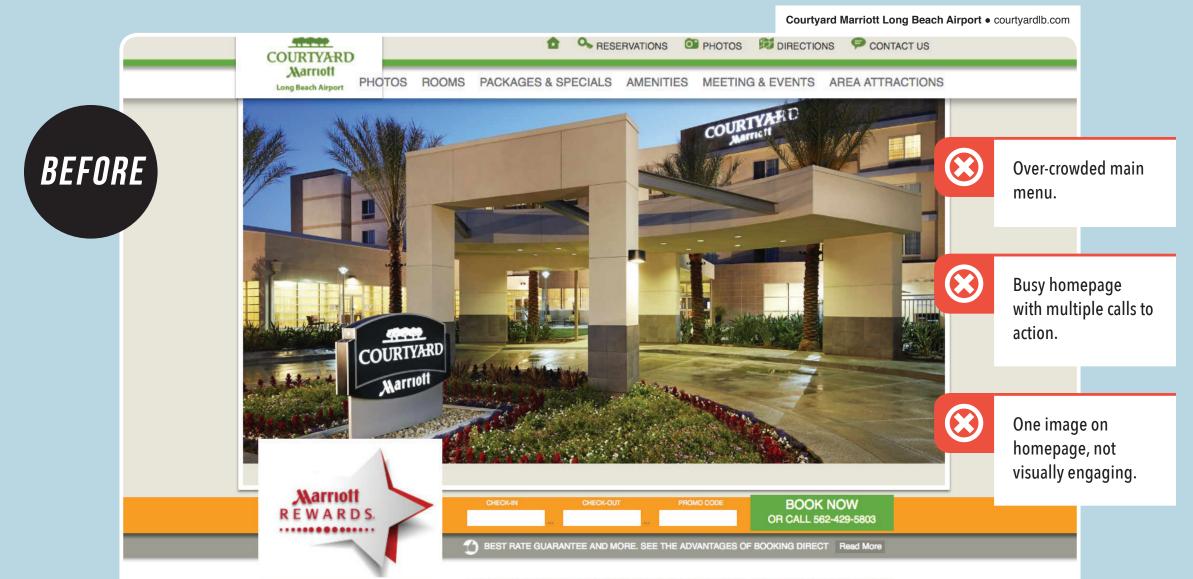
4. What do other people think?

Include reviews on your website, so travel shoppers don't have to go looking for them elsewhere. Let's see some examples of hotels using amazing visual storytelling to stand out...





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MARRIOTT REWARDS

Earn rewards during your stay and get access to exclusive member privileges. As a member of the Marriott Rewards program, you can earn points toward a free hotel stay and even airline miles.

MORE INFO »

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT LONG BEACH AIRPORT

Traveling is a breeze at the all new Courtyard by Marriott Long Beach Airport. Modern guest rooms, advanced technology and an unbeatable location makes Courtyard by Marriott Long Beach Airport the smart choice of savvy business and leisure travelers visiting Long Beach, Los Angeles or Orange County. These facilities are without a parallel among hotels near Long Beach airport. We offer a free, convenient, and reliable **Long Beach Airport shuttle**. The Long Beach Airport shuttle operates from 5:30am to 10:30pm, and runs every half hour between Long Beach Airport (LGB) and our hotel.

CONVENIENT LONG BEACH AIRPORT HOTEL

Conveniently located next to the newly renovated Long Beach Airport - the ideal alternative to LAX or John

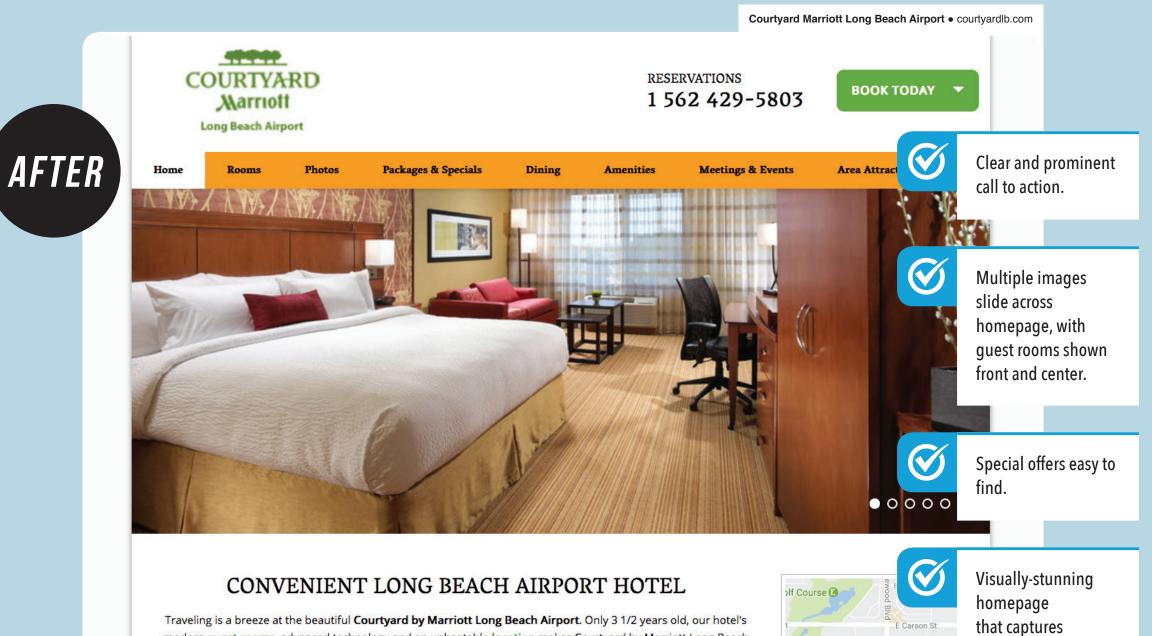
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Courtyard Long Beach Airport

imagination.

rt Supercenter



Traveling is a breeze at the beautiful Courtyard by Marriott Long Beach Airport. Only 3 1/2 years old, our hotel's modern guest rooms, advanced technology and an unbeatable location makes Courtyard by Marriott Long Beach Airport the smart choice of savvy business and leisure travelers. Book your stay and enjoy a free shuttle from Long Beach Airport (LGB), located less than 2 miles away!

Modern Guest Rooms, Suites and Amenities Galore

Busy webpage with

Limited photos of

guest rooms, don't

tell the whole story.

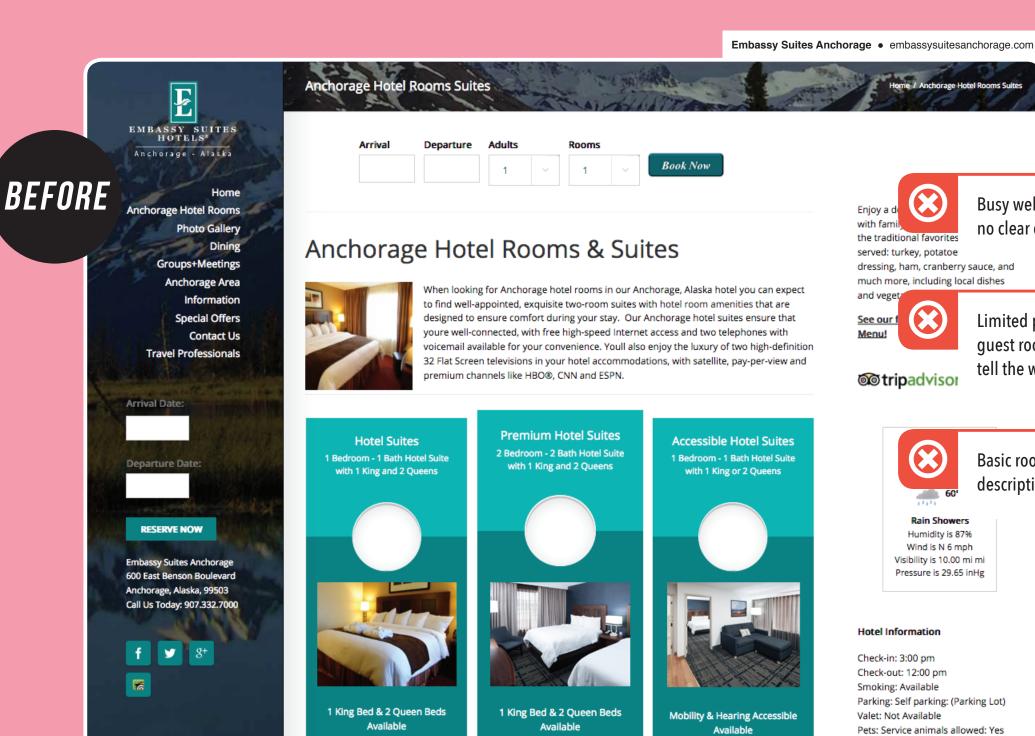
Basic room type

descriptions.

Pets allowed: No

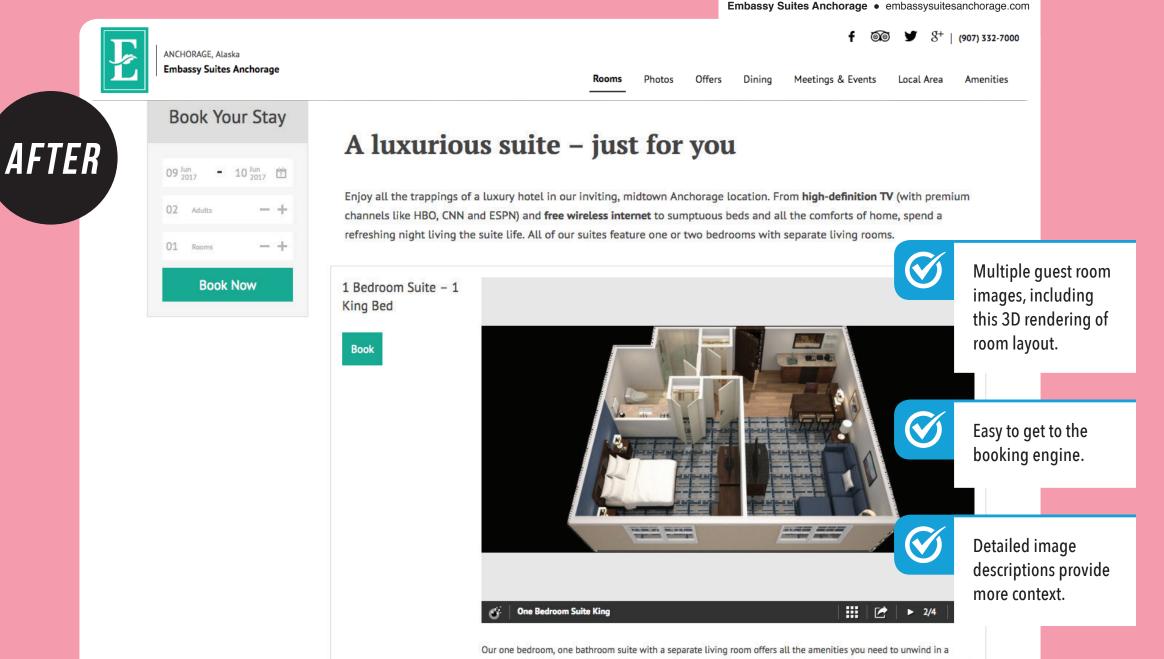
Roll-In Showers & Accessib

no clear call to action.



Dual HDTV, Microwave,

HDTV, Microwave, Refrigerator



spacious, luxurious suite. Rest well in a sumptuous king-size bed, the perfect spot for a refreshing sleep. Stay connected with free high-speed internet access and two telephones with voicemail available for your convenience. You'll also enjoy the luxury of two high-definition 32" Flat Screen televisions in this suite, which include access to satellite and premium channels like HBO, CNN & ESPN.

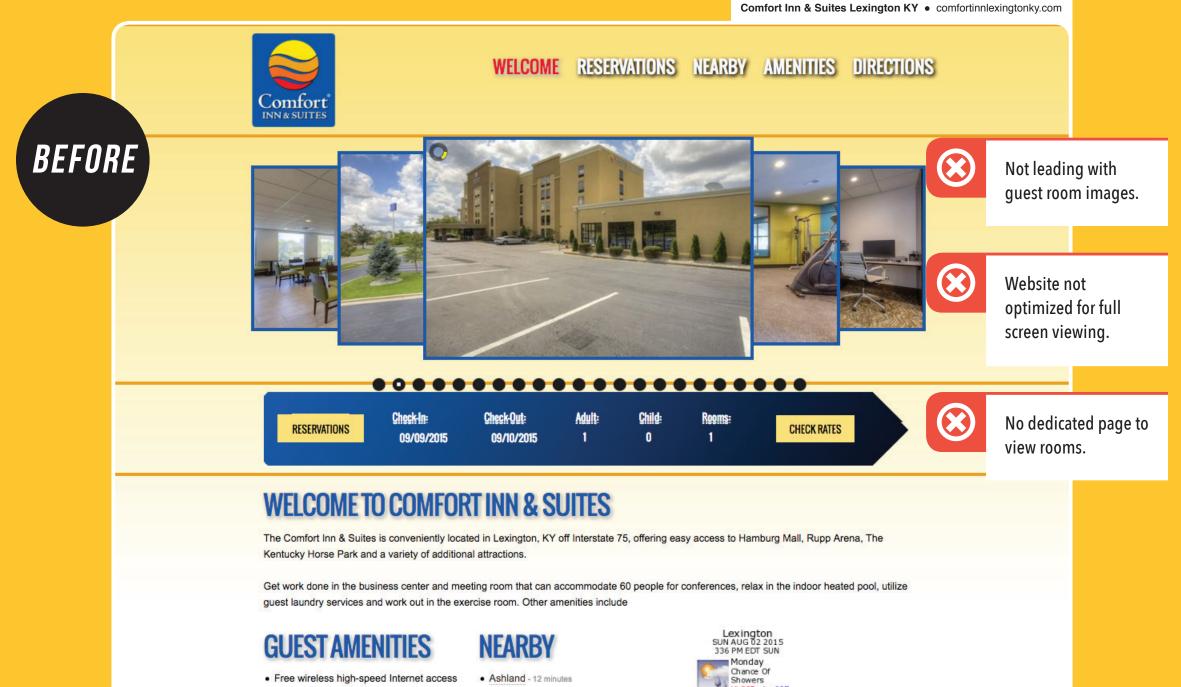
2 Lead with Your Guest Rooms

Your hotel website is your one shot to make a great first impression. You've only got a few seconds to captivate someone before they leave, so you need to answer their questions fast.

When someone visits your website, they aren't shopping for a hotel per se; they're searching for a good night's sleep. Can your hotel deliver that? Let them know by leading with images of your Guest Rooms!

We analyzed more than 500 million pieces of media to find that **Guest Rooms are the #1 most viewed image by travel shoppers.** So, unless your building is of historical importance, don't lead with exterior shots of your hotel on the homepage. Travel shoppers don't care. They want to see your guest rooms front and center.

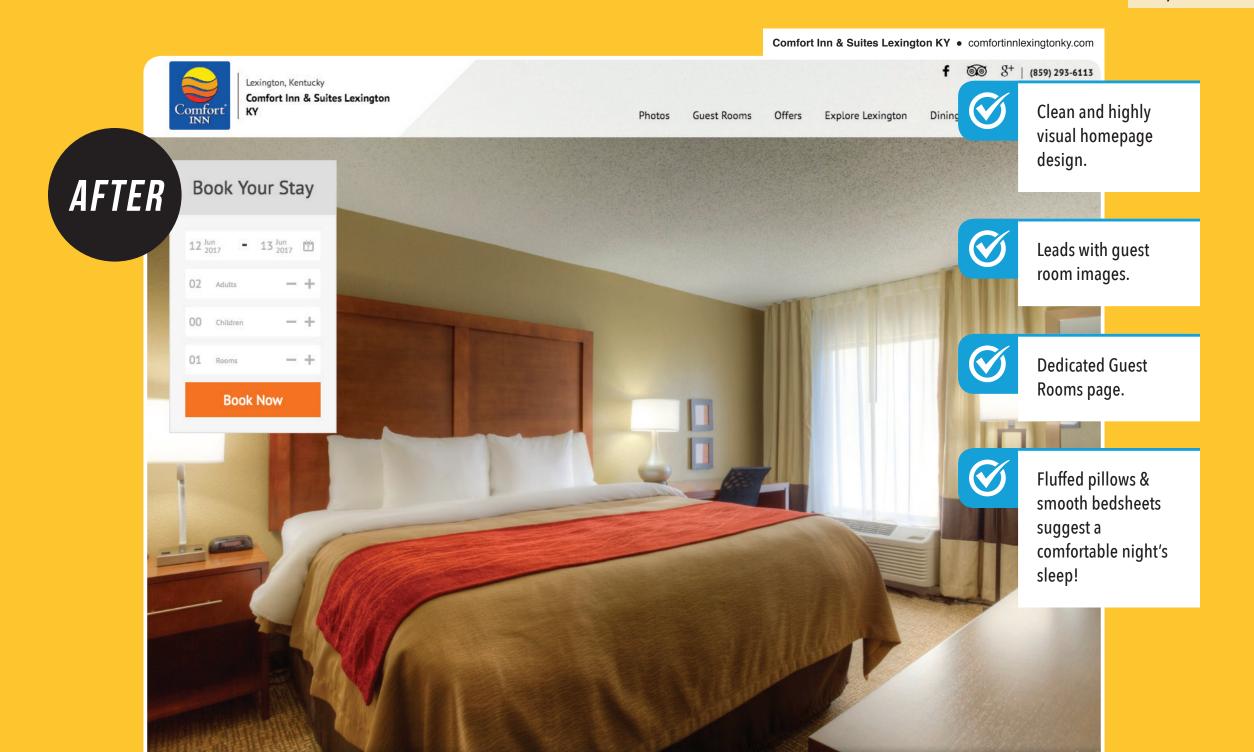
See what a difference it makes for these hotels...



Kentucky Theater - 12 minutes

- Flat-Screen Television Cable Television
 - Whitaker Bank Ballpark 12 minutes

Hi 89F Lo 69F Tuesday Chance Of





Welcome to Glasbern Inn

A quaint country inn located near Allentown, Bethlehem, and Fogelsville Pennsylvania



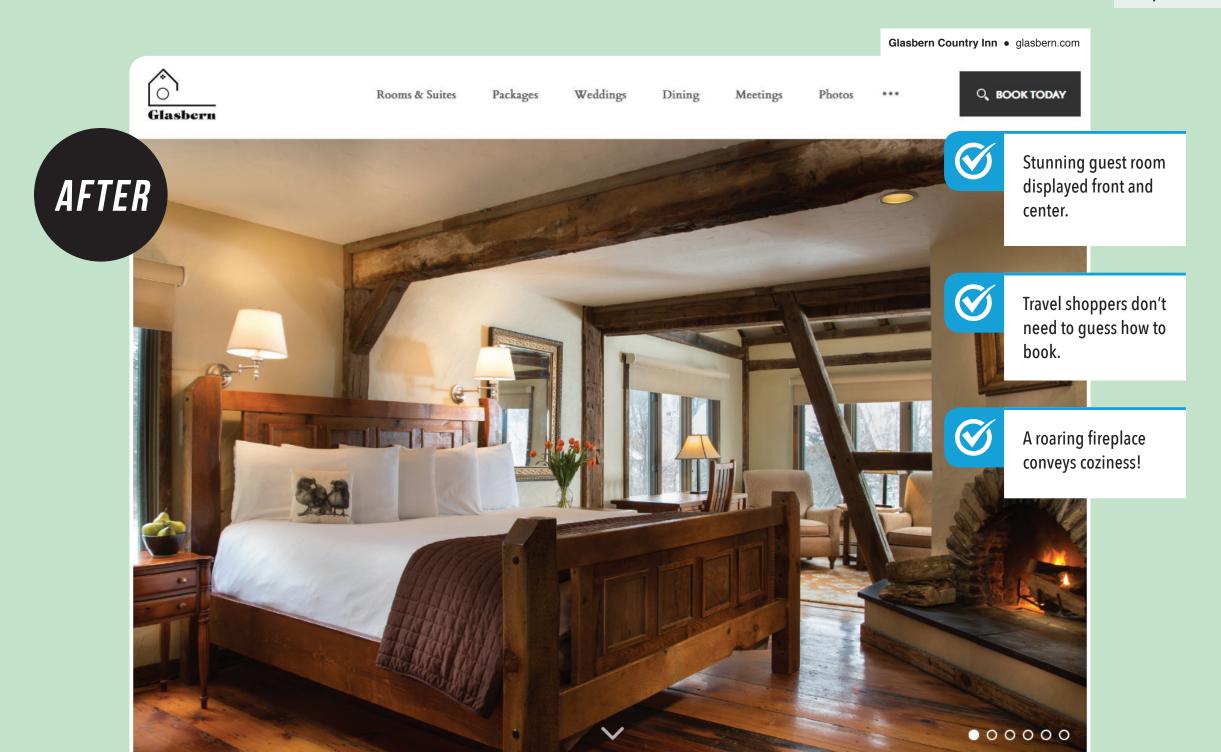
Glasbern is a quintessential **historic Pennsylvania country hotel** and **restaurant** tucked away on a peaceful and secluded 150-acre, 19th-Century farm located in Fogelsville, just west of Allentown and Bethlehem in Pennsylvanias Lehigh Valley. Whether you are traveling for business or leisure in Pennsylvania Wine Country, the personal and impeccable service of our **Lehigh Valley Hotel** is guaranteed to satisfy the most discerning traveler. At Glasbern we have

taken great care in preserving our history while providing the comforts you expect from a hotel when traveling. So if your passion is reading by an open fire or working late into the night, our

Statement regarding former employee lawsuit

The latest from our blog: Glasbern Inn Announces New Executive Chef

Certificate of Excellence



Provide Social Proof

3

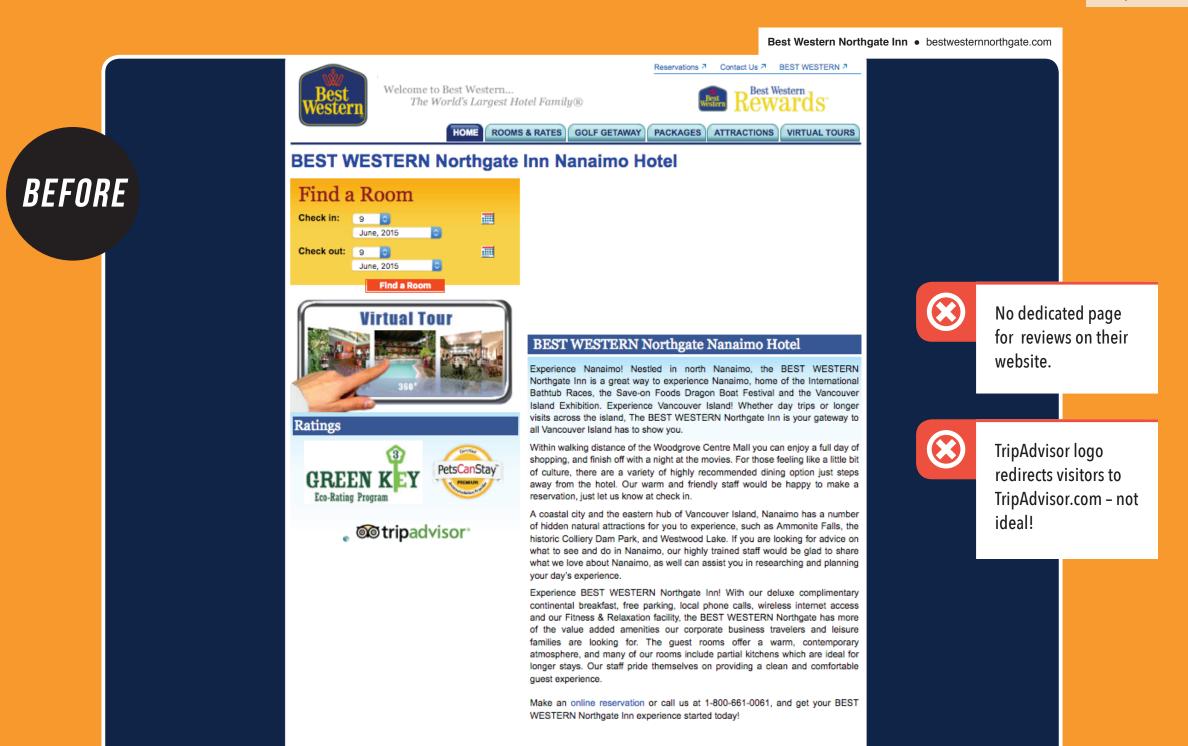
As travel shoppers move further down the booking path, they look for snippets of social proof to validate their purchase decision. Social proof is defined as independent third-party feedback that gives someone the boost of confidence they need to book your hotel. It includes anything generated by someone else – reviews, ratings, awards, etc. – that tells other people about your property.

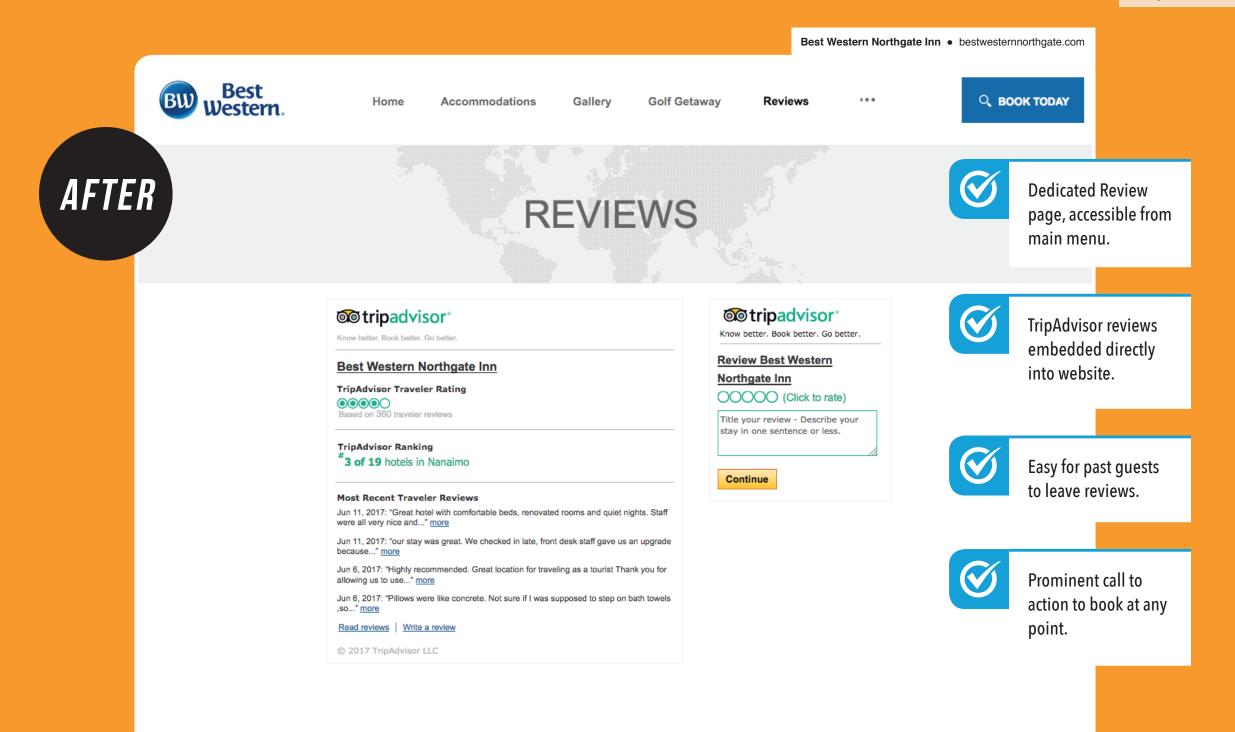
Social proof is powerfully persuasive. 53% of travelers won't book a hotel without first reading reviews, and <u>76% will pay more</u> for a hotel with better reviews.

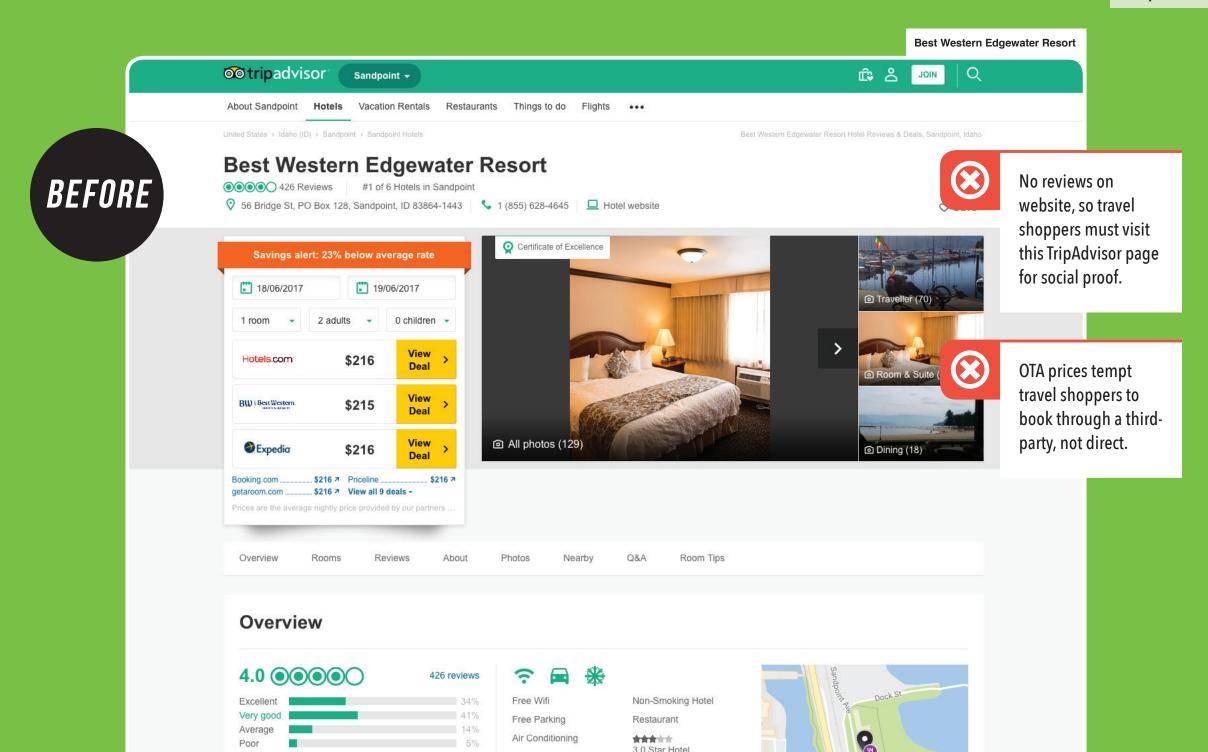
Make sure you embed elements of social proof, like TripAdvisor reviews, directly into your website so travel shoppers don't have to go searching for them elsewhere.

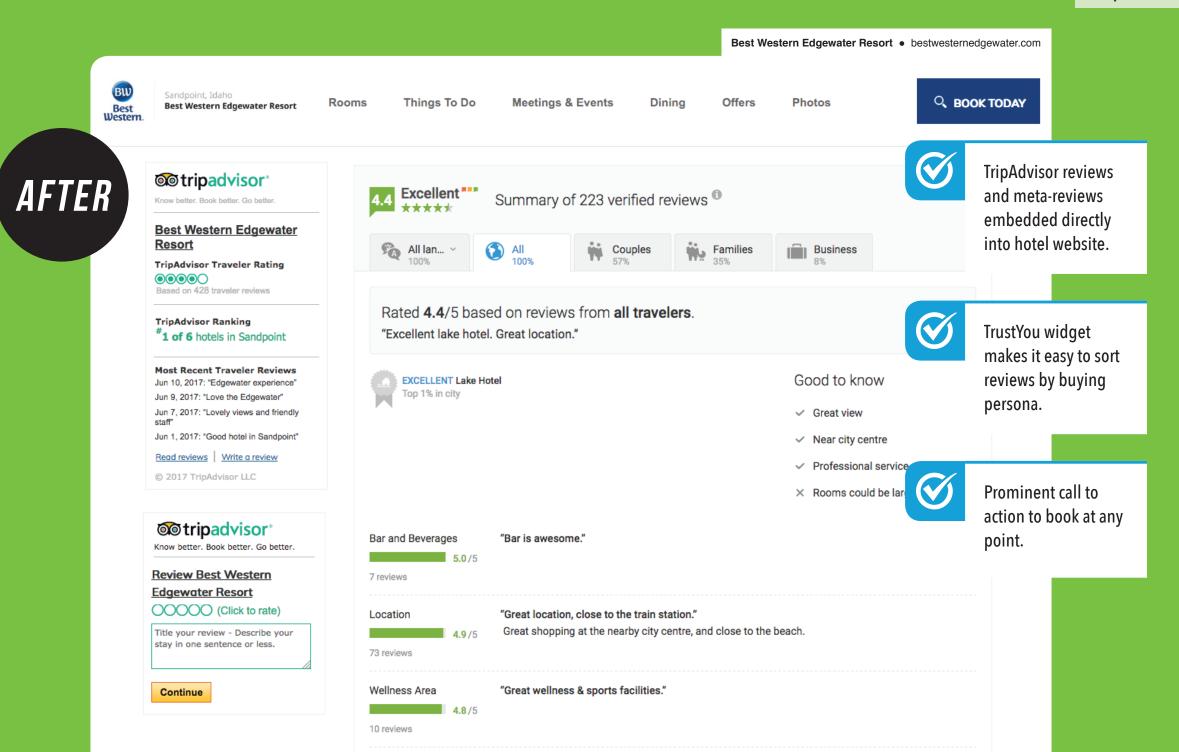
These hotels aren't shy about sharing their social proof...











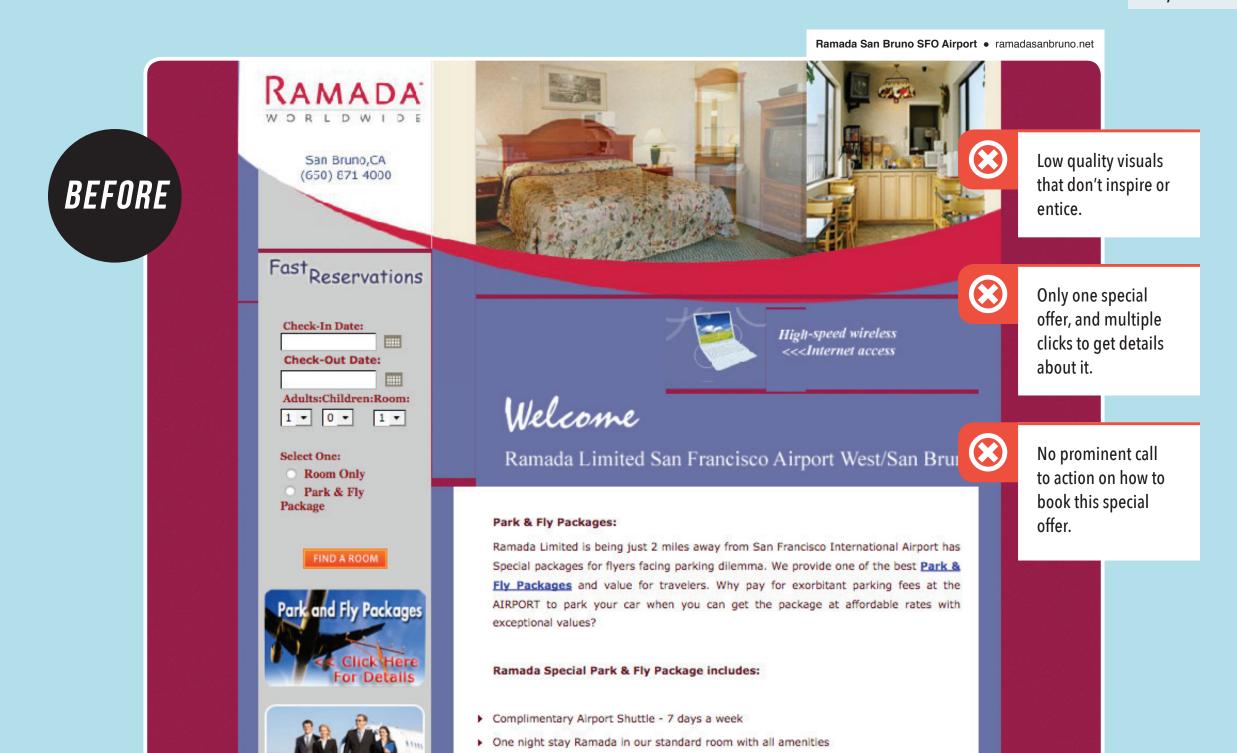
Promote Special Offers

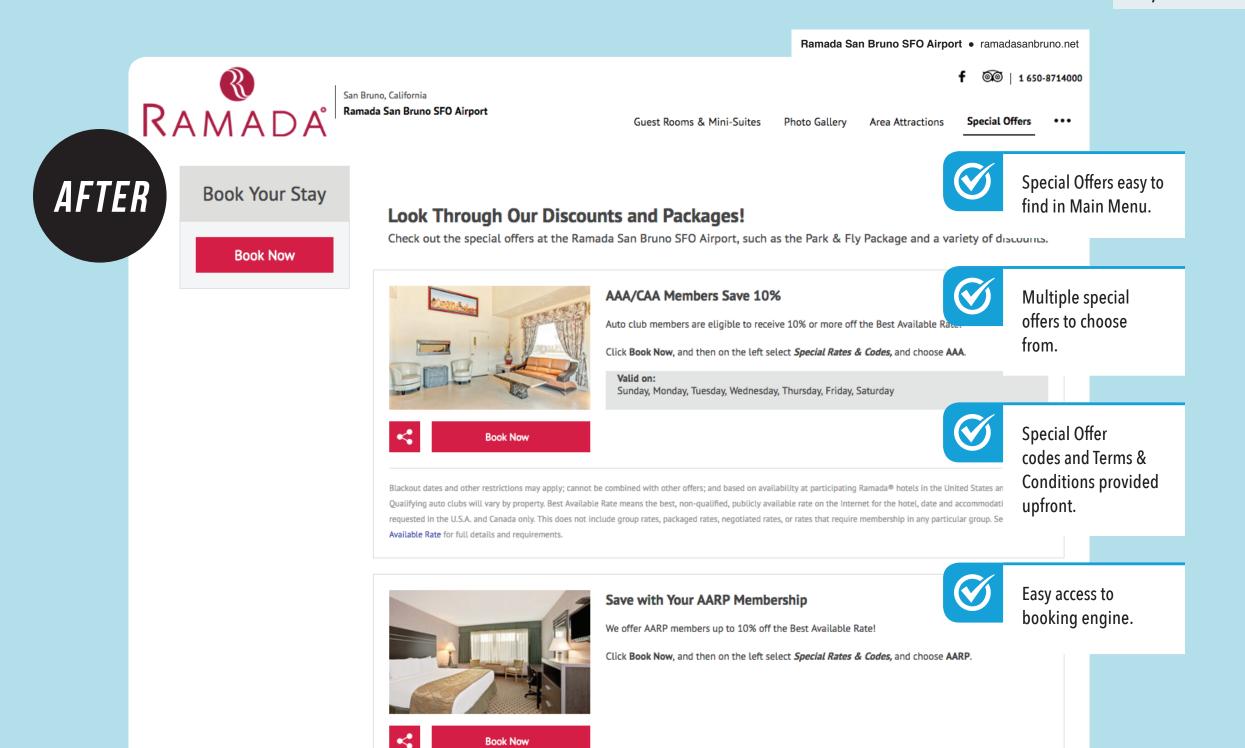
<u>45% of travelers worldwide</u> consider special offers important to booking, yet only 4% of hoteliers feel the same way. This suggests a massive disconnect in the industry between what travel shoppers want, and hotels are providing.

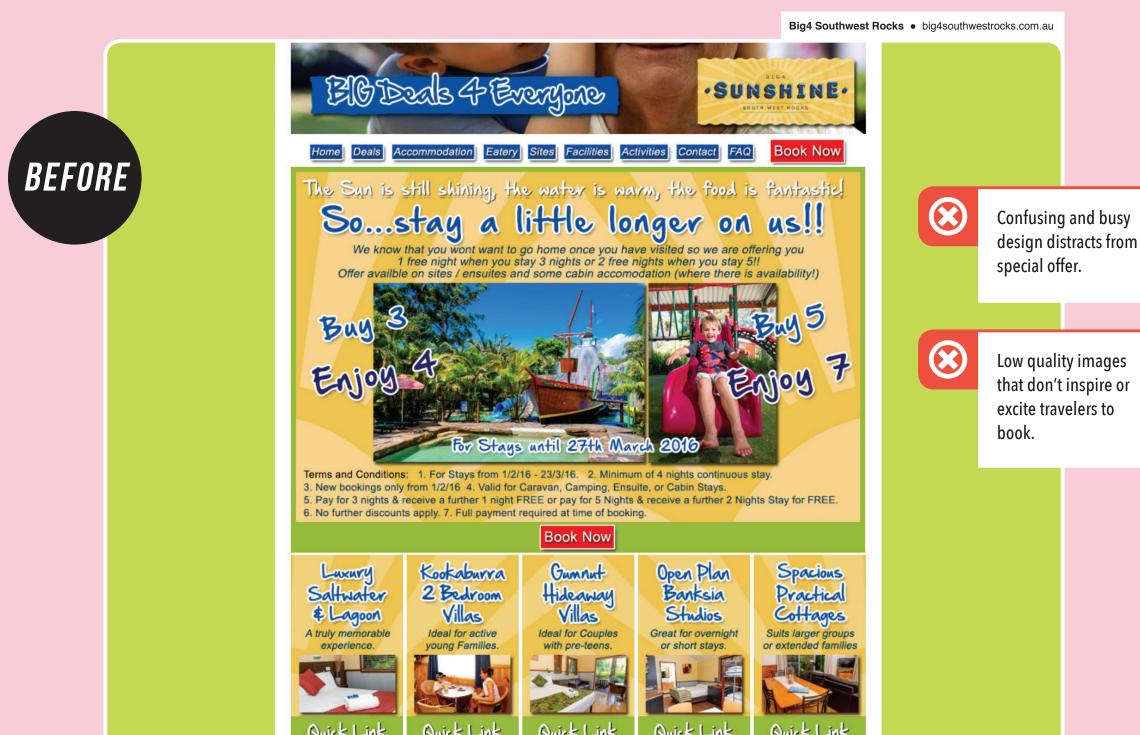
A special offer can be the final nudge someone needs to book with you. But it doesn't have to be centered on price. A special offer can be something as simple as a free gift on arrival, faster Wi-Fi connectivity, early check-in, or first pick of the best rooms. Motivating travel shoppers simply comes down to offering them value. Whatever your special offer, be sure to call it out everywhere on your website. The more people can see it, the more likely they are to retain that information as they move through the travel shopping journey, and the more likely they are to return to your website once ready to book. vizlly.com

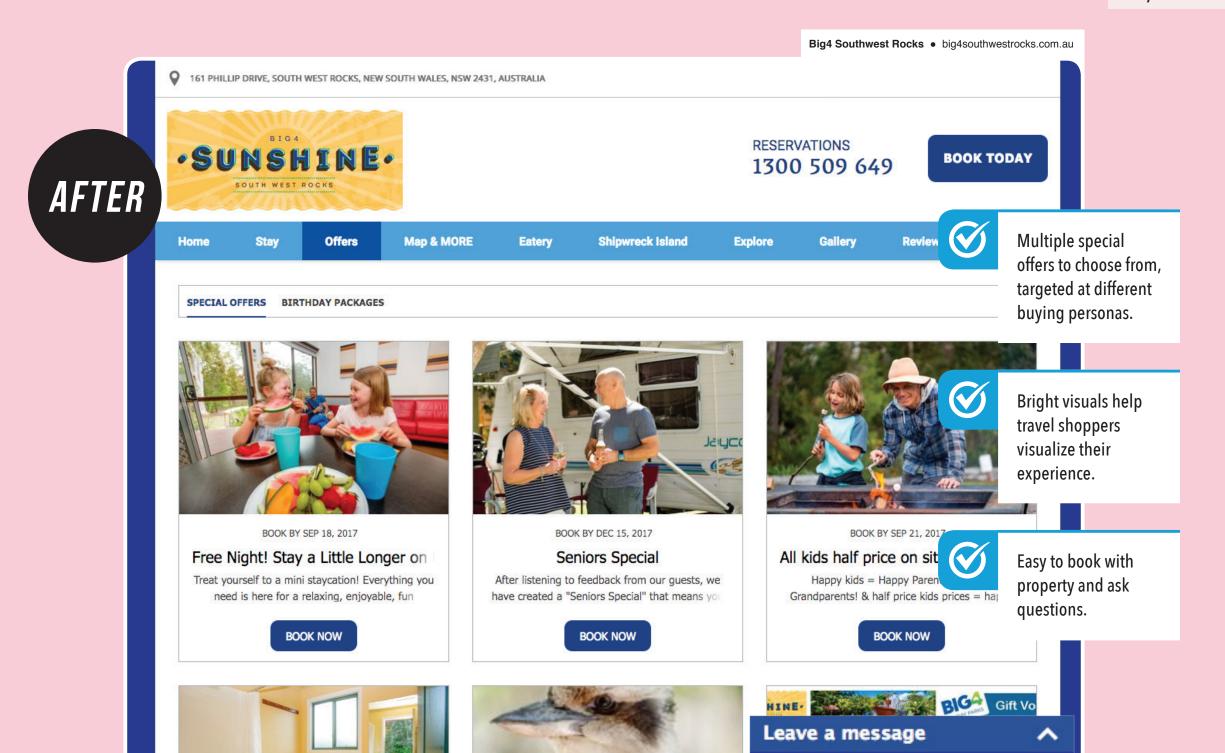
19

Read on to see how these two hotels are excelling with special offers...









5 Be Mobile

In 2016, <u>1 in 5 reservations were made</u> on a mobile device; something that's only going to continue to climb. Google also announced it will be switching to a mobilefirst index in 2017, penalizing websites not optimized for mobile with lower organic search rankings.

Mobile bookings have a clear and deliberate impact on your bottom line. To drive more of them, your website needs to be optimized for mobile and deliver a great user experience.

Your mobile website should include the following features to help users on-the-go:

- Clear call-to-action on every page
- Booking engine integration to support mobile bookings

- Mobile-specific special offers
- Click to call functionality to contact your property easily
- Google Maps integration for location and directions
- Suggestions for local attractions and restaurants

We give the following mobile websites an A+...

Special Offers

MAYBERRY





Les Chambres jusquà -50% avec le meilleur tarif garanti

Toutes nos chambres sont climatisées et très calmes. Elles offrent une décoration raffinée pour une ambiance cosy. (Option fumeur 29€ par nuit) Elles ont toutes un mini-bar, une télévision écran plat avec des chaines internationales et la TNT. Linternet wifi est gratuit et illimité dans toutes les chambres. Celles ci comprennent aussi un téléphone privatif ainsi quune salle de bain Jacuzzi ou douche hydro-massage. Offre exclusive par le site internet officiel: Le service gratuit du plateau de courtoisie avec thé, café et bouilloire à votre disposition dans votre chambre.

Chambres « classique » simples ou doubles internet illimité WiFi gratuit

Pour une ou deux personnes, entièrement équipée avec salle de bain privative; douche hydro massage, ainsi quinternet illimité et gratuit WiFi, climatisation, mini bar et télévision écran plat (chaines internationales et françaises). Offre exclusive par le site internet officiel: Le service gratuit du plateau de courtoisie avec thé, café et bouilloire à votre disposition dans votre chambre.

Chambre « Deluxe-Jaccuzi » internet illimité WiFi gratuit

Pour une ou deux personnes, entièrement équipée avec salle de bain privative; bain hydro-massage & douche, internet illimité et gratuit en wifi, climatisation, mini bar et télévision écran plat (chaines internationales et françaises). Possibilité dajouter un lit supplémentaire à 49€ par nuit (en option). Offre exclusive par le site internet officiel: Le service gratuit du plateau de courtoisie avec thé, café et bouilloire à votre disposition dans votre chambre.

Chambres Twin Deluxe internet illimité WiFi gratuit

Pour deux personnes, entièrement équipée avec deux lits pour une personne et salle de bain privative; douche hydro massage ou bain hydromassage & douche, internet illimité gratuit WiFi, climatisation, mini bar et



Website not optimized for mobile.



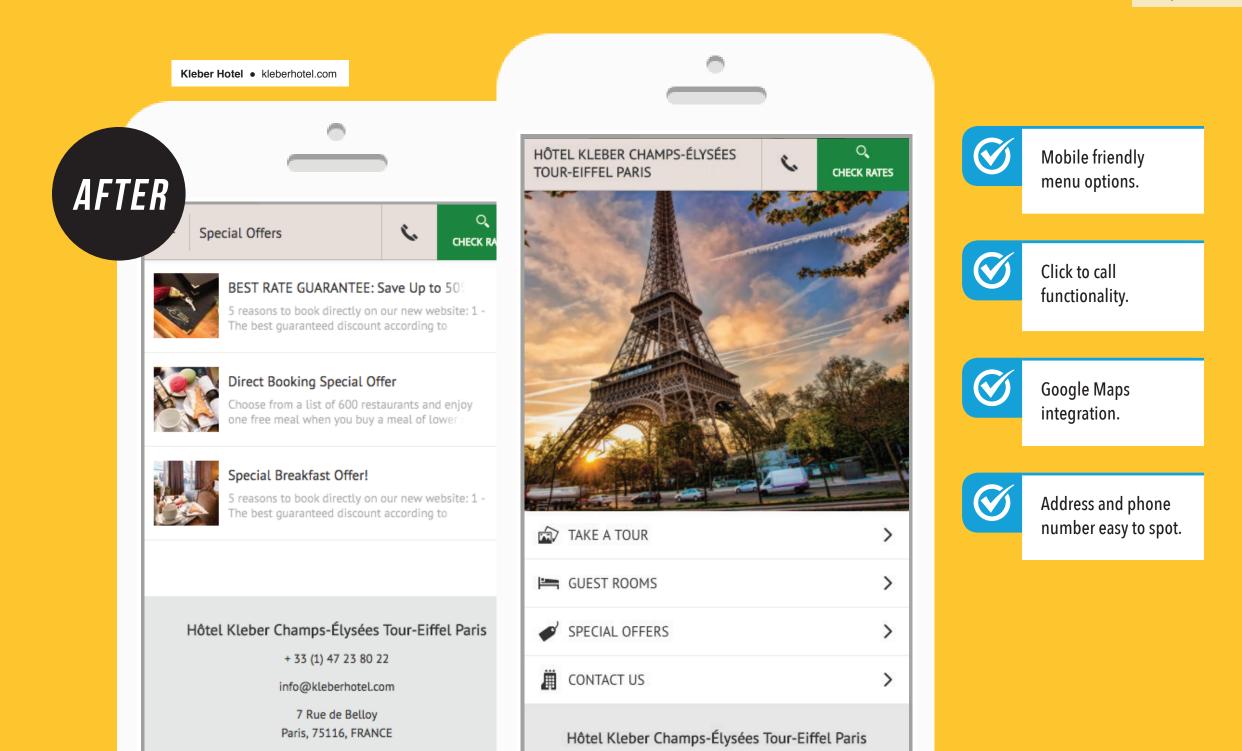
Tiny room type images that don't expand.



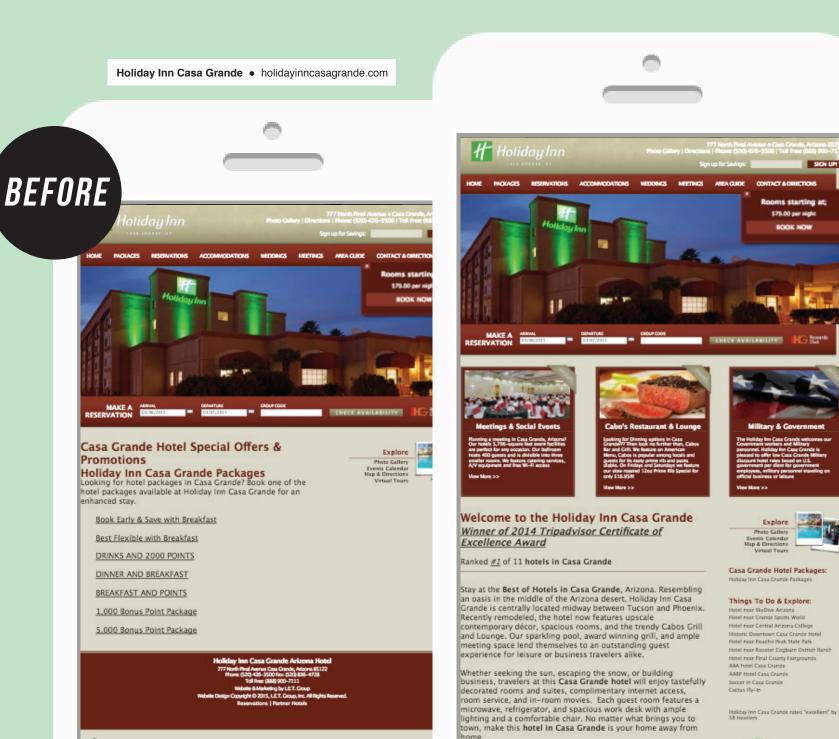
No prominent call to action.



Text-heavy descriptions of room types.



vizlly.com 27





SIGN UP!

CONTACT & DIRECTIONS

ary & Go

Explore

Photo Gallery

Events Calendar

Map & Directions Virtual Tours

100

Rooms starting at; \$79.00 per night BOOK NOW

Busy homepage, not optimized for mobile viewing.



No clear call to action.



Images don't captivate and inspire travel shoppers.



No Click to Call functionality or Google Maps integration.



Minimal description of special offers, buried Book Now button.

Holiday Inn Casa Grande • holidayinncasagrande.com



WHAT TO SEE & DO IN ARIZONA

Explore Arizona from Holiday Inn Casa Grande There is so much to see and do in Arizona and vou car

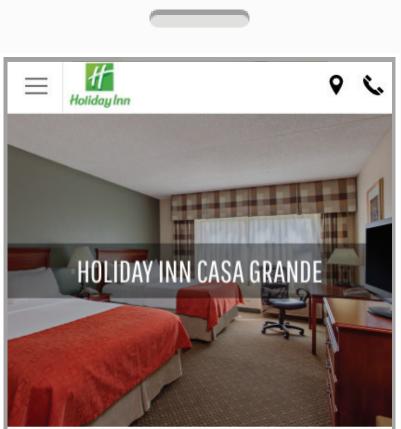
READ MORE



THE ME

DETAIL

Local Insider



WELCOME

The Preferred Hotel in Casa Grande AZ

Welcome to Holiday Inn Casa Grande centrally located midway between Tucson and Phoenix, AZ. Our hotel

offer		that
em	Q BOOK TODAY	ith



Mobile optimized site that matches corporate branding.



Google Maps integration and Click to Call functionality.



Prominent call to action to Book Today.



Suggestions for local attractions accompanied by high-impact visuals.

Let's Recap

Your hotel website is your most profitable booking channel. Make sure it gives the right impression about your property and can convert travel shoppers by following our 5 best practices:

- 1. Tell your unique story
- 2. Lead with Guest Room images
- 3. Provide social proof
- 4. Promote special offers
- 5. Be mobile optimized

By following these best practices, you'll be well on your way to driving more direct bookings and revenue for your hotel.



Ready to Drive More Direct Bookings?

Each one of the examples used in this Look Book are using Vizlly, our digital marketing solution, to drive more direct bookings at a lower cost.

Vizlly comes with:

- Professional SEO Marketing Services
- Conversion-driven hotel website
- Mobile website
- Facebook Apps
- Digital brochures for third-party channels

Over 3,000+ hotels are using Vizlly to drive more direct bookings at a lower cost and are seeing results fast! <u>Get started today.</u>



REQUEST A DEMO OF VIZLLY

leonardo

Leonardo is a technology company serving the global hospitality industry. We provide hospitality professionals at Hotels, Management Companies, Hotel Chains and Travel Websites with technology solutions that improve the way they present their properties online to travel shoppers.

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