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New Web sites take travelers off the beaten track

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Many guidebooks and Web sites offer things to do and places to see on your travels, but a few new companies think there are niches still to fill.

Sites such as [WallBounce.com](#), [SixNewThings.com](#), [ThingsToDo.com](#), and [DailyCandy.com](#) try to give travelers ideas for vacations, side trips, attractions, and restaurants that are new and off-the-beaten track.

Some are geared specifically for travelers, while others cater more to locals looking for something new.

[WallBounce](#) offers to arrange learning experiences, while the others traffic largely in information. It's too soon to tell if their information is unusual or useful enough to attract a following.

Each month, SixNewThings gives its corporate-road-warrior subscribers an idea of what's new and interesting in 70 cities across North America. The six items featured are gleaned from the two co-publishers' own sources as well as the Internet, blogs and podcasts.

Jeff Herrington, one of the publishers, said the idea is to give subscribers things to do but not overwhelm them or duplicate what would be in a standard guidebook. "It's what's new, what's brand new," he said.

ThingsToDo and DailyCandy offer a slightly different potpourri. ThingsToDo bills itself as a provider of U.S. travel, recreation and entertainment information. Users click on a state and receive a couple of spotlighted travel suggestions, plus links to more information about the area, regional attractions, lodging, outdoor recreation and coming events.

DailyCandy promises a guide to what's hot, new and undiscovered in eight U.S. cities, plus London. The site is geared more to the cities' residents who are looking for activities, but travel is a focus.

"It's like getting an e-mail from your clever, unpredictable and totally in-the-know best friend," the Web site says.

[WallBounce](#), rather than just suggesting activities in a city, actually arranges offbeat and unusual forms of entertainment or learning experiences for those with plenty of disposable income.

"It's for people who don't want to do the mundane," said Robin Wilson, the company's chief executive officer. "Our goal is to be the premier provider of lifestyle experiences, offering the same sort of access a politician or a celebrity would get."

The site, launched last month, is still working out the kinks. But its current offerings include a \$5,000 eight-course dinner for six at the chef's table at Alain Ducasse in New York's Essex House; a private screening of a movie at a 100-seat theater in Washington, D.C. (\$2,800); a behind-the-scenes chocolate tasting at Debaube & Gallais in New York (\$1,400); and a five-day, shark-diving experience off San Diego (\$12,200).

Wilson has lots of big ideas. She wants to offer the chance to watch the Super Bowl from a blimp, design your own Nike running shoes or put together your own music show on satellite radio.

[WallBounce](#) is currently charging its customers a fee for the experiences plus a markup for itself. Wilson said her goal eventually is to earn her fees directly from providers.

SixNewThings offers its listings for \$2 per month or a discounted rate to employees of companies that participate. Herrington said IBM Corp. is the company's first corporate client. DailyCandy and Things ToDo are free, relying on advertising and referrals.