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OTA & Travel Distribution Update – Travel agency hit with TCPA class action; Expedia ups its game by adding more house listings; Amazon a threat to online travel agencies, not hotels

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Travel Agency Hit With TCPA Class Action Over Cuba Texts

Law 360 – Cybersecurity & Privacy on Aug 10, 2018 (subscription required)

An online travel agency that arranges trips to Cuba got slapped with a proposed class action in Florida federal court on Thursday for allegedly violating the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, with the lead plaintiff claiming he received an illegal telemarketing text message via an automatic telephone dialing system.

[**Expedia Is Coming After Airbnb, Booking in Home Rental Market – Bloomberg**](#)

Bloomberg News on Aug 8, 2018

Expedia Group Inc. plans to make it even hotter. After spending three years upgrading the technology of its HomeAway unit, Expedia is ready to step up its efforts to add more house listings in a bid to catch up with the scale of competitors like Airbnb Inc.

[**IHG CEO: Amazon Is a Threat to Online Travel Agencies, Not Hotels**](#)

Skift Travel News on Aug 7, 2018

IHG CEO Keith Barr's take on how we'll be using technology now and in the future is both contrarian and perhaps more pragmatic than the views of some of his travel industry peers. At a time when many in the travel and hospitality industry are pondering the possibility of Amazon ...

[**How Smart Speakers Are Poised to Reinvent the Travel Industry**](#)

Harvard Business Review Blog Network on Aug 7, 2018

Marriott recently teamed up with Amazon to offer a hospitality version of the e-commerce giant's Echo devices in select hotel rooms. Now, when guests want to order room service or housekeeping, they can

simply ask Alexa, the voice of their disembodied personal concierge.

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