

# OTA & Travel Distribution Update – April 21st, 2017

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This week's OTA & Travel Distribution Update for the week ending April 21, 2017 is below. This week's update contains a variety of stories, including a copy of the now much-publicized *New York Times* article detailing AH&LA's campaign against Airbnb and Airbnb's subsequent response.

## **NYT Article looks at hotel industry efforts to reign in Airbnb...**

### **[Inside the Hotel Industry's Plan to Combat Airbnb](#)**

*New York Times, April 16, 2017*

In the past, hotel executives played down Airbnb's impact on their industry, but documents reveal a "multipronged, national campaign" to rein it in.

## **... and Airbnb responds with letter to AHLA**

### **[Airbnb Fires Back, Accuses Hotel Industry Of Punishing the Middle-Class](#)**

*The Hill, April 20, 2017*

Airbnb is hitting back after the hotel industry touted its lobbying efforts against the online room-sharing service. The company's head of policy, Christopher Lehane, accused hoteliers of price-gouging customers and called their fight against Airbnb a "campaign to punish the middle-class" in a [letter](#) Wednesday.

## **Evolving tools for online booking of small events space**

*Skift Travel News, April 19, 2017*

### **[The Future of Online Bookings for Small Event Space - Meetings Innovation Report](#)**

Companies can now expand their use of online platforms to book small meetings in creative venues, because they now have the ability to message venues directly in real-time and integrate compliance requirements.

## **Expedia white paper shows power of packages for hotels**

### **[The power of packages for hotels](#)**

*Tnooz, April 19, 2017*

Expedia took a deep dive into 2016 data, comparing package bookings to standalone hotel bookings from global points of sale inbound to U.S. properties. The findings? A wealth of information and opportunity that should be music to hoteliers' ears.

## **Developer releases Chrome extension to exclude United from OTA results**

*The Next Web, April 17, 2017*

**[Hide United flights from search results with this handy extension](#)**

United Airlines has been in the news for all the wrong reasons lately - having police rough up a passenger to make room for its staff on an 'overbooked' aircraft, threatening to place another in handcuffs, and removing a couple believed to be traveling to their wedding from a flight.

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