MAXIMIZING EXPOSURE FOR YOUR GOOGLE BUSINESS PROFILE

February 2024



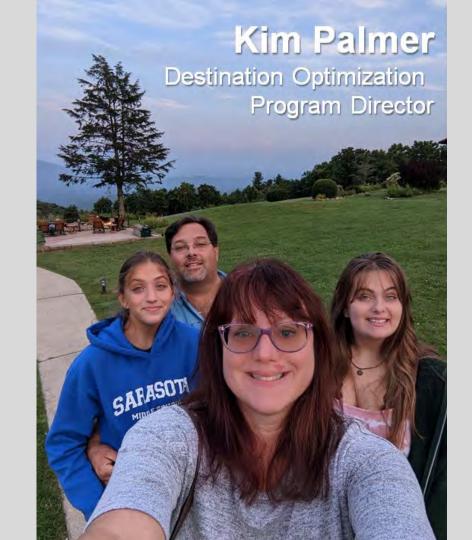




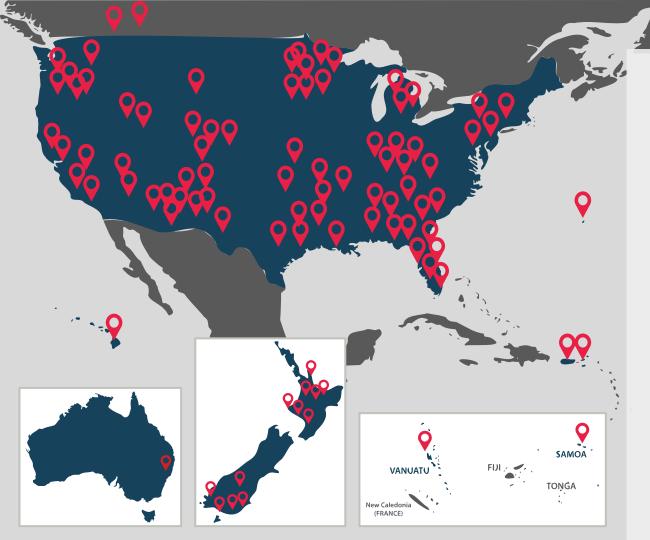


Miles is a strategic marketing company focused exclusively on travel and tourism.

We've worked with hundreds of destinations and hospitality businesses around the world to create forward-thinking content marketing solutions.







300+

Destinations have participated in some version of our program

150,000+

Businesses and POI have been audited and analyzed

8,000+

Business owners and managers received in-person or virtual training



What We'll Cover Today

- \square
- **Today's Travel Search Trends**
- **Best Practices & New Tools**
- **Updating With Posts**
- Responding to Questions & Messages
- 区
- **Integrating Conversions**

Monitoring Performance



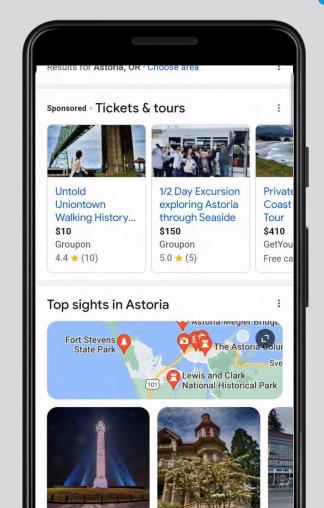
Today's Travel Search Trends



Google

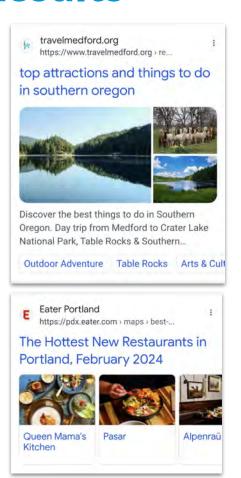
Today's Travel Search Results Are

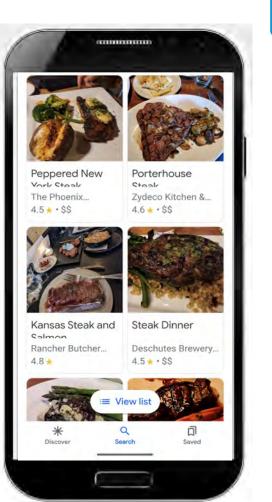
- Primarily Mobile
- More Visual + Video
- More Transactional
- Powered by Al



More Visual Results





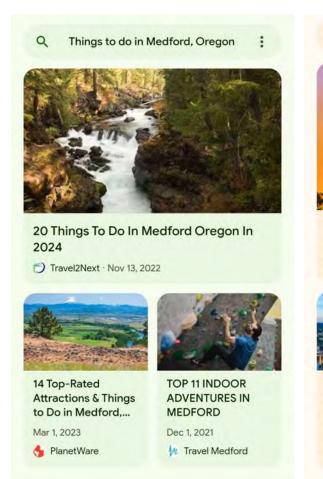




More Visual Results

miles

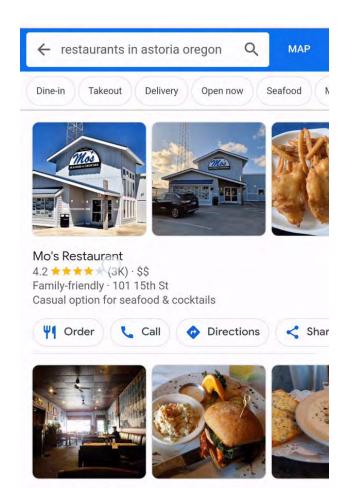
"Related Searches" call outs are now visual cards for article results.

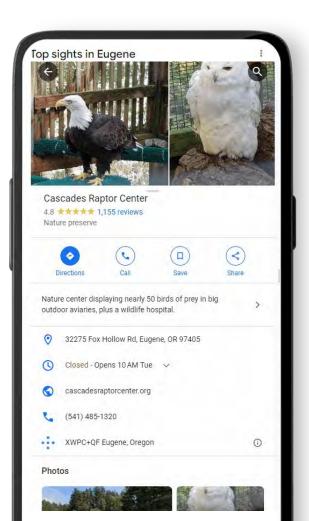




More Visual Results









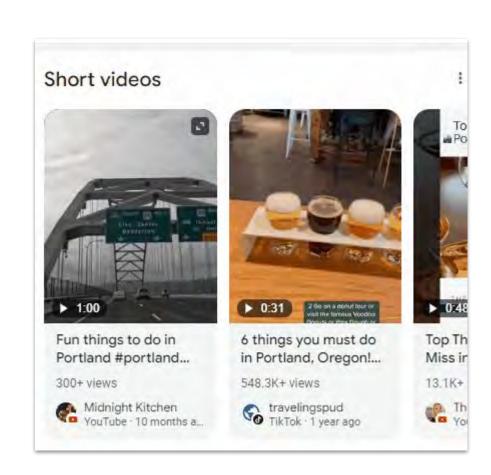
Short Form Video in Results

Visible on mobile only

Destination & Things to Do Searches

Sources include YouTube Shorts, TikTok, Facebook

Expected expansion in to dining searches





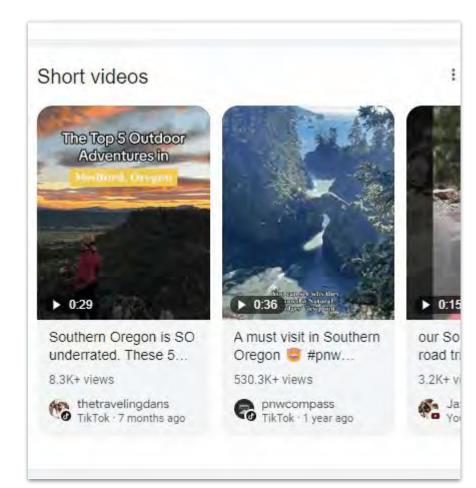
Short Form Video in Results

It's all about SEO-friendly:

- Video titles
- Descriptions
- Hashtags

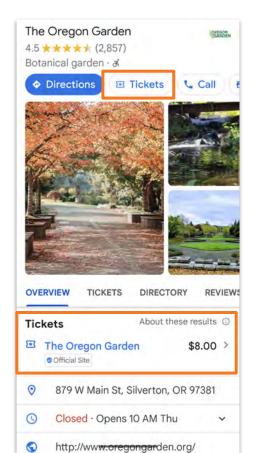
Things that help:

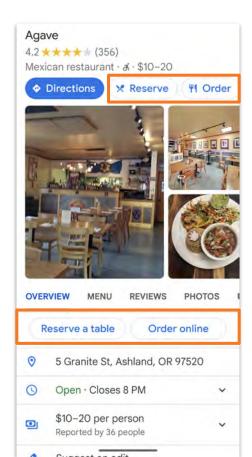
- Text on the screen
- Voiceover
- High view count
- High interactions

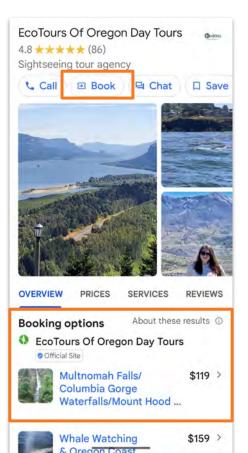




Emphasis On Conversions





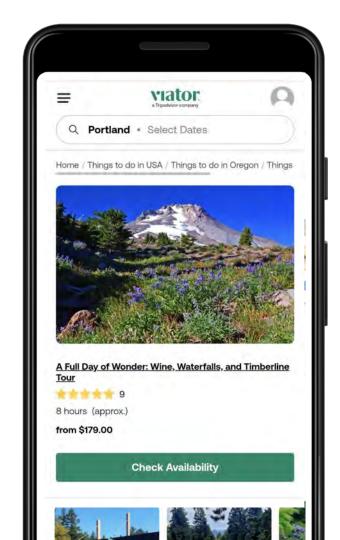




Tickets & Tours Ad Unit

Appears in destination & "things to do" searches in markets with critical mass of tours available

PPC ad unit primarily featuring Viator, Get Your Guide, Groupon and other major aggregators





Generative Alls Changing Search



ChatGPT 3.5 ~

You

I have one day in Florence Oregon. What are the best hiking trails in the area for wildlife?

ChatGPT

Florence, Oregon, offers some beautiful hiking trails with opportunities to experience wildlife. Here are a few suggestions for the best hiking trails in the area for wildlife:

- 1. Sweet Creek Trail:
 - This trail features a series of waterfalls and lush greenery along Sweet Creek. Keep an eye out for various bird species and small mammals. The trail is about 2.2 miles one way, and it's relatively easy, suitable for all skill levels.
- 2. Hobbit Trail:
 - * Located in the nearby Heceta Beach area, the Hobbit Trail takes you through a coastal forest and opens up to stunning views of the ocean. Wildlife enthusiasts might spot birds, including eagles and other coastal fauna.
- 3. Siltcoos River Trail:
 - . This trail offers a mix of forested areas and wetlands along the Silts

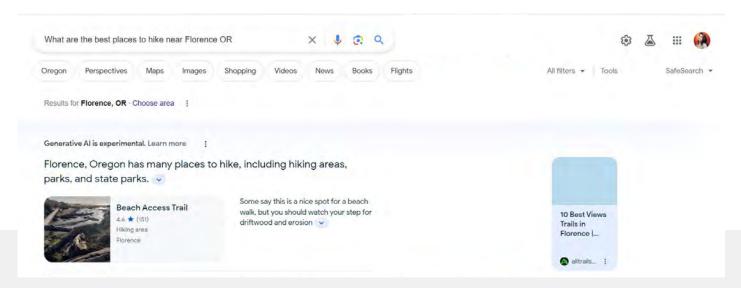


Message ChatGPT...





Search Generative Experience (SGE)



"If you ask detailed questions about a **place or destination** in Search, you'll see an Al-powered snapshot that brings together the most helpful information available — not only from across the web, but also from the reviews, photos and Business Profile details"



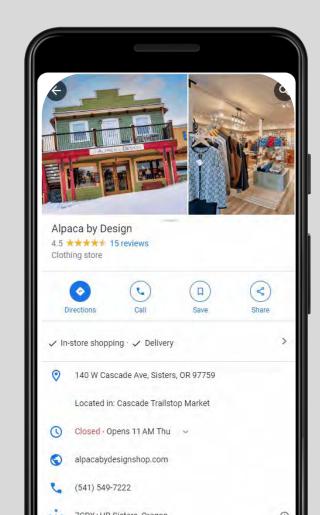
Business Profile Best Practices & New Tools



Google

Five Best Practices

- 1. Claim your business profile
- 2. Keep hours current
- 3. Check relevant attributes
- 4. Add fresh pictures regularly
- 5. Respond to reviews

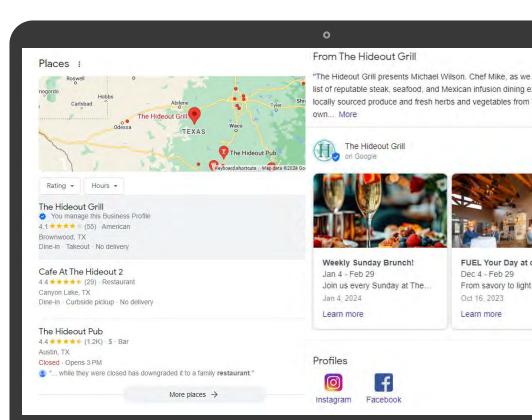






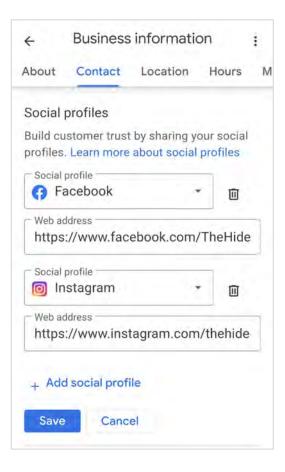
Businesses can now fully manage their social links through the Google Business Profile Editor.

So far, these only show in desktop search.



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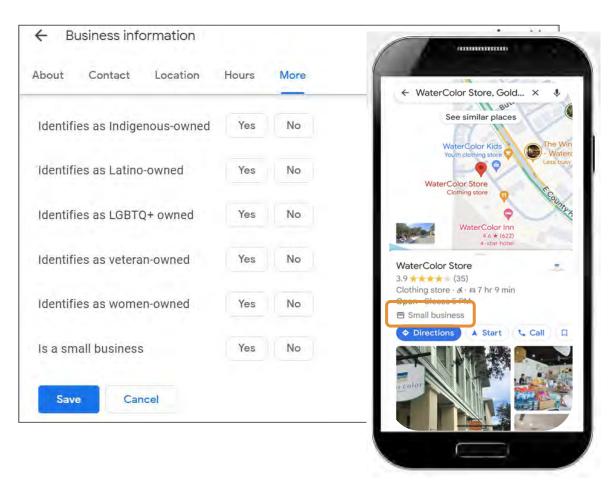
Adding Social Links



- Open the Google Business Profile Manager or search for your business
- 2. Click on "Edit Business Information"
- Look for "Social Profiles" under "Contact"
- 4. Click on "Add social profile"



Small Business Attribute



"This new attribute will automatically appear for **some businesses** based on Google's understanding of how many products they sell, the number of locations they have or how much web traffic they get."

While this new attribute isn't currently available to ALL businesses, it's worth checking your settings in the profile manager. Click "Edit Profile, select "more" then click on "Business information."

Google also states that **users** will be able to filter their search results to find small businesses.

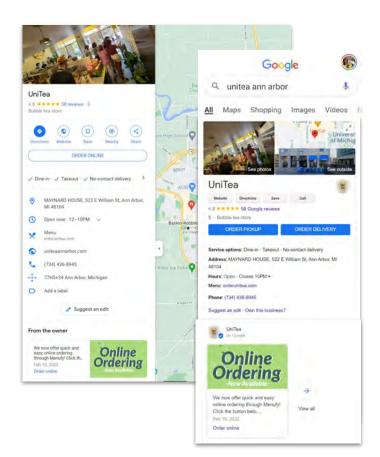


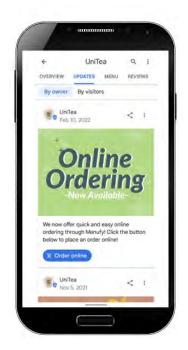
Google Business Profiles

Post Updates



Post Offers, Events & Updates





Posts appear in your business profile throughout Google Search and Google Maps on mobile & desktop

This provides a huge amount of organic visibility for your message.

(That means free!)



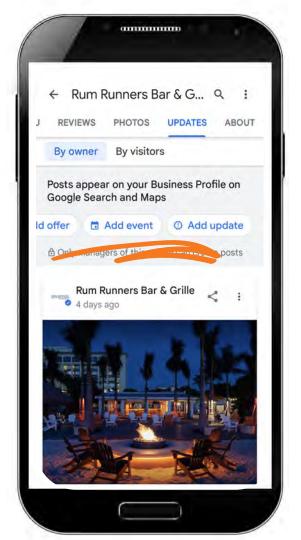
Event title Live Music at Rum Runner's! (Example: Sale this week) Add more details (optional) . Event details Relax by the fire at Rum Add a button (optional) Learn more - Link for your button ita.com/events?view=eventbox&cati (Example: google.com)

Publish

How to Post

- Use an attention grabbing photo –
 bright colors, simple, single subject.
- Focus your message on the first 100 characters.
- Add your own tracking codes to your call-to-action button.





Best Practices

- Post early in the week if you're promoting something the following weekend.
- Post regularly! Two to four times per month
- Review Google's content guidelines, particularly regarding alcohol promotion
- Do not duplicate photos in recurring posts - risk of account suspension

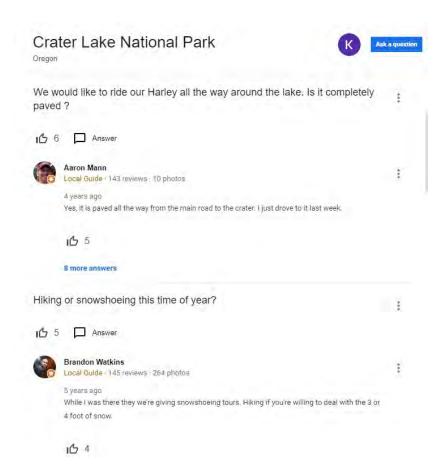


Google Business Profiles

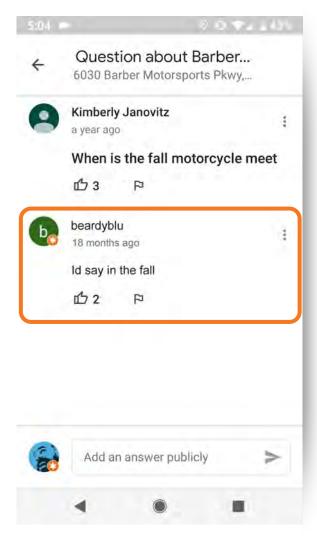
Questions & Answers

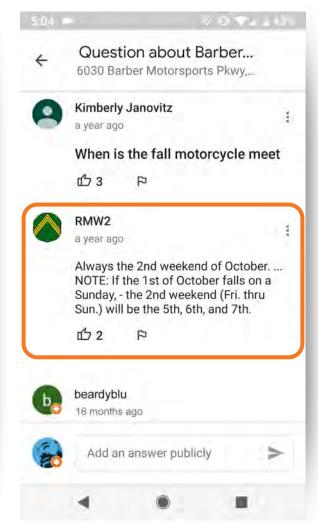


Questions & Answers is a public feature which appears as part of your Business Profile. Anyone can ask, and answer questions about your business.



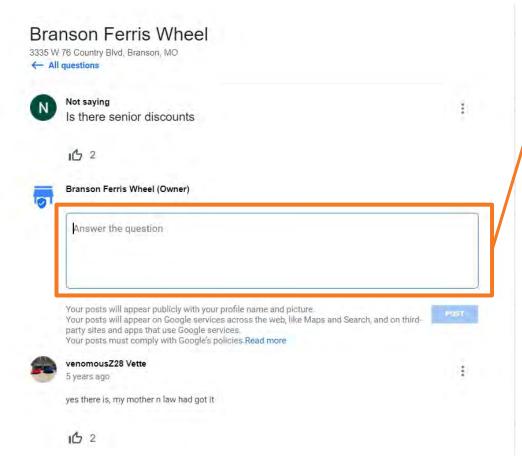


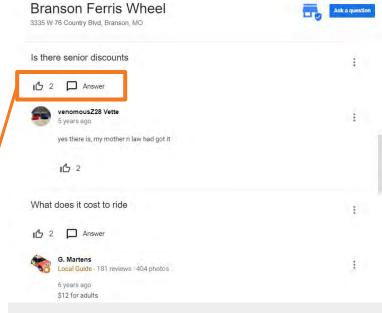




But... they often get answered faster by Local Guides than they do by the businesses, and the Guides aren't always right.







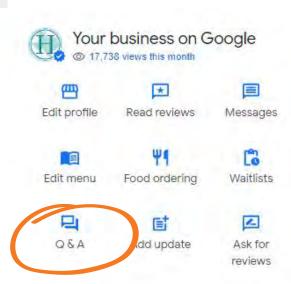
Answers coming from your business are **more reliable.**



Q&A is accessible directly through the business profile editing tools

In Search, look for the **Q&A button**

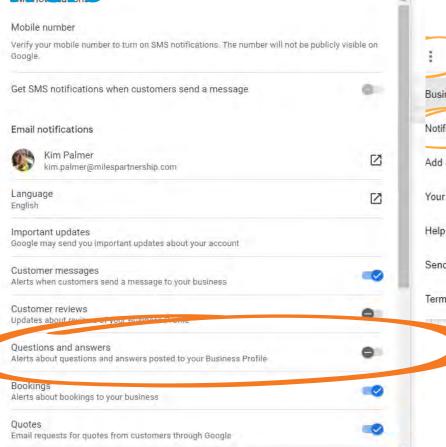
In the Maps app, select "**Customers**" to access Q&A

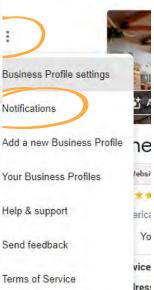




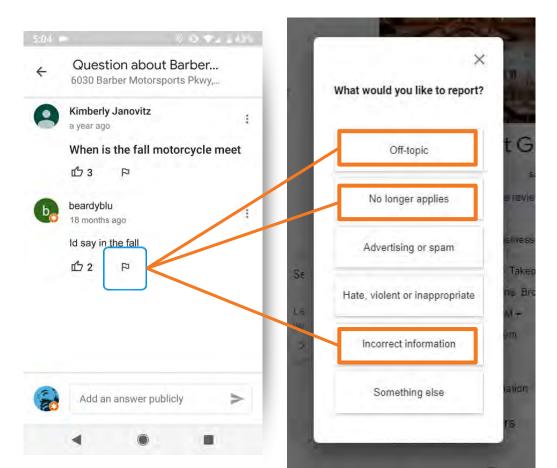


Make sure you have notifications turned on for new questions from customers





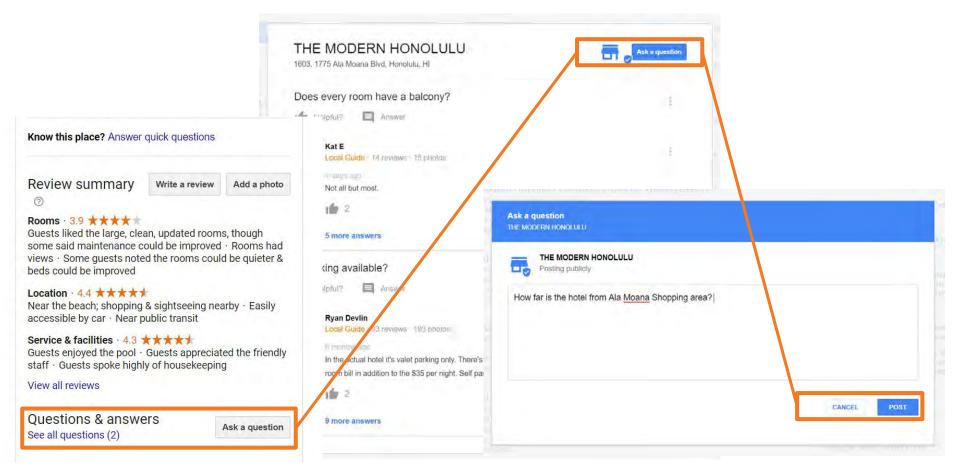




After you've provided your own answers, report the bad answers in your profile.



Submit FAQs as Questions & Answers





Google Business Profiles

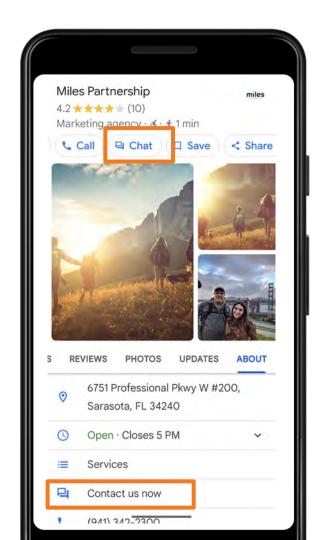
Messaging



Direct Messaging

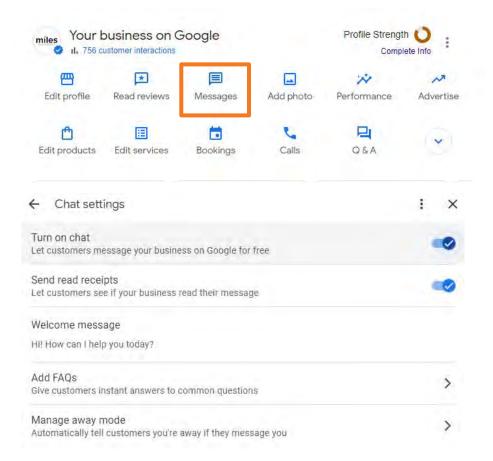
Engage with customers by and enabling **Messages**.

Turning on chat will create a **chat button** that customers can use to send questions.





Direct Messaging



You can automate a welcome message or include an FAQ

Encouraged to reply in 24 hours - can be disabled for not doing so

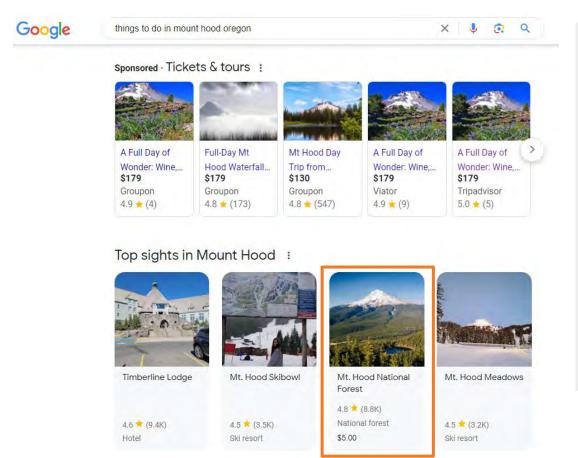
You can continue to communicate with that customer for **30 days**



Google Business Profiles

Conversion Integrations

Attraction Ticket Links

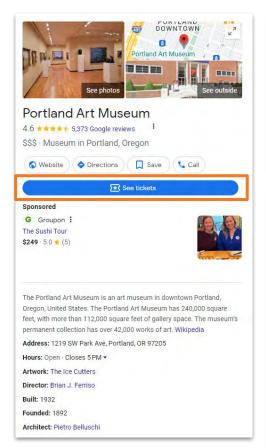


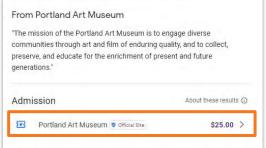
Published ticket prices can show up not only on your Google Business Profile when users search your business, but also in the local pack or other products.

A keyword search like "things to do in mount hood" could feature your business and the ticket pricing you've published.



Attraction Ticket Links





To make a reservation, contact tours@pam.org.

PURCHASE TICKETS

Discounts and free days

The Portland Art Museum and our donors are committed to making the

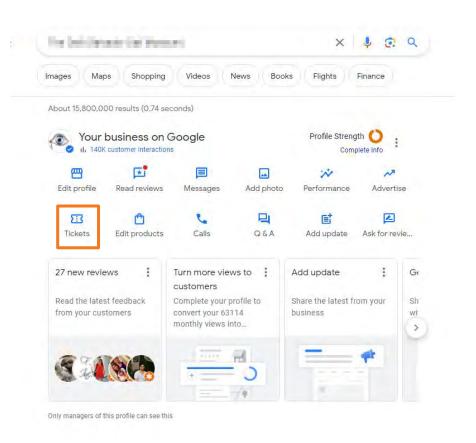
With a verified listing, experience providers don't have to rely on third party sites for ticket sales.

Instead, the business can add a "see tickets" button, highlight their ticket pricing and push traffic to their official website.

This is an opportunity that can increase direct ticket sales.



Attraction Ticket Links



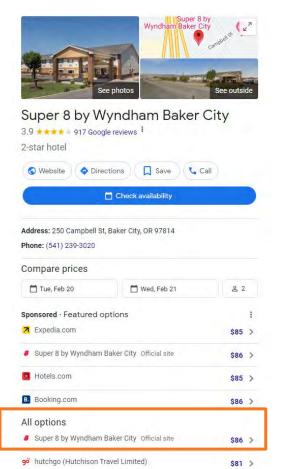
Make sure that you are using "tourist attraction" as a primary or secondary GBP category.

In the Business Profile Manager, you should see a button in the menu for "tickets." Optionally, you can click on "Edit Profile," and go to "Tickets."

According to Google **ALL "attraction businesses" are eligible**. If you don't see "tickets" in the menu, you may need to contact support.



Lodging Free Booking Links





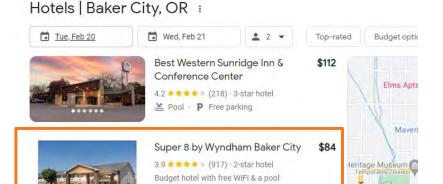
With a verified listing, lodging providers don't have to rely on third party sites for bookings.

Instead, you can add a **free booking** link that will take
travelers to your website to **book directly.**

You can also **add rates** that will appear within your profile listings.



Lodging Free Booking Links



Pool · P Free parking

Geiser Grand Hotel

All options

Super 8 by Wyndham Baker City Official site \$86 >

hutchgo (Hutchison Travel Limited) \$81 >

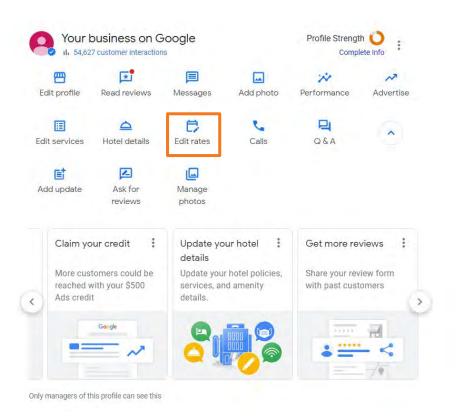
\$178

Published rates can show up not only on your Google Business Profile when users search your business, but also in the local pack.

A keyword search like "hotels in baker city oregon" could feature your business and your hotel's rates.



Lodging Free Booking Links



Hoteliers should see "Edit rates" in the main menu of the Business Profile Manager.

You can use this feature to add various rates: single room rate per night, double occupancy rates, discounts or promotions for multi-night stays, etc.

You <u>cannot add</u> multiple rates for different room types or refundable rates.

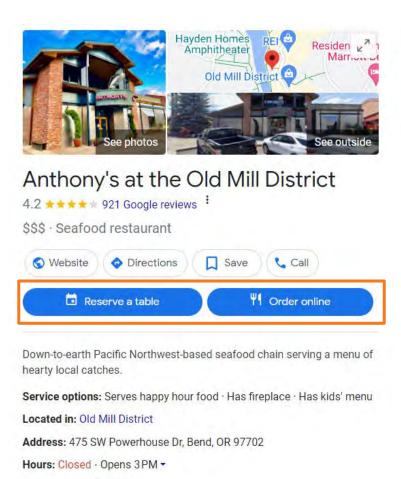
Your rates may appear in *Google*Search, Google Maps, and YouTube.



Allow users to book a table from SERP with "Reserve with Google."

Dining businesses have access to Reserve with Google. You can add a direct link to your online booking pages and/or add a featured "book" button.

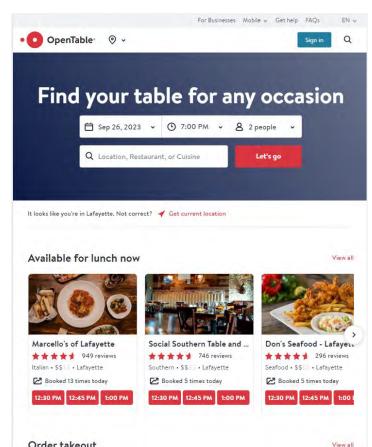
Let's look at the steps for enabling these features and getting started.

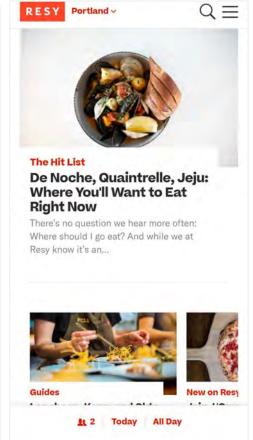




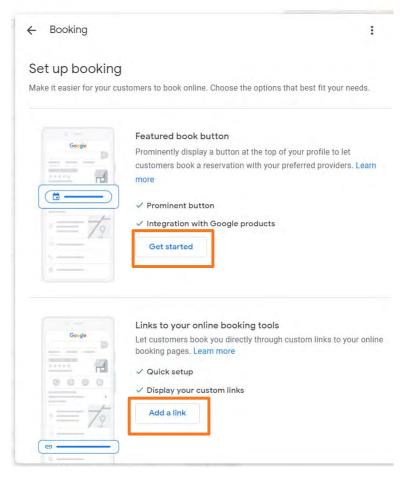
If your business is not already using an online **booking tool**, you'll need do some shopping for the right platform.

You may want to start your search with popular sites like **OpenTable** or **Resy**.









Select "booking" in the main menu.

Under "Featured book button" select, "get started."

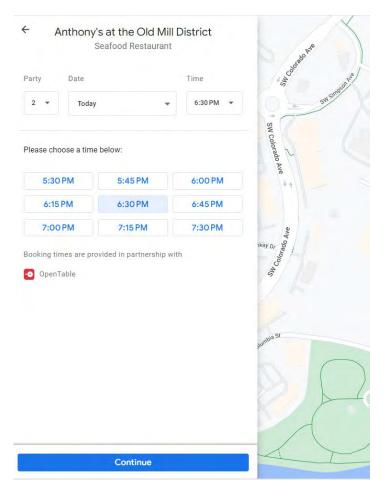
From here, you can select from one of the eligible third-party providers.

Under "Links to your online booking tools" select, "add a link."

From here, you can add a booking URL, then select save.

Your booking link should be published.



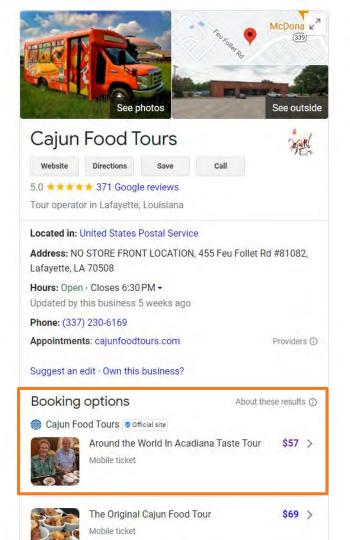


Booking will look a little something like this.

Once you're set up, users will be able to click on "Reserve a Table." This will take the user to Google Maps where a booking menu will appear with reservation options.

The integrated booking tool will appear in the bottom corner just like in this example where we see OpenTable as the source.



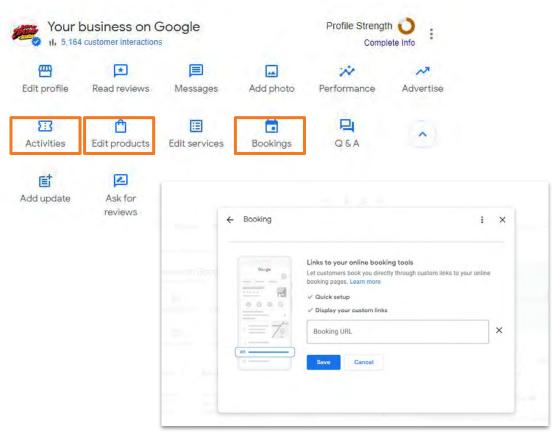


Other business categories will have access to "bookings" and/or "products" or "activities"

This is another great opportunity to get customers to **book directly** with your business, not a third party site.



Other Ways to Add Booking



Select "booking" in the main menu via desktop

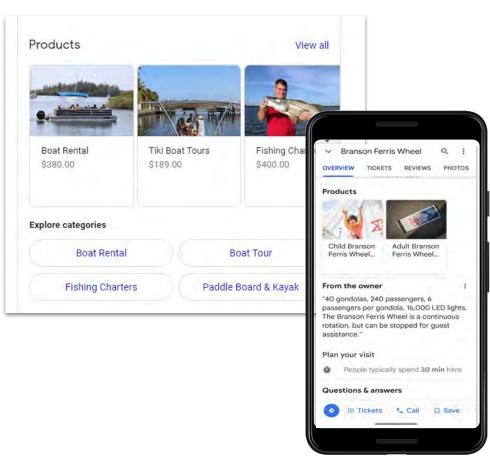
In the pop up window, click on "add a link."

From here, you can add a booking URL, then select save.

Your booking link should be published.



Adding Products



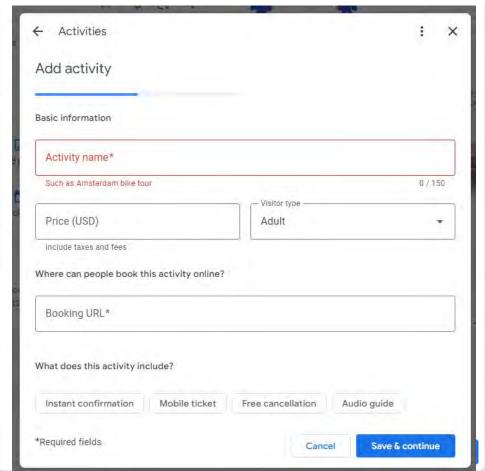
Products appear in the GBP in both SERP and Google Maps.

Products feature the name of the good(s), a photo and the price.

You can even **separate products into categories**. For example, you may want to have a section for tour packages and another for souvenirs like t-shirts and caps.



Adding Products



On Desktop! Select "Products" in the main menu to begin editing.

First, decide if you are going to use categories.

Next add product details like a name, price, description, and a landing page URL, then upload a picture of the product/tour and publish.

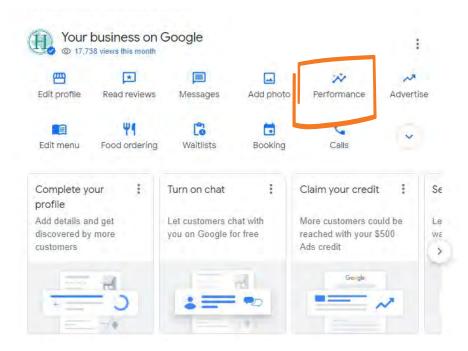


Google Business Profiles

Profile Performance



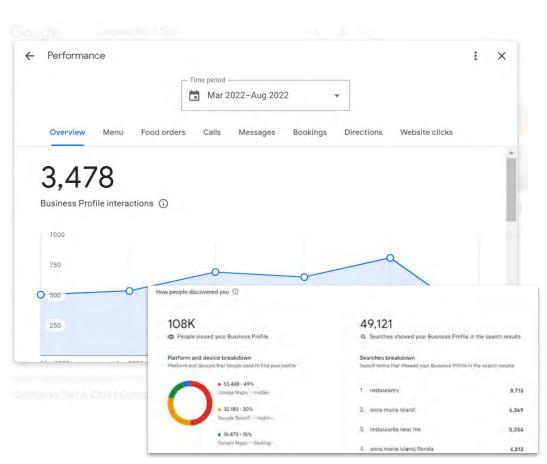
Profile Performance
Reports can be
accessed via Google
search by clicking
Performance.





Performance reporting tracks customer exposures and engagement inside Google's platform - you can't get these numbers anywhere else.

- Customer actions
- Bookings
- Visibility in Search & Maps
- Search terms

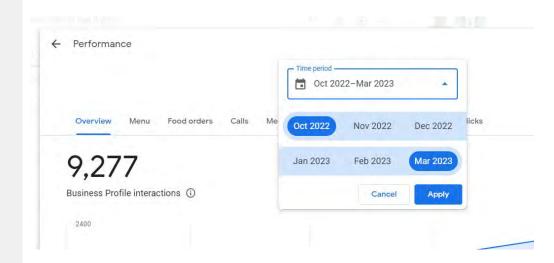


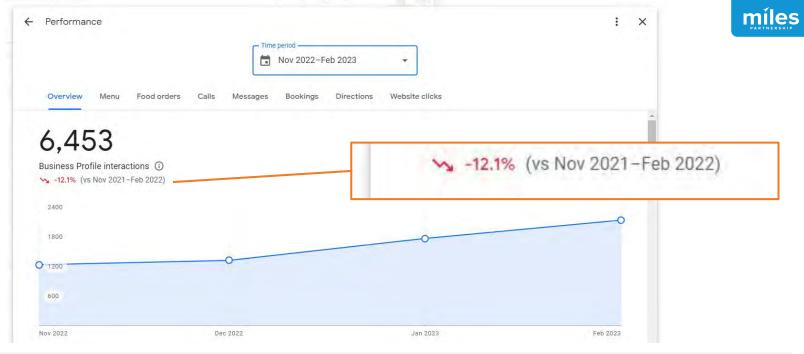


Performance data is **updated monthly**

Six months of performance data is available

You can select a
reporting timeframe
between one month and
six months





Business Profile Interactions are the total of calls, messages, bookings, directions and other conversions from the profile

Completed months will show a comparison to the same time frame of the prior year



Profile views show how many people saw your business profile on Google Search or Google Maps

Distribution is broken down by Search, Maps, Mobile and Desktop

Completed months will show a comparison to the same time frame of the prior year

93,503

O People viewed your Business Profile

-12.7% (vs Nov 2021-Feb 2022)

Platform and device breakdown

Platform and devices that people used to find your profile





Searches shows the terms people used that returned your profile in the results

Click See more to get the top 100 search terms

Expect to see a mix of business category terms and variations of your business name

67,003

Q Searches showed your Business Profile in the search results

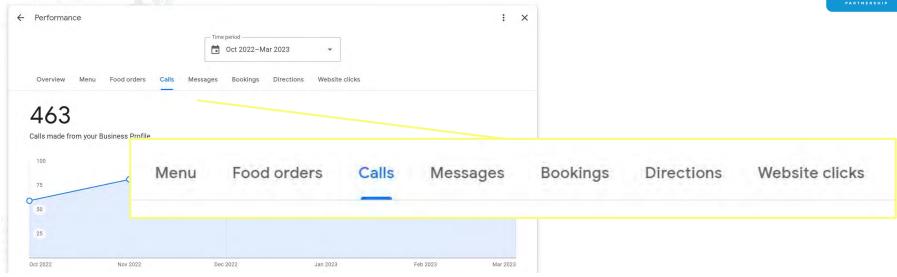
Searches breakdown

Search terms that showed your Business Profile in the search results

1.	restaurants	17K
2.	rum runner	8,270
3.	restaurants near me	4,830
4.	food near me	2,373
5.	breakfast	2,024

See more





Reports are also available for **specific conversions and customer interactions** with your profile.

The reports available will depend on your business category

Completed months will show a comparison to the same time frame of the prior year



What We Covered



Today's Travel Search Trends



Best Practices & New Tools



Updating With Posts



Responding to Questions & Messages



Integrating Conversions



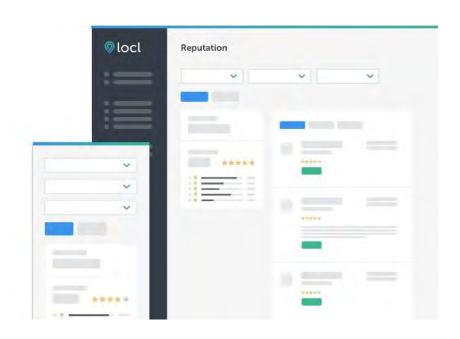
Monitoring Performance



Google Business Profiles

Free Management Tools







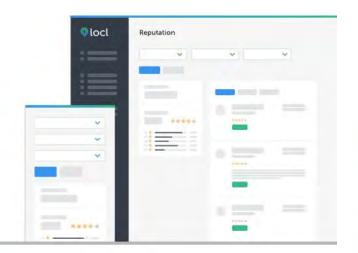
If you're thinking that this sounds like a lot to manage - you're right!

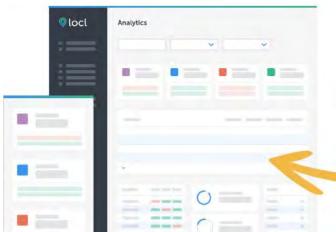
That's why Travel Oregon has teamed up with Oregon-based company, Locl, to offer you a free way to manage and maximize your Google Business Profile without all the clutter.



Manage your business reputation with customer reviews notifications, quick replies and insights







instant 18+ months of analytics data vs Google's 3 or 6 month limitations







Locl cuts the amount of time I spend managing and optimizing my Google My Business listing by at least 75%. Locl is a must-have for any business and any business owner.



Corey Rust, Owner Envi Air Tours and Adventures





Access Locl here



Thanks for joining us today

Travel Oregon has one-on-one support available free to Oregon Tourism businesses if you have specific questions or you need help with verification, editing your listing or access to Lock

- Questions? Office hours are free. Sign up for a time that is convenient for you to discuss GBP or Locl.
 calendly.com/traveloregonlocl/support
- Visit the Business Listings Toolkit industry.traveloregon.com/listings







Google Business Profiles

Questions & Discussion





Thanks for joining us today!

For additional resources and support, visit the Travel Oregon Business Listings Toolkit industry.traveloregon.com/listings