

## ROOST

# MAXIMIZING EXPOSURE FOR YOUR GOOGLE BUSINESS PROFILE

May 2023



"This project is supported by a grant awarded to NYSTIA by New York State's Empire State Development and the I LOVE NY Division of Tourism under Governor Kathy Hochul's Regional Economic Development Council Initiative."





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.



Henry Winkle
Destination Optimization
Program Coordinator



In addition to more traditional agency services, we provide support across a wide variety of Google **Products** to improve exposure, conversion, quality and accuracy of information about the destination and businesses.













### 270+

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



### **Session 1 Recap: Fundamentals**



Why This is Important to Your Business



Claiming Your Business on Key Platforms



What's New on Google



**Updating Critical Business Data** 



**Q&A** 



### **What We'll Cover Today**

### **Session 2: Maximizing Exposure**



**Increasing Relevance** 



**Leveraging Photography** 



**Updating With Posts** 



Responding to Q & A



**Managing Customer Reviews** 



**Monitoring Performance** 





Need
Assistance
With Your
Business
Profile?

# Schedule Office Hours With Miles



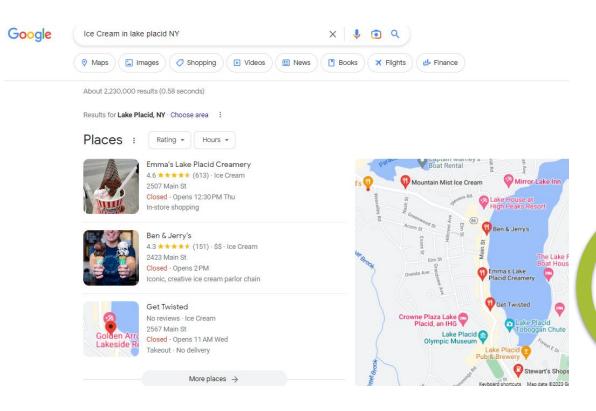
https://calendly.com/milespartnershipgoogledmo/roost-ny-office-hours?month=2023-04

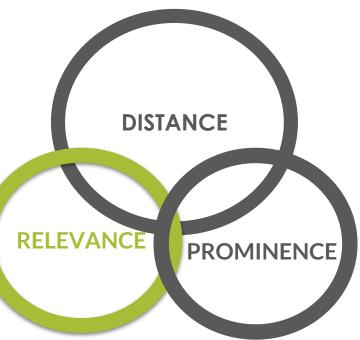


### **Choosing Categories**



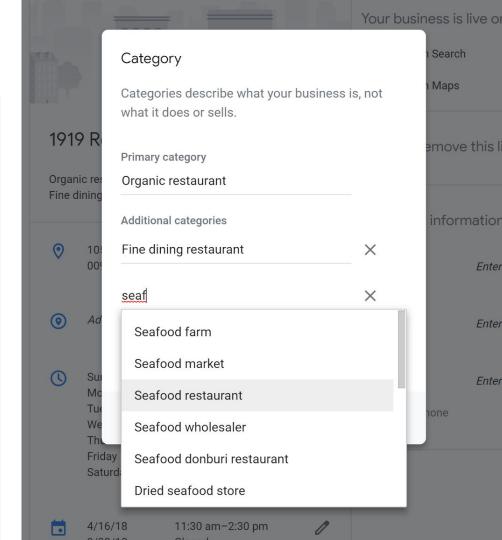
### **Categories Matter**





### **Categories Matter**

Adding relevant categories can significantly expand where a business shows up because it matches more searches



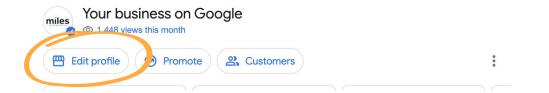
hungarian_restaurant	Hungarian restaurant	Related Categories
hunting_and_fishing_store	Hunting and fishing store	Related Categories
hunting_area	Hunting Area	Related Categories
hunting_club	Hunting club	Related Categories
hunting_preserve	Hunting Preserve	Related Categories
hunting_store	Hunting store	Related Categories
hvac_contractor	HVAC Contractor	Related Categories
hydraulic_engineer	Hydraulic engineer	Related Categories
hydraulic_equipment_supplier	Hydraulic equipment supplier	Related Categorie
hydraulic_repair_service	Hydraulic repair service	Related Categorie
hydroelectric_power_plant	Hydroelectric power plant	Related Categorie
hydroponics_equipment_supplier	Hydroponics equipment supplier	Related Categories
hygiene_articles_wholesaler	Hygiene articles wholesaler	Related Categories
hygiene_station	Hygiene station	Related Categorie
hypermarket	Hypermarket	Related Categorie
hypnotherapy_service	Hypnotherapy service	Related Categorie
hyundai_dealer	Hyundai dealer	Related Categorie
ice_cream_equipment_supplier	Ice cream equipment supplier	Related Categorie
ice_cream_shop	Ice cream shop	Related Categorie
ice_hockey_club	Ice hockey club	Related Categorie
ice_skating_club	Ice skating club	Related Categorie
ice_skating_instructor	Ice Skating Instructor	Related Categorie



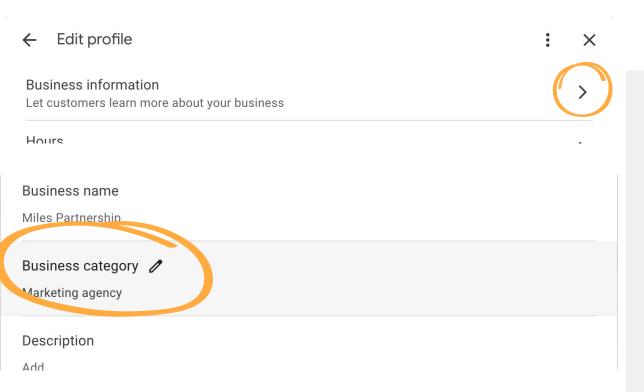
### **Edit Categories**

There are over 4000 categories to choose from - and they fluctuate by +/- 30 or so each year, but you're limited to what's available.





### **Edit Categories**



Look for
"Business
information",
then "Business
category"

#### Category



Help customers find your business by industry.

Primary category

Restaurant Additional categories Lunch restaurant Brunch restaurant X X Breakfast restaurant

After choosing a primary category, you are allowed to select 9 more additional categories to support the listing

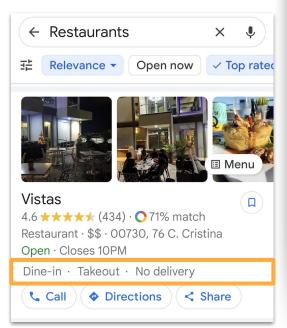
Cancel Apply

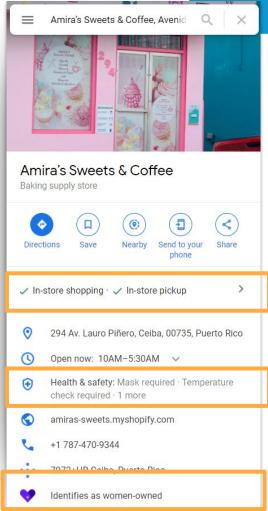


### **Monitoring Attributes**

### **Monitor Attributes**

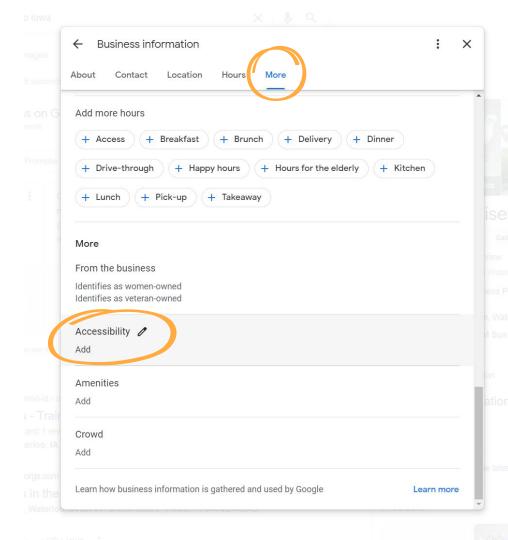
Adding attributes creates customer confidence that a business will meet their needs





### **Edit Attributes**

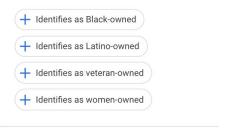
Search for your business, go to "Edit profile", then "Business information", then "More"



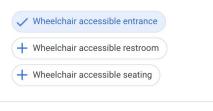
### **Edit Attributes**

Let customers know more about your business by showing attributes on your Business Profile. These may appear publicly on Search, Maps, and other Google services. Learn more

#### From the business



#### Accessibility



#### **Amenities**



ancel App

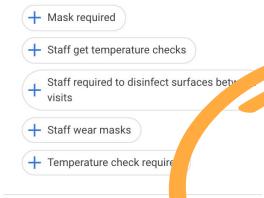
#### Attributes

ttti ibates

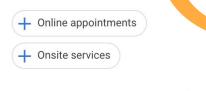
Search these attributes

2

Let customers know more about your business showing attributes on your Business Profile. The may appear publicly on Search, Maps, and other Google services. Learn more



#### Service options



Cancel

**Attributes** 

Only attributes you can edit are shown below.

Learn more

Q Search these attributes



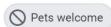
Meeting rooms



Parking

Free 

Paid









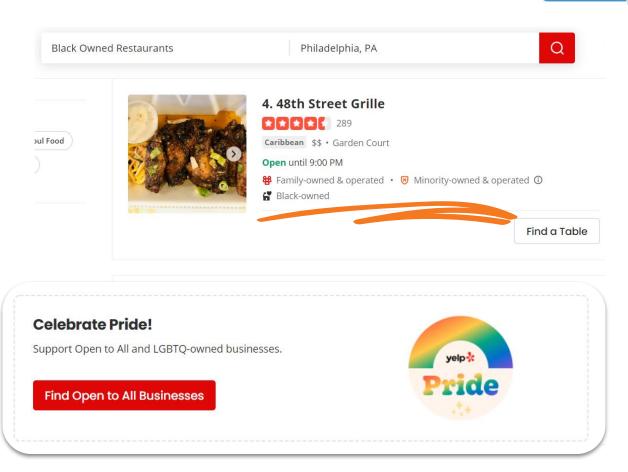
### **Edit Attributes**

míles

Listings can feature "diversity attributes"

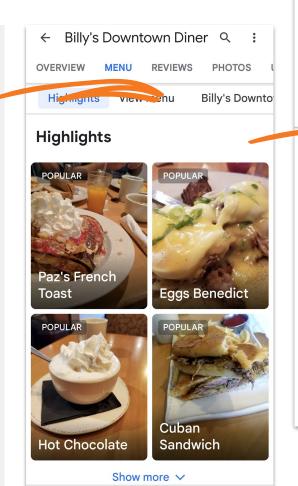
Business owners can self-identify with a number of attributes such as "Black Owned" or "Women Led" & more.

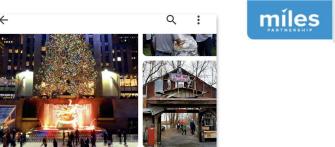
In Yelp, Google, and
Tripadvisor these
attributes are
searchable and highly
visible





Depending on your business category, you can use **menus** or services to expand the content in your business profile.



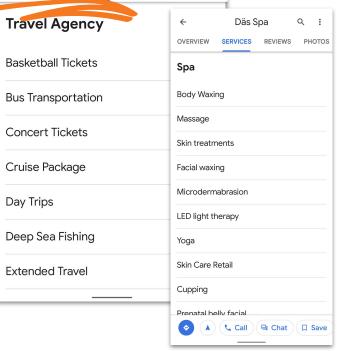


REVIEWS

**PHOTOS** 

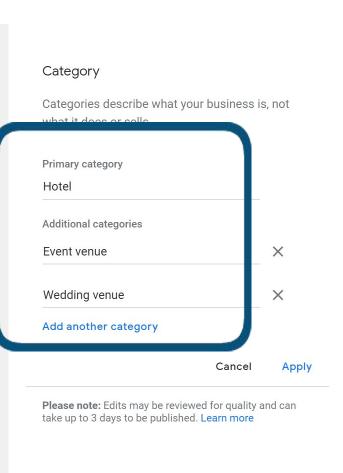
**OVERVIEW** 

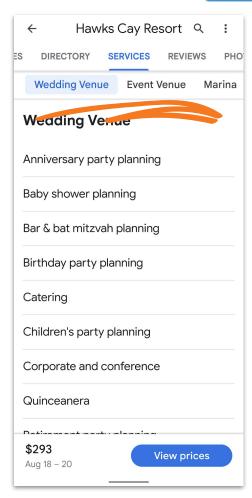
SERVICES



míles

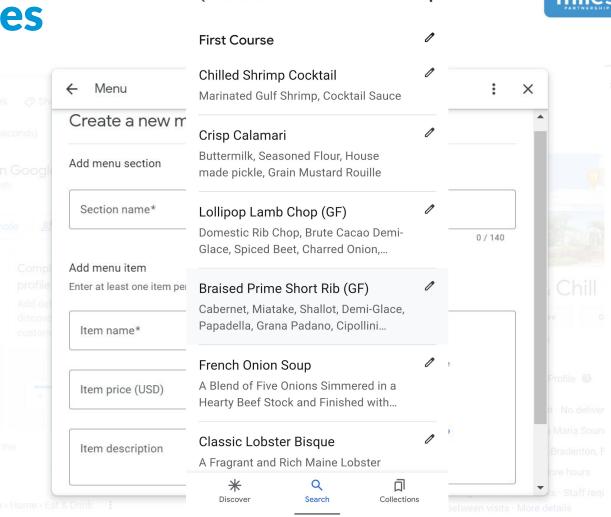
**Accommodations** have limited access to some of these features - but, if you are also an event or wedding venue, you can add those categories to get access to "services"





Use the SERP editing tool to access the Menu edit feature.

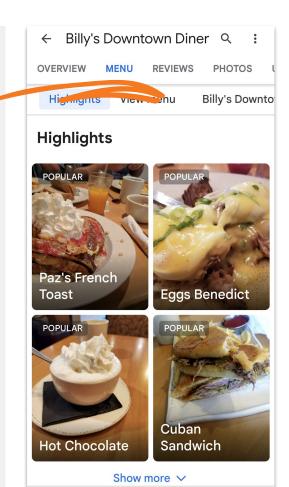
Not available through Maps!

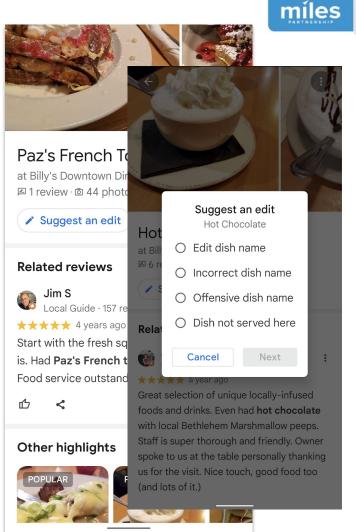


Menu

Menu Highlights are generated by Google based on customer photos and reviews.

You can suggest an edit to the names of the dishes featured.



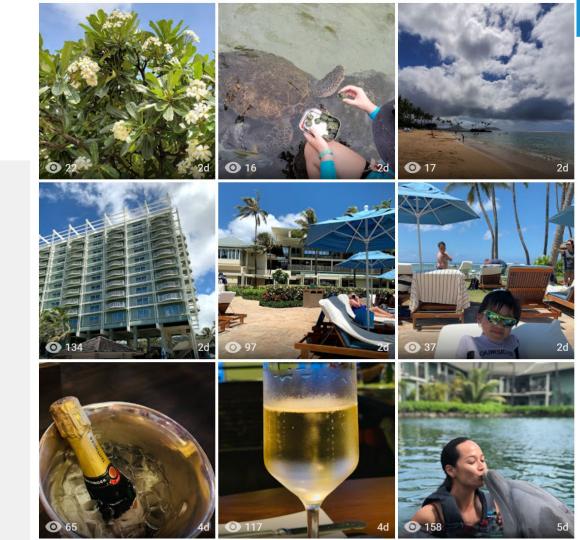




### **Photo Best Practices**

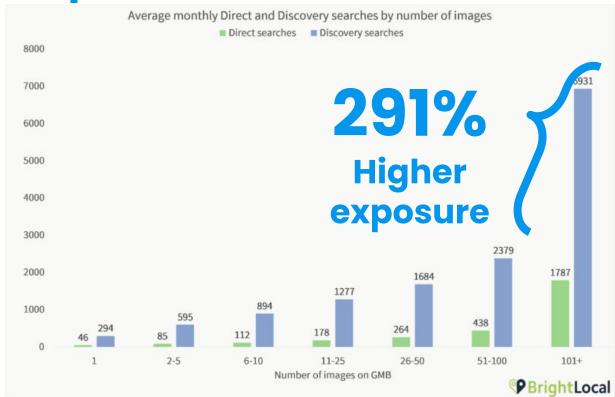
### **Images Inspire**

Photos are a key part of how potential customers make decisions about your business.





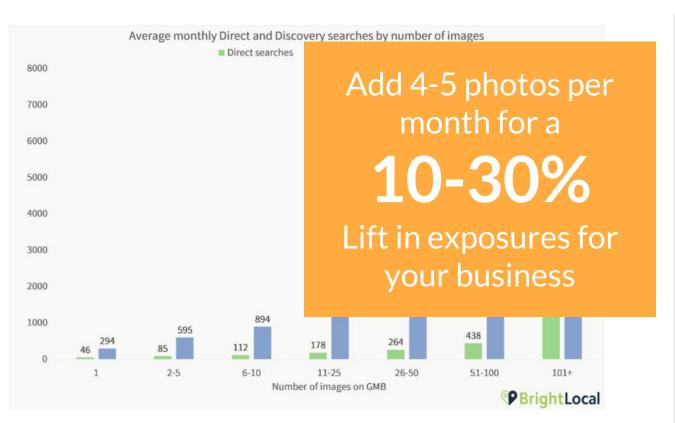
### **Impact of Photos**



Businesses with more than 100 images have significantly higher exposure rates.



### **Impact of Photos**



Listings with quality photos are twice as likely to generate engagement with potential customers

https://searchengineland.com/new-research-shows-strong-link-between-google-my-business-photo-quantity-and-search-performance-320199



### **Photo Best Practices**

#### 1. INFORMATIVE

What would a potential visitor want to know or see about this place? Consider the **scope**, the **scale** and the **context** of the place you're capturing.

#### 2. ATTRACTIVE

What makes this photo eye-catching? Consider color, contrast, saturation, lighting, focus and leading lines.



#### 3. RECENT

Customers want to know what things look like right now, the're looking for reassurance - yes, this place is open, yes it's safe, etc.

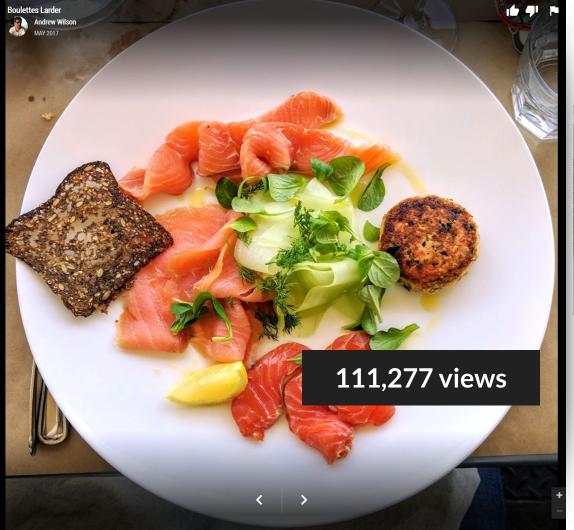


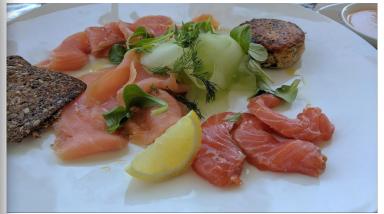


**This photo is good!** It's both informative and attractive. Easy to understand what it is, where it's taken from, bright colors good contrast, good framing.

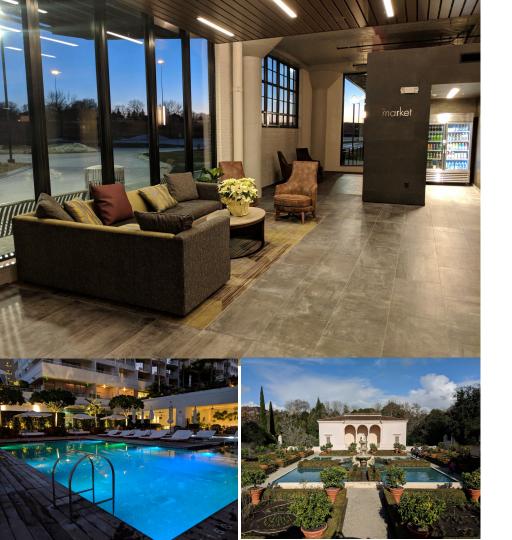
**This photo is bad.** It isn't attractive - off-kilter horizon, muddy colors, and it isn't particularly informative - unreadable signs/context.







**10,757 views** 



#### **Photo Best Practices**

- Only upload photos you created or own the complete rights to.
- Upload at least 4K images (3840x2160).
- Don't use filters limit your edits to brightness, color, contrast & saturation.
- Avoid seasonal images, unless that's relevant to the location you're shooting.





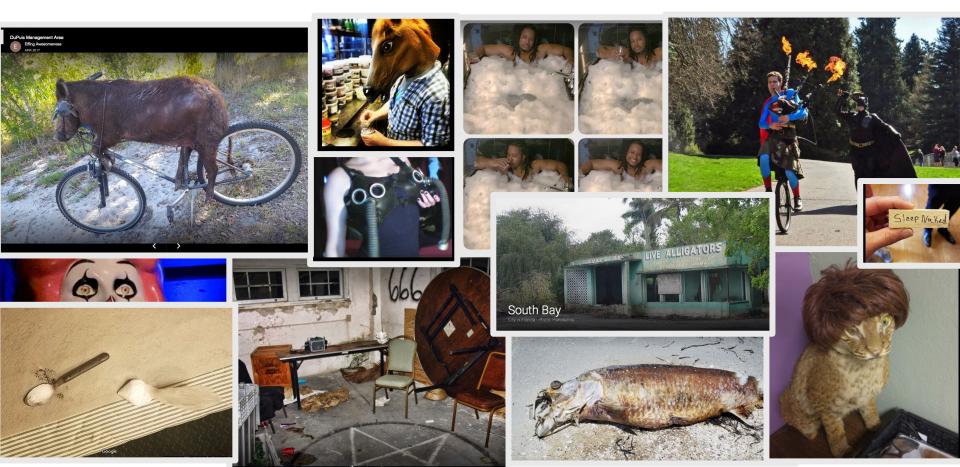
#### **Photo Best Practices**

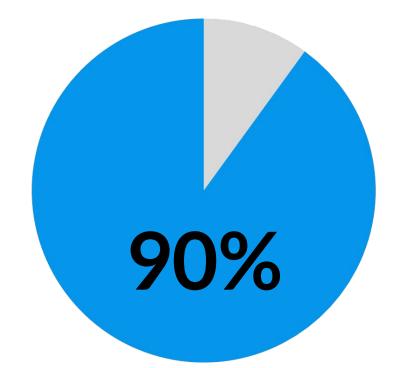
- Keep your vertical and horizontal lines as straight as possible.
- Shoot mostly horizontal images the products make much better use
   of them than portrait images.
- Interiors without people are preferred to those with people.
   Avoid identifiable faces & PII, or have release forms.



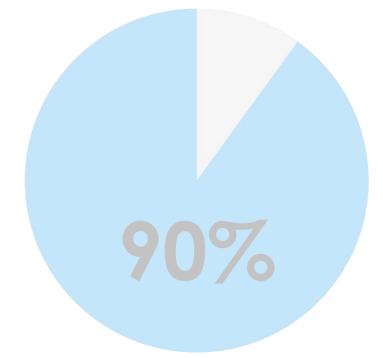
### Flagging Photos

### **Flagging Photos**

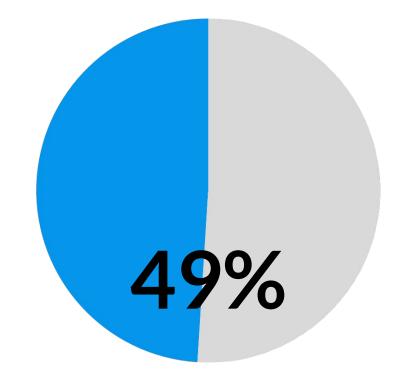




Of photos available for your business are supplied by your customers

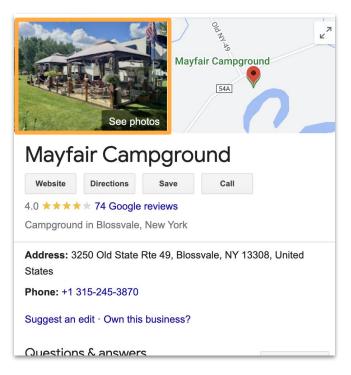


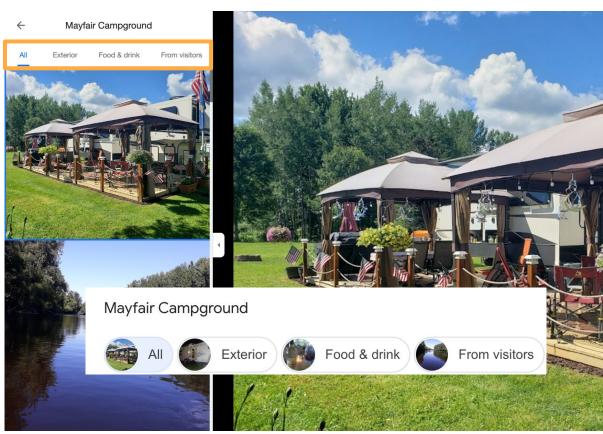
Of photos available for your business are supplied by your customers



But, customer photos account for less than half of all views

# **Flagging Photos**







Images may be subject to copyright.

Why	are you	u repor	ting
this	photo?	(Requi	red)

Offensive, hateful or sexually explicit

O Legal issue

O Privacy concern

O Poor quality

Not a photo or video of the place

Other

Please share your reason. Examples: inappropriate caption, misclassification.

Email address: (Required)

reCAPTCHA verification: (Required)

I'm not a robot



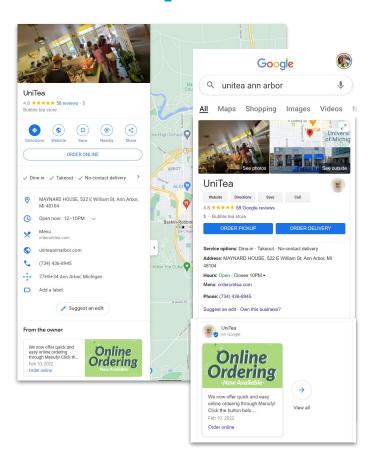


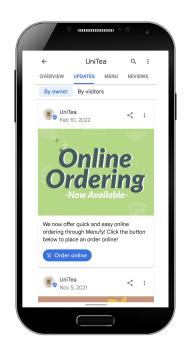


# **Post Updates**



# **Post Updates**





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

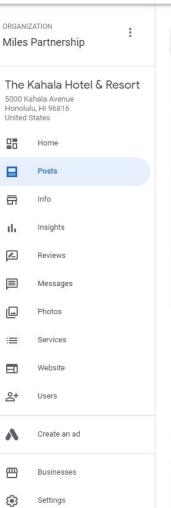
This provides a huge amount of organic visibility for your message.

(That means free!)

# Hotels get Posts!

**Accommodation** business types (finally!) get access to posts!

But, not all the types of posts - only announcements and events - no offers.



Posted Mar 2, 2022

Google Business Profile Manager

ORGANIZATION

United States

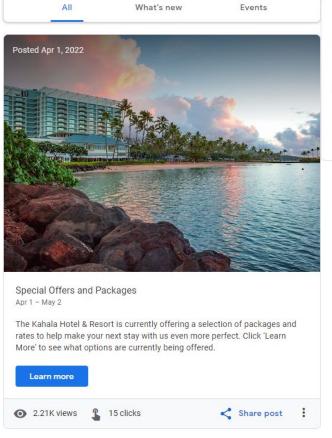
F

Users

Home

Posts

Info





Your posts

New views this

week

1053

Updated just now

Reach more

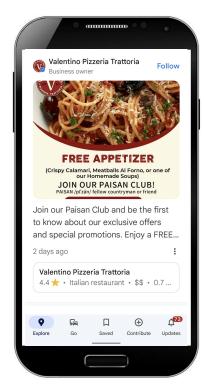
customers

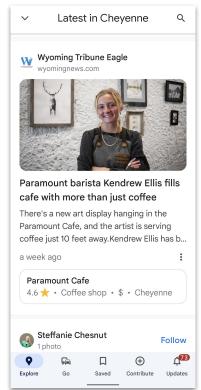
through posts

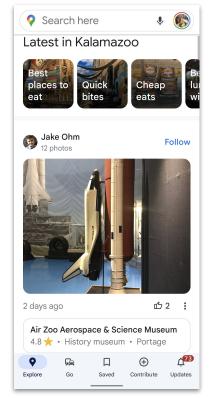




# **Post Updates**

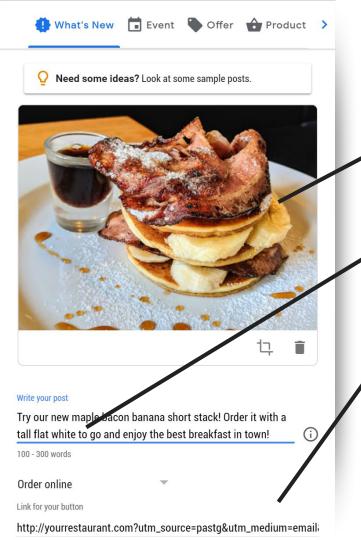






Posts also appear as part of the **Explore** section of the Google Maps mobile app

Recent updates from businesses, customers and local media are featured to those exploring your area



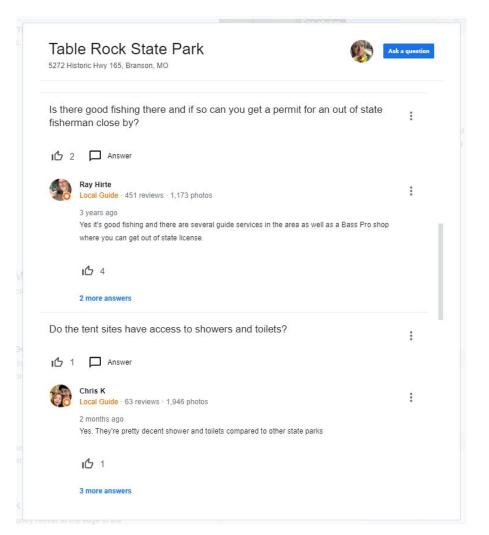
# **Post Updates**

- 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.
- Post early in the week if you're promoting something the following weekend.



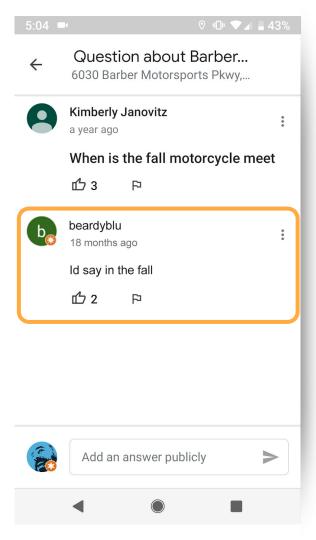
Google Business Profiles

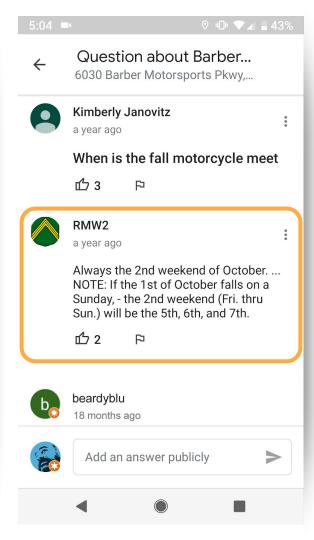
# **Questions and Answers**



# 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.



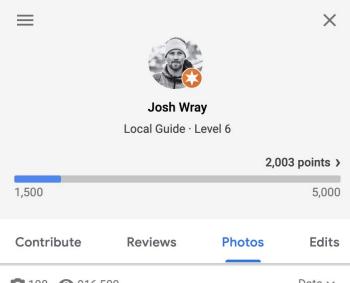




# Questions & Answers

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





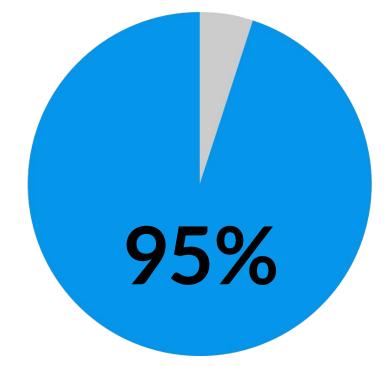
**1**08 **○** 916,509 Date **∨** 



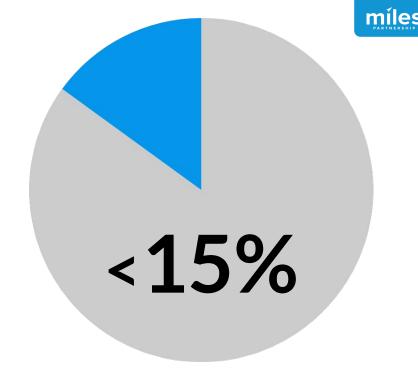


## What is a Local Guide?

- Photos, Videos & 360s
- Edit Facts
- Add Places
- Questions & Answers
- Reviews
- Ratings

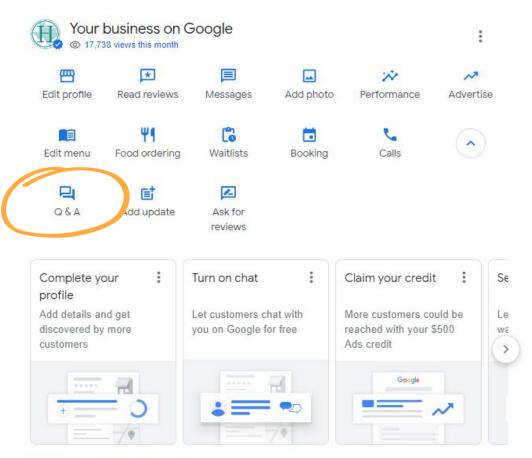


Of audited listings had **questions** from **customers** 



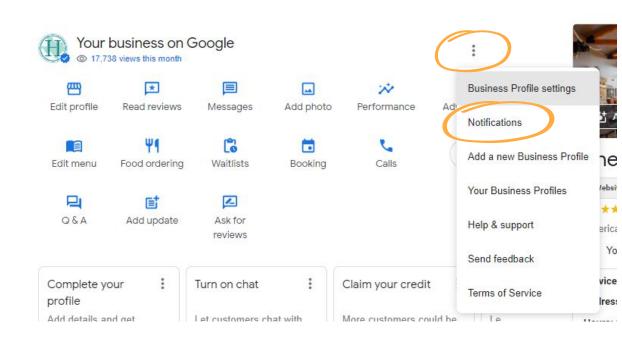
Have **answers** from the business **owner** 

# **New!** Q&A is now accessible via the profile editing tools

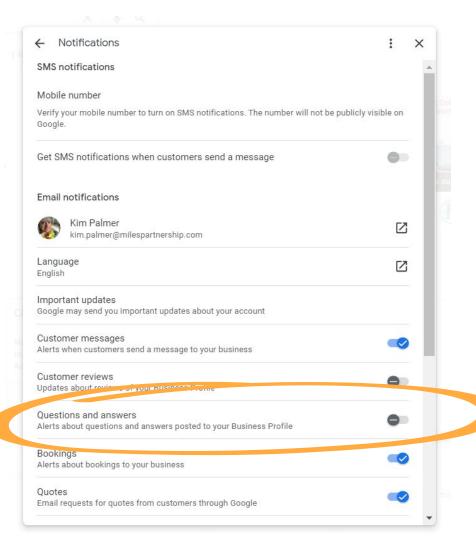


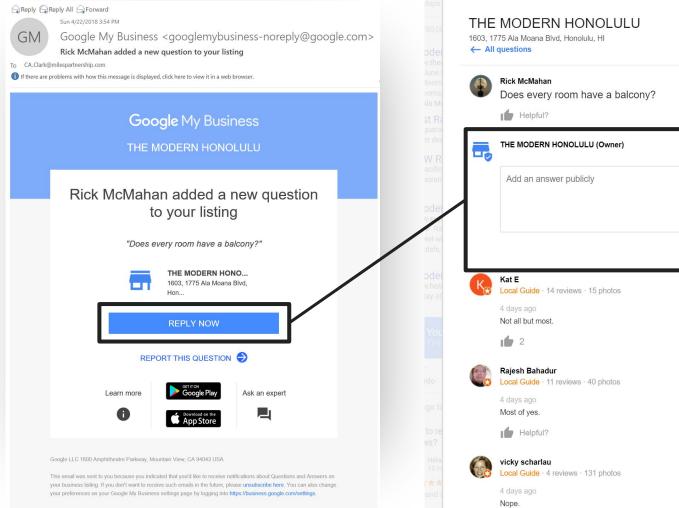
Only managers of this profile can see this

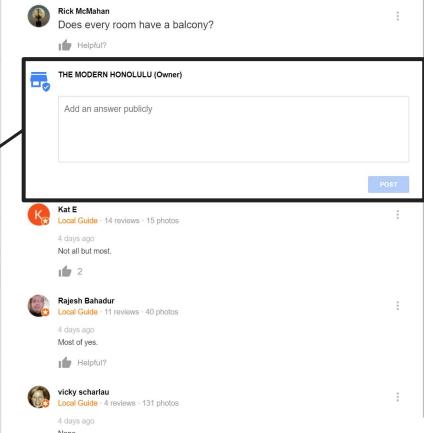
Make sure you have notifications on and check your answers frequently.



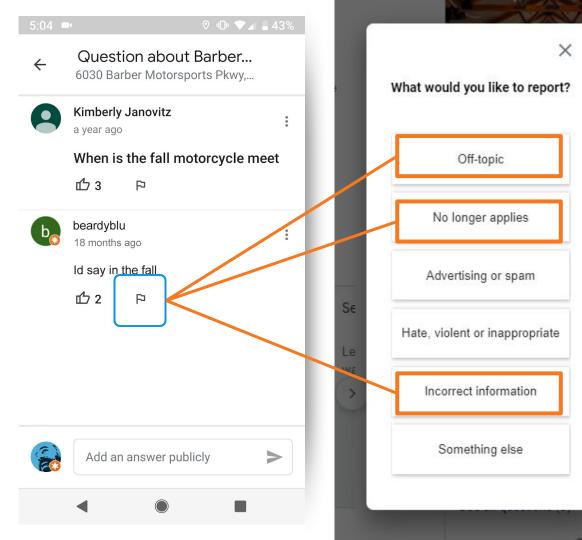
Make sure you have notifications on and check your answers frequently.







Holpful?



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

G

e revie

siness

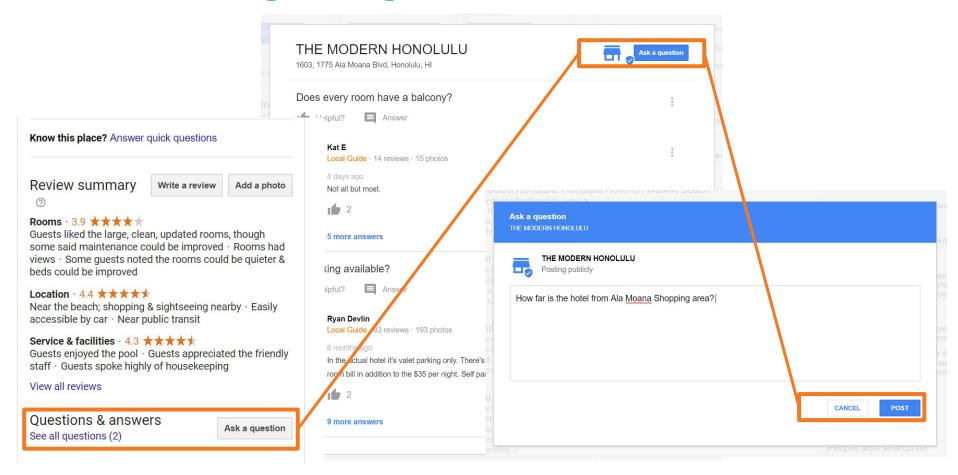
Take

ne, Br

VI -



# **Submit FAQs as Questions & Answers**





# **Reviews and Online Reputation**



98%

Of consumers read reviews for local businesses



98%

Of consumers read reviews for local businesses

40%

Of consumers will only use a business if it has 4 or more stars



98%

Of consumers read reviews for local businesses

40%

Of consumers will only use a business if it has 4 or more stars

89%

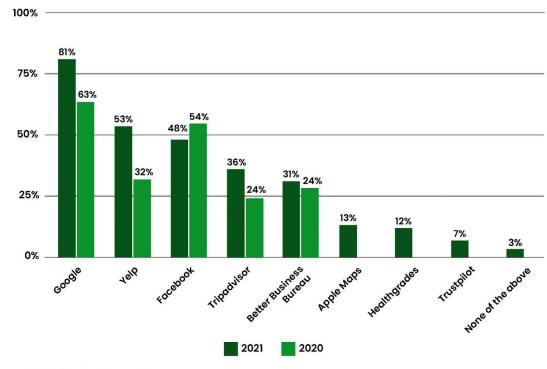
Of consumers say they would be 'fairly' or 'highly' likely to use a business that responds to all reviews



# **Respond to Reviews**

The most frequently used platforms for local husiness reviews are Google, Yelp, Facebook & Tripadvisor.

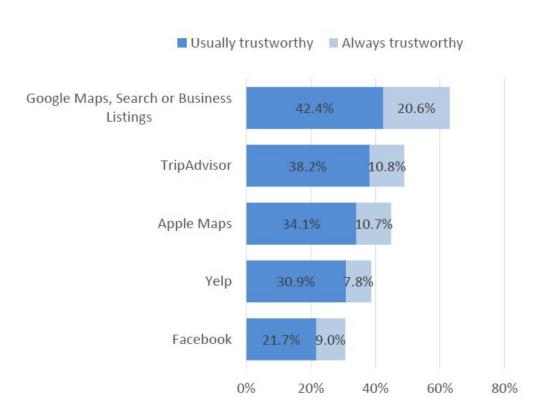
## Which of the following sites or apps have you used to evaluate local businesses in the last 12 months?





## TRUSTWORTHINESS: RATINGS & REVIEWS

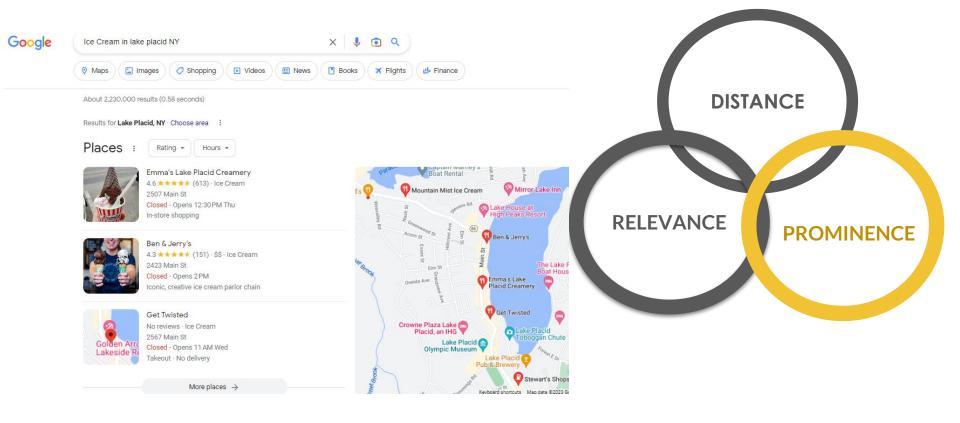
Question: Please
evaluate how trustworthy
is the customer
rating/review information
available on each
platform?



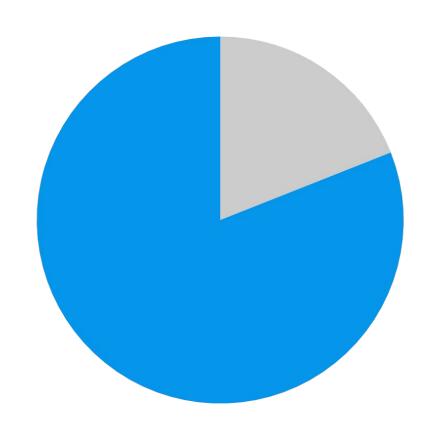




## **Reviews Influence Rank**







# Google

81%

Of reviews are 4.0+ Less than 4% are one star

4.4

**Median Rating** 

# **Respond to Reviews**

### **Gabriel Kreuther**

41 W 42nd St. New York, NY





Sort by: Newest -



### Jean Philippe Guy

Local Guide · 119 reviews · 642 photos

\*\*\* 2 months ago

Very disappointing experience. High dollar with sub par food and very average service. Not worthy of a Michelin Star.



### Response from the owner 2 months ago

Dear Mr. Guy,

Thank you so much for taking the time to share your feedback about your experience at Gabriel Kreuther. We are very regretful to hear that we did not meet your expectations. If you would allow, I would love to be in touch with you to further discuss your experience. I can be reached at iean@gknyc.com. Thank you in advance for your time and I look forward to speaking with you.

Best Regards, Jean Lee

Guest Relations Manager



### Felipe Archondo

Local Guide · 1 photo

★★★★ 2 months ago



Local Guide · 32 reviews · 1 photo





Customer reviews are posted by users directly to your business profile. They appear wherever your profile appears, and are the

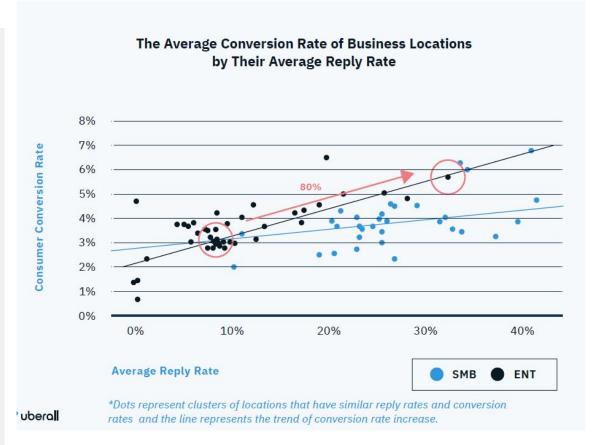
source of your "star rating"



# **Respond to Reviews**

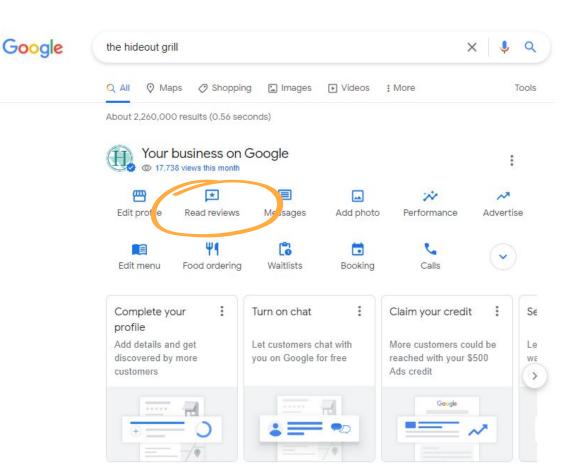
Respond to 30% of your reviews for an 80% boost in conversions.

Responses show you are attentive to customers.

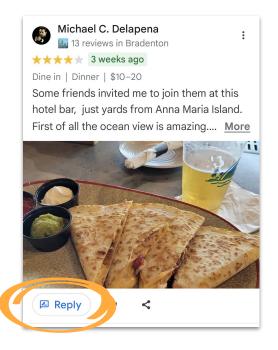


https://uberall.com/en-us/company/press-releases/study-brick-and-mortar-businesses-small-increase-in-online-ratings-boosts-conversion-by-25-percer

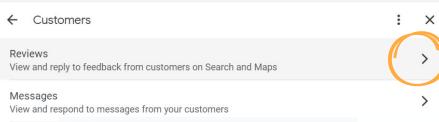




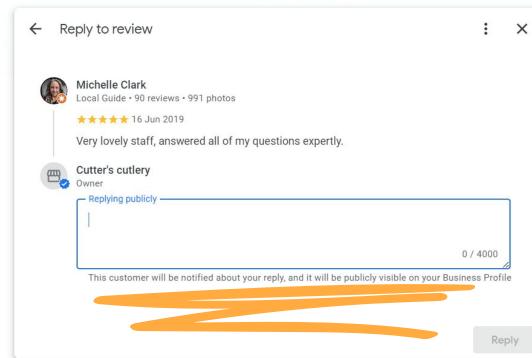
# Responding to Reviews







# **Responding to Reviews**



### Answer que Cutter's cutlery

0 & A

5.0 \*\*\*\* 2 reviews @

Sort by

Most relevant Highest

Local Guide · 90 reviews · 991 photos ★★★★ 2 years ago

ery lover staff, answered all of my questions expertly.

Reply 1

Claude Clark

Local Guide · 1 review · 73 photos

\*\*\*\* 2 years ago

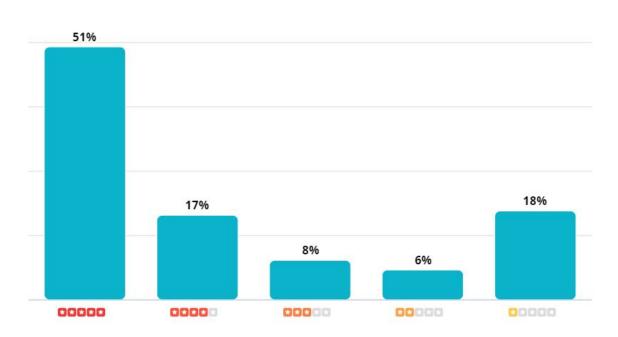
this place is the best

Reply 1



## **Star Rating Distribution**





68% of the star ratings provided by users on Yelp are 4 or 5 star.

18% are one star poor reviews.

### Recommended Reviews











Great pizza, Great staff, Outstanding service This place is the official pizza of Raritan Medical Center, or should be, ILOVE THAT FOOD. THIS PLACE IS THE BEST!!!!







I went during closing time and on a Monday night during the pandemic so it's possible I didn't get the premium slices to sample. My pizza was dry without much sauce and a little sedated on flavor. Sauce that was there was a bit sweet. I do think a fresh pie would have been better, and I'm willing to try that the next time I'm the area. Customer service was great. Place was clean. Everyone wore masks. Overall, a place I would retry but definitely go for a fresh pie.



"Recommended Reviews" the **only reviews** visible on your Yelp page

Recommendation software chooses the most usable and reliable reviews from active users

Yelp does not want businesses to ask customers to write reviews

Their software actively targets reviews that have been solicited.



# Tripadvisor.

What drives traveler engagement with listings? Tripadvisor's research says review factors make up **three of the four** key drivers of traveler engagement





### Top Restaurants in Kalamazoo

Sort by: Highest Rating

(?)

311 results match your filters Clear all filters

Restaurants



### 1. Crow's Nest

337 reviews · Open Now American, Cafe · \$\$ - \$\$\$

- "Absolutely loved the vegan selections but all the dishes coming from kitchen..."
- "It's a very young crowd but since we eat vegan we decided to check it out."

Order online



### 2. The Studio Grill

198 reviews · Closed Now American, Cafe · \$

- 99 "Best.Wait.Ever..."
- 99 "amazina breakfast"



### 3. Kalamazoo Beer Exchange

368 reviews · Open Now American, Bar · \$\$ - \$\$\$

- 99 "Great food and service"
- 99 "Beat my expectations."

Order online



### 4. Erbelli's Gourmet Pizza

458 reviews · Open Now Italian, Pizza · \$\$ - \$\$\$

- Great Take-Out"
- "Yummy food and friendly service"

Order online

**Tripadvisor Popularity Ranking** is unique to the Tripadvisor platform

Based on user reviews and reflects your standing against other businesses in your geographic location

Ranking is based on Quality, **Quantity & Recency** of guest feedback of both your business and those around you



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Restaurants



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Popularity Ranking is recalculated by Tripadvisor every day

A commercial relationship with Tripadvisor has **no impact** on ranking

Management Responses to reviews & sub-ratings (cleanliness, service, etc.) are not factored

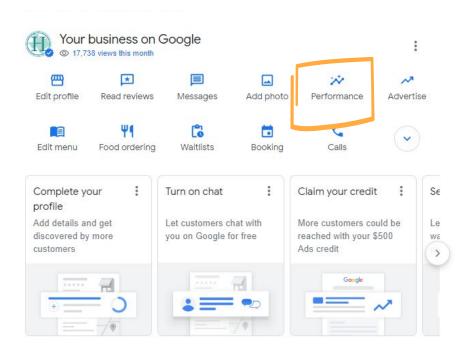


# **Profile Performance**



### **Profile Performance**

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

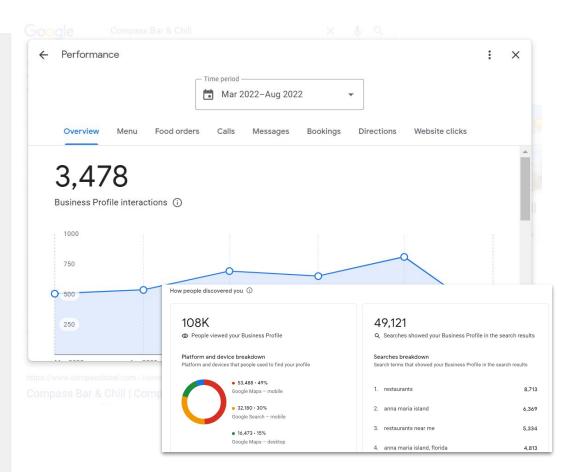




### **Profile Performance**

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





## **Business Profiles: Maximize Your Exposure**

- Up to date hours are critical
- Categories & Attributes influence where your business can appear
- Post 4 photos a month for a 30% lift in exposure
- Post updates and events for free visibility
- Respond to 30% of your reviews for an 80% lift in conversions
- Monitor profile performance and conversions



## **Tools & Resources**

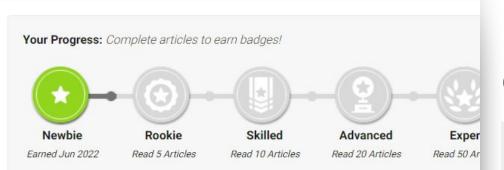


**Tools & Education** 

# Local Tourism Marketing Academy







Welcome to the Local Tourism Marketing Academy brought to you by ROOST.

In an effort to help you effectively market your business, we've created this online library of materials specifically for businesses and organizations like yours. The library contains a col documents, resources, reference materials, and tools to help you maximize your visibility ar digital marketing platforms.

We have over 100 articles available already and are adding and updating content monthly. Unight to find articles relevant to your interests.

#### Latest Updates

## Marketing Academy Overview

#### Provided for FREE by ROOST

Online resource of digital marketing intelligence for businesses

Maximise the digital readiness of your business for when visitors return

Access through December 2023

Email reminder functionality of new content

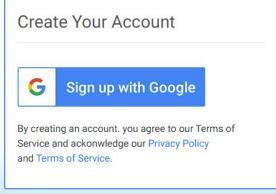


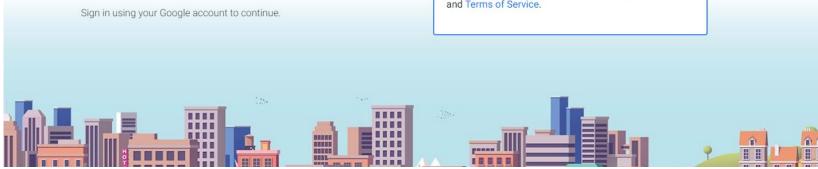
## https://roost.tourismbusinessmarketing.com/

#### **Access Code is ROOST**



To help you effectively market your business, this online library of educational and how-to materials has been specifically created for businesses and organizations like yours. Create your account to access best practices, reference materials, videos and other resources to help improve the success of your digital marketing efforts.







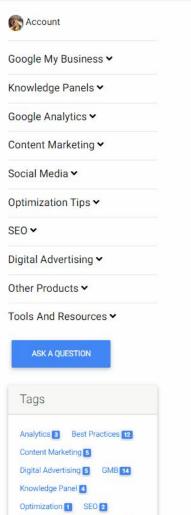


Welcome to the Local Tourism Marketing Academy I

In an effort to help you effectively market your busine materials specifically for businesses and organizatio documents, resources, reference materials, and tools digital marketing platforms.

We have over 100 articles available already and are a right to find articles relevant to your interests.

Latest Updates



Social Media 6 TripAdvisor 3



### Search for

Tappics ation by topic

Topic Tags at bottom identifies number of content pieces on that topic

More Than 60 Articles & Videos on Digital Marketing updated regularly



## **Earn Badges**

hotels have aggressive direct booking campaigns, such as Hilton's "Stop Clicking Around"



In building a smart balance of online bookings, hotels need to develop a strong online presence; reach and engage with travelers; plus provide a compelling reason to book direct. Without this properties are resigning themselves to having more and more of their bookings controlled by OTAs – with the resulting impact on yield, ownership of the guest and their ability to control their future.

OTAs can be powerful and valuable marketing partners – but as with all successful partnerships, hotels need to ensure they are valued, equal and nondependent partners in the relationship.

Go back to read about the Risks and Rewards of OTAs, or consider listing optimization for your hotel on TripAdvisor.



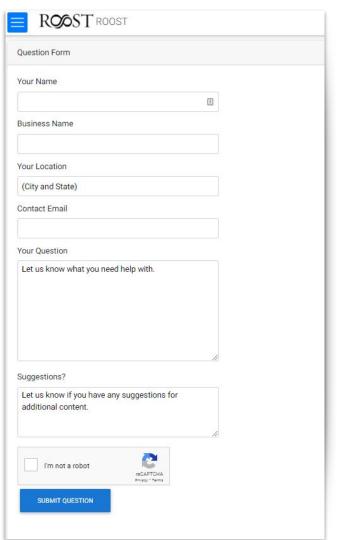
Complete articles to progress through the badges

Just check "mark as complete" as you finish the content

We'll periodically recommend new content

	Search
ng ie	Account
	Google My Business ➤
	Knowledge Panels <b>▼</b>
rary of tains a ility and n on the right	Google Analytics ➤  Content Marketing ➤
	Social Media •
	Optimization Tips <b>▽</b>
	SEO 🕶
	Digital Advertising <b>▽</b>
ant o	Other Products ♥
e Tips	Tools And Resources ➤
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ntact Deliver gift cards dur	Content Marketing 5  Digital Advertising 5 GMB 12
	Knowledge Panel  Optimization SEO 2
	Social Media 6 TripAdvisor 3

Video 2 Yelp 3 YouTube 1





## **Ask a Question**

Questions submitted to the Miles Partnership support team

Suggest a content topic you would like to see added to the Academy





Need
Assistance
With Your
Business
Profile?

## Schedule Office Hours With Miles



https://calendly.com/milespartnershipgoogledmo/roost-ny-office-hours?month=2023-04



## **Questions & Discussion**