**List of API’s and their features for each category**

**Summary:**

To cover all the bases, the following API’s are recommended:

* Skyscanner for flights
* Booking.com for hotels
* Walmart for products
* Zomato for food
* Eventbrite for events
* Yelp for businesses

They are all highlighted in their respective categories below.

**Flights/Hotels**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **API Name** | **Price** | **Availability** | **Features** | **Issues** |
| Kayak | 500 free requests / month, and $0.004 for each additional request. | Offered publicly through RapidAPI | Access to flights and hotels prices/routes |  |
| SkyScanner | Free when using cached data.  Live data not available | Offered publicly through RapidAPI | Access to flight prices and routes | Kind of slow (3000+ ms)  Results will not be live. Prices and availability may differ slightly. |
| Booking.com | 500 free requests / month, and $0.004 for each additional request. | Offered publicly through RapidAPI | Access to all booking.com information, including pictures. |  |
| Amadeus | $0.0028 – $0.034per call depending on type of call | Offered publicly through their website: Amadeus | Appears to have very good functionality.  Free test environment with 1000 calls/month for development  Offers flights and hotels search | One search may require 4-5 calls, very expensive compared to other options. |
| Sabre | No pricing is mentioned, need to contact them for quote. | Need to contact a Sabre account manager and sign contract w/ Sabre. | Easily the highest quality API. A ton of functionality, from airlines to hotels. More than you could ever ask for.  Used widely by large companies and travel agencies. Processes $120 billion annually  Free test environment | Overkill for our needs. Allows complete booking. One of the main engines in the airline industry. |
| HotelsCombined | Free | Need to contact for access: application process. | Solid Hotel functionality  Affiliate program for commission on referrals. |  |
| Expedia | Free | Application process requires website with 100k+ unique monthly visitors | Access to all Expedia flights, hotels and car rentals. |  |
| Homeaway | Free up to unspecified limit | Application process. Test account available but new developer account signups are not available at this time. | Up to 3% +$20 commission on each referral.  Access to unique vacation stays that may not be listed on other providers.  Free test environment | Not accepting applications now.  No access to hotels: only vacation home rentals |

**Recommendation for Flights: Skyscanner API**

My recommendation is to use the Skyscanner API. It’s not perfect but it’s free and does 90% of what the other API’s do. Even though flights aren’t live the cached search is not a huge issue as it should be a good enough estimate of available routes and prices. From my own testing there was no difference in prices. I’m guessing the cache is updated quite often.

**Recommendation for Hotels: Booking.com API**

Both Booking.com and Kayak API have very similar functionality and pricing. Both are offered publicly through RapidAPI for free up to 500 calls/month. Booking.com has a slightly faster response time and uptime, but really there isn’t any significant differences. Either would work fine.

**Products**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **API Name** | **Price** | **Availability** | **Features** | **Issues** |
| Amazon | Free | Must be approved into Amazon affiliate program. | Access to all amazon’s products and unlimited requests, up to 1/second.  Make a referral of up to 10% on each product. | Application was denied |
| Walmart | Free for 5000/calls day | Open through Walmart.com | Good documentation  Access to all Walmart.com products | It’s still in beta.  They don’t have that large of a selection and their search engine often yields irrelevant results. |
| BestBuy | Free | Must be Approved. A company email is needed to sign up. Free emails and edu emails not allowed. | Access to 750k Best buy products |  |
| AliExpress | Free | Available publicly through RapidAPI | Access to all AliExpress products and referral links. | AliExpress is the amazon of China. Lots of selections but some may be low quality + long shipping times |
| eBay | Free for 5000 calls/day | Available publicly through RapidAPI | Access to all eBay products through search | eBay has a large selection but it’s largely unmoderated, many items are lower quality |
| Etsy | Free for 10k calls/day | Application process, need to be approved by Etsy. | Access to Etsy, a handmade product marketplace |  |

**Recommendation for Products: Walmart**

Amazon API would be the best, but my application for it was denied. Best second option would be Walmart. Has a decent selection in the U.S.

Another potential option is to scrape amazon.com, but not sure how well that would work for many calls a day.

**Food**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **API Name** | **Price** | **Availability** | **Features** | **Issues** |
| Zomato | Free for 1000 calls/day | Publicly available through Zomato.com | Access to millions of restaurants on Zomato.com  Editor choice lists of restaurants in most big cities are very helpful | All mentions of their API on RapidAPI have disappeared |
| Yelp Fusion | Free for 5000 calls/day | Publicly available through yelp.com | Access to millions of restaurants, reviews and all other local businesses too. | Lots of branding rules for Ads. Must look like a yelp ad. |

**Recommendation for food: Zomato**

Yelp and Zomato are the only major restaurant API’s available, but they are more than enough. Both Yelp and Zomato offer a good API that have basically the same selection (pretty much all the restaurants in the world), however yelp also lists establishments other than restaurants, like some small businesses (dentists, spas, barbers etc.). Yelp should also be integrated for these services.

Zomato is nice because it has collections of editor picks, with a selection of highly rated restaurants specific to that location. For example, Boston has collections such as “Delicious Doughnuts” and “Sports Bars”, while Doha has collections like “Shisha Lounges”.

One potential problem is that they seem to have taken down their API from RapidAPI. Zomato.com still has all documentation available, my developer account on Zomato is fine, and API call’s still work fine, but it’s a little concerning that all the previous links on RapidAPI are now a 404.

Also, I already built some functionality with Zomato API.

**Entertainment/Events/Businesses**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **API Name** | **Price** | **Availability** | **Features** | **Issues** |
| Eventbrite | Free | Available through website | Very good documentation | Not a huge selection in some places |
| Yelp Fusion | Free for 5000 calls/day | Available through website | Good documentation  Access to millions of different types of local businesses. | Lots of branding rules for Ads. Must look like a yelp ad. |
| Groupon | Free | Must apply and be approved | Access to all deals: a big selection with lots of different offerings  Referral program: make commission on each deal | Didn’t get approved |
| TripAdvisor | Free for 10k calls/day | Must apply and be approved | Access to all events and locations on Tripadvisor.  Comprehensive coverage of many events and activities across most of the world. | Application requirements are strict, requires large established brand. |
| BandinTown | Not listed publicly | Need to contact Bandsintown for approval | All Bands and concerts playing in most cities across the U.S |  |

**Recommendation for Entertainment: Eventbrite & Yelp Fusion**

Groupon is a really good API for entertainment, but my application didn’t get approved.

Eventbrite is also a good API that has a fantastic documentation. Their API offers good functionality to access all kinds of events in a city.

Yelp shows business like spas, barbers, handymen etc., which can be useful to cover in all gaps left.