

Google fined \$1 million for misleading French hotel rankings

February 15 2021



In this Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, file photo, the logo of Google is displayed on a carpet at the entrance hall of Google France in Paris. Google has agreed to pay a fine 1.1 million euros (\$1.3 million) after French authorities concluded the search engine was featuring "misleading" rankings for French hotels. (AP Photo/Michel Euler, File)

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French authorities concluded the search engine displayed "misleading" rankings for French hotels.

Previously, Google used the official source Atout France as well as input from other hotel-industry websites in its algorithm to rank hotels from one to five stars.

After receiving complaints from hoteliers about Google's rankings, the French government's fraud and competition agency launched an investigation in 2019 and 2020. It said it was to monitor "the nature and fairness of the information provided by the platform" across 7,500 establishments.

Google said that it has now made the "necessary changes to only reflect the official French star rating for hotels on Google Maps and Search."

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Citation: Google fined \$1 million for misleading French hotel rankings (2021, February 15) retrieved 24 April 2024 from

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