

Frequently Asked Questions: Python Itinerary Generator

Learn about building a dynamic travel planner with AI and web scraping.

Based on [Building A Python Itinerary Generator With Ai And Location Scraping Cursor Gemini 2 5 Flash](#) by Casey Builds It

Q: What is this Python tool?

A: This is a Python-based itinerary planning application that generates trip plans based on user input like dates, party size, budget, and activity requests. It can also export the final itinerary to a PDF.

Q: How does the itinerary generator get location information?

A: Instead of using a fixed database, the tool dynamically pulls location-based ideas on the fly. It uses free sources such as OpenStreetMap, Wikipedia, and DuckDuckGo to find real businesses, restaurants, and activities.

Q: What kind of user input does the tool accept?

A: The tool accepts user input for dates, the number of adults, kids, and dogs, budget preferences, and custom activity requests.

Q: What is the advantage of using free data sources?

A: This build tests whether a scrappy, free-data approach can generate a usable itinerary for a real location, as an alternative to tools that rely on static datasets or expensive APIs.

Q: What is 'vibe coding' in this context?

A: It refers to the process of using Cursor and an LLM (like Google Gemini 2.5 Flash) to define features conversationally, test live, and debug in real time, rather than planning every detail upfront.

Q: How did the development process start?

A: The process began by feeding reference material from an existing Airbnb-style website's itinerary feature into Cursor as an example for the LLM.

Q: What core features were defined for the tool?

A: The core features defined include date selection, party composition (adults, kids, dogs), budget level, custom activity requests, and PDF export.

Q: What locations were used for testing?

A: The tool was tested live against Colorado Springs and Portland, Maine. Portland, Maine was specifically chosen to see how the tool handles ambiguous or duplicate place names.

Q: Were there any debugging challenges?

A: Yes, there was a debugging session around a broken location scrape. The article also discusses a practical comparison between free scraping methods and paid options like the Google Places API.

Q: How does the cost of APIs factor into this build?

A: The article compares the cost of using Gemini Flash against other LLMs like Claude for this type of workload, highlighting that API pricing is a significant consideration for scaling beyond a personal project.

Q: What are some potential future enhancements for this tool?

A: Future enhancements could include integrating a weather API for smarter planning, GPS-based distance filtering for realistic suggestions, and using event APIs to surface local happenings.

Q: Can this tool become a web application?

A: Yes, the article suggests that with features like database caching for previously scraped areas and additional API integrations, the tool has a clear path to becoming a full web application.

Q: What are the trade-offs of using free scraping sources?

A: While free sources like OpenStreetMap, Wikipedia, and DuckDuckGo can produce usable results, they come with real trade-offs compared to paid APIs, particularly in terms of reliability and data richness.

Q: How does using an LLM in Cursor affect prototyping speed?

A: Defining features conversationally with an LLM inside Cursor significantly speeds up the prototyping process by allowing for real-time testing and debugging.

Resources & Further Reading

Related guides for these FAQs:

■ Build a Python Itinerary Generator (Action Sheet)

<https://storage.googleapis.com/casey-builds-it-checklists-20260802-95ba76/casey-builds-it/Action%20Sheet/building-a-python-itinerary-generator-with-ai-and-location-scraping-cursor-gemin-action-sheet.pdf>

■ Questions to Ask Before Building Your Own AI Itinerary Generator

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