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## How To Get Deals On Airline Tickets

By Dexter Stoakley

In order to get the best deals on airline tickets you should plan to buy your ticket several months

before your departure. Many airlines will offer discounted rates if tickets are purchased this far in advance. At a minimum, tickets should be purchased three weeks before your departure as this will also ensure superior seating. Another advantage of buying tickets early is that seasonal price increases will not affect you.

Flying on weekends is best avoided. It is far superior to leave during the week and ideally you should leave early in the week from Monday through Wednesday. Saturdays also often have cheap rates, so traveling on a weekend can work for you providing you do it differently than most people who are traveling just for the weekend. Typically, travelers can expect to pay an additional \$40 on weekends if they are doing the standard Friday to Sunday trip. It is also essential to avoid travel during peak seasons. Peak travel seasons such as Christmas, or other holidays will not only delay your flight times and force you to confront crowds but also will cost you more.

Don't be afraid of the red eyes. You can save a lot if you're willing to travel the late-night route. Many of these flights are under booked, and flights can be purchased at a significant discount. Another trick is to check standby fares. In many cases airlines will offer tickets and a great discount for flights that are under booked.

Another consideration is how long you plan to stay at your destination. Many airlines will give discounted prices assuming you stay at your destination for longer than a week, and return within a few months.

While many people believe the direct flights are the cheapest it is often cheaper to go to your final destination via connection hubs. You can save as much as \$1000 when you are willing to take connecting flights. Using connecting flights is ideal for people who travel light and do not carry a lot of luggage.

There is a window of opportunity every Wednesday morning when airlines release information on their new fares and seating plans. If you are quick you can find the best prices at this time. Call for rates at

12:01.

The Internet is a huge boon for travelers as it gives us the luxury of seeing flight data from multiple vendors in a way that even travel agents and airline ticketing agents could not a decade ago. But understand that posted Internet prices are not always the cheapest. In many cases you can contact a travel agent to find better deals. You can also sometimes find discounts at the airlines by calling them directly rather than purchasing a ticket from an online aggregator. It also doesn't hurt to check newspapers as sometimes you can find consolidators who buy many tickets and can provide cheaper flights.

The most important thing is purchasing your tickets early. If you are buying last minute and in a rush you'll find that you often paid double to triple what you pay if you buy your tickets well in advance. Many sites like Expedia and Travelocity will list the best rates from all the airlines that offer flights from your current location to your final destination. It is important to use the services and compare them

against each other. However, these services will often not have airfares well in advance when you can get the best deals. In these cases it is best to contact a travel agent directly and see what kind of deals they can get for you.

Dexter Stoakley maintains a community travel website that allows users to keep their own travel journals. It can be found at:

<http://alltravelexperts.com>

### **Save A Bundle On Your Next Trip With Airline Travel Deals**

**By D Fraser**

Whether you're flying to see family across the country or planning your dream vacation it's important to setup a budget. You likely have a destination you're thinking of, how ever have you considered the costs of flying there? If finances are tight, which they are for so many, take the time to seek out the best airline travel deals. A lot of people don't realize that airline tickets can be booked eleven months in advance. By booking early often you save a lot of money rather than waiting until just a couple of weeks before your trip. The down side is that if you must cancel your trip for one reason or another, generally you're out the cost of the tickets.

Calling the airline directly can be a great way to get airline travel deals. Often the airlines have the best deals available for decent ticket prices. Also they sometimes have last minute seat saver sales to fill up a few seats left on planes. Something else airlines do is they may have unadvertised seat sales. These are deals you'll only get when calling the airline directly for a ticket.

Another good source for airline travel deals is travel agents. They work as brokers between you and all the airlines, so they can browse all the air travel options for your trip and get you the cheapest price. These days travel agents have lost a lot of business to online airfare websites, so you might find an

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offline travel agent fighting a little harder to get your business.

Don't forget about the Internet as a source for airline travel deals. The Internet allows you to source out your own tickets over a variety of websites. Don't just take one sites prices as gospel search around and compare options. Don't wait to long to book tickets online how ever because a deal you see this afternoon could be gone in a few hours and not be available that night. There are a few things you should watch with airline travel deals. One thing you always want to be sure you're getting what you're paying for. Read the fine print on all websites before making the purchase, also always double check your information so you don't get stuck with the wrong ticket for a great price.

When making your reservations with a travel agent or airline directly always ask them to read back the information you've requested. Things can get jumbled over the phone, and you don't want to end up in the wrong city or state. Also as soon as you receive your itinerary double check everything to ensure no mistakes. Nothing worse then assuming you got a great price, then the airline travel deal you through you got isn't for the right trip at all. If you catch errors quickly enough, most airlines are more then happy to try and rectify it for you.

For more articles and assistance for your next trip or vacation take a look at our website at

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