



Save Up and Fly Right

Though airline travel can be very expensive, there are many ways to save. Here are some ideas on how to fly the friendly skies without taking too big a bite out of your travel budget:

- **Be flexible about your dates when possible.** Check out flight costs before you ask for time off or lock in your hotel reservations. Adjusting your dates may save you a bundle.
- **Fly in the middle of the week.** Weekends tend to be the busiest travel days of the week, so tickets for these days are often more costly. Demand is generally lower in the middle of the week, so flying on Tuesdays-Thursdays may be your best bet for getting a cheaper ticket.
- **Explore alternate airports.** If you live in an area with multiple airports, check prices at each location before you book. If you find a lower-priced ticket at a different airport than you normally use, factor in time and transportation costs to determine if you would be better off flying from this location.
- **Keep your airline options open.** Avoid getting too focused



on flying one particular airline because of miles or other rewards. Choosing the lowest priced ticket will almost always be a better deal than any rewards program benefits. In addition, keep in mind that you may be better off flying different carriers to and from your destination.

- **Be smart about when you buy.** Unless you get a great price right out of the gate, it's better to wait

and monitor flight costs over the course of a week or two before purchasing. Flight prices tend to vary throughout the week, with midweek often being the best time to buy. Buying a ticket between two months and six weeks before your trip will often get you the best price with minimal risk that your flight times will get changed by the airline.

- **Bring your own snacks.** Airport

and plane food usually has a high markup. Consider buying snacks ahead of time at your local grocery store rather than purchasing them at the airport. For beverages, bring an empty water bottle and fill it at the terminal's water fountain after you have gone through security. Try to arrange your meal schedule so you don't have to eat at the airport unless absolutely necessary.

- **Research airport transportation.** In some instances, taking a cab from the airport is your best option. However, it is worthwhile to check out other transportation options, such as trains, buses, or shuttles. If you leave your car at your departing airport, look into ways to save on parking, such as using the economy lot or pre-booking your spot.

Being a savvy flyer will not only save you money, but time as well, making it easier for you to focus on your vacation goals.

Recommended Reading

175 Ways to Travel Today

By Rebekah Voss, THP Publishing, 2014

If travel is something you enjoy or want to indulge in more often, then this book is for you. Author Rebekah Voss explores how travel is about money choices and how to make it a priority regardless of where you are in your life.

If you're the kind of person who puts off dreamed-about trips because of fear or uncertainty, this book is just the ticket for helping you get on the way to your destination. Whether it's saving for your trip or making the process simple while you're traveling, Voss lays out easy, straightforward tactics for eliminating any roadblocks. Pick up this book now and start on your path to an amazing travel adventure.

Ways to Minimize Luggage Fees

1. Research your carrier's luggage policy before you book your flight. Keep in mind that some carriers charge different rates for baggage if you check your bags online ahead of time instead of checking them at the airport.
2. Factor the cost of a carrier's luggage fees into your ticket. In some instances, you may be better off taking a higher priced ticket if there are no bag fees.
3. Allow plenty of time for packing. Not rushing will help you make more efficient choices.
4. Consider packing older pajamas or workout clothes that you are ready to throw away. Toss them at the end of the trip to create room for souvenirs or other items you acquire on your trip.
5. Weigh your bags before you fly to make sure they're not over the weight limit. If you can't keep yourself from over-packing, switch to a smaller or more lightweight suitcase.
6. Rent equipment you will need, such as golf clubs or skis, at your destination.
7. If you have frequent flier miles with an airline, check to see if they offer extra baggage allowances for your mileage level.
8. Find out what amenities your hotel will provide. There is no point in packing a travel iron or hair dryer if the hotel provides one.
9. If you think it unlikely that you will actually use an item, leave it at home.

“To travel is to take a journey into yourself.” ~ Danny Kaye