

Tips for Getting the Best Price on Airline Tickets

- ➔ Start early; flights to popular cities book early. When possible, give yourself at least six weeks of lead time.
- ➔ Begin the booking process early in the work day when prepaying airfare since getting a trip pre-approved takes time. We recommend booking flights the same day the quote is provided by [Travel Solutions](#). There is no guarantee that the airfare will remain the same.
- ➔ When choosing your dates, consider traveling on a Tuesday or Thursday if possible; these are often the least expensive dates to fly. Try different days of the week to see if the fare is lower.
- ➔ Search for the best price yourself or request Travel Solutions to do the searching for you.



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If you decide to search for your own airfare:

- ➔ We recommend <http://Qixo.com>, a popular travel search engine, for those who choose to use Internet travel providers to find the best deal. Check the airline's web site for special discounts; the airline's web site will usually offer better deals than Internet travel providers.
- ➔ Consider less popular Internet sites such as <http://travelzoo.com> or <http://sidestep.com> which search multiple sites at once (including Priceline, Travelocity, and Orbitz).
- ➔ Once you have found the flight you want, contact Travel Solutions *immediately* with the flight information: airline, flight number, dates, and times. Ask Travel Solutions to book the reservation. Be aware that airlines may change ticket prices as often as every five minutes.

If Travel Solutions is unable to obtain the fare you found, consider the following:

- ➔ The Internet travel provider may not have included all applicable taxes.
- ➔ Airlines raise ticket prices as the plane begins to fill up. Waiting for as few as five minutes between the time the price is quoted and the time you call Travel Solutions may result in a higher price.
- ➔ Beware of the “bait and switch.” Some merchants often advertise fabulous but fake bargains to get you to visit their web sites. They may advertise an airline ticket, for example, at a price low enough to lure you in, but the “exact” advertised item is not actually for sale. They usually end up selling you something more expensive.
- ➔ Ticket brokers (consolidators) often purchase a block of tickets at wholesale cost and can offer deep discounts if you book through their web site.
 - Airline consolidators are companies that purchase tickets from the airlines in bulk or carry their own contracts with the airlines. Generally, cost savings are available for tickets on international flights or longer flights such as New York to California. Some consolidators sell these tickets only to travel agents while others may sell them directly to the traveler as well.
 - When choosing to purchase a ticket through an airline consolidator, it is highly recommended that you consult a knowledgeable travel agent who is familiar with a *reputable* consolidator.
- ➔ Another consideration: the rising cost of fuel has a direct effect on the price of airline tickets.

If you have concerns with the Travel Solutions quoted price, contact Jared Heeter, Research Foundation Travel Administrator at 292-2126 or heeter.7@osu.edu, for assistance.