**✈️ Flight Booking Tips for Smart Travelers**

**1. 📅 Book in Advance**

* For the best prices, book:
  + **Domestic flights**: 1–3 months in advance
  + **International flights**: 2–6 months in advance
* Avoid last-minute bookings unless you're flexible or using loyalty miles.

**2. 🔄 Be Flexible With Dates**

* Use **"flexible date" search tools** on booking sites.
* Flying mid-week (Tuesday or Wednesday) is often cheaper than weekends.
* Avoid peak travel seasons and public holidays for better fares.

**3. 💻 Use Trusted Flight Search Engines**

* Compare prices across platforms like:
  + **Google Flights**
  + **Skyscanner**
  + **Kayak**
  + **Momondo**
* Always check final pricing directly on the **airline’s website** to avoid hidden booking fees.

**4. 🧳 Understand Baggage Policies**

* Budget airlines may charge for carry-ons or even seat selection.
* Double-check:
  + **Carry-on weight & size limits**
  + **Checked baggage fees**
  + **Free vs paid seat selection**

**5. 💺 Choose the Right Seat**

* Use **SeatGuru** or airline seat maps to avoid undesirable spots (e.g., near bathrooms).
* For long-haul flights:
  + Window seats for sleepers
  + Aisle seats for frequent movers
* Exit row = extra legroom (but often non-reclining)

**6. 🕰️ Consider Layovers Wisely**

* Short layovers (<1 hour) may risk missed connections.
* Long layovers (>6 hours) could mean airport boredom or a city mini-tour.
* Some airlines/cities offer **free transit tours** for long layovers.

**7. 💵 Price Alerts & Deals**

* Set **price alerts** via Google Flights or Hopper to monitor fare drops.
* Use **loyalty points**, **credit card rewards**, or **travel deals** if you're flexible with dates.

**8. 🧾 Check Cancellation & Refund Policies**

* Read fare class rules: not all tickets are refundable or changeable.
* Some economy fares are non-refundable but may allow credit toward future travel.

**9. 🌐 Double Check Details Before Booking**

* Check:
  + Passenger name (must match passport)
  + Departure & arrival times (especially AM/PM confusion)
  + Layover city codes
  + Final baggage rules and fees

**10. 📧 After Booking: Checklist**

* Check your email for a **booking reference (PNR)**
* Download the airline's app for:
  + Mobile check-in
  + Flight updates
  + Boarding passes
* Set calendar reminders for check-in, departure, and airport transfer

**✨ Bonus Tips:**

* Use **incognito mode** while browsing flights to avoid dynamic pricing
* Sign up for **frequent flyer programs** — even one trip adds up
* Try **multi-city** or **open-jaw** searches if your travel isn't round-trip