How much should I pay for a trip from Boston to Cancun?

Summary

- The average return flight from Boston to Cancun costs \$674
- This trip can cost you as little as \$320 and as much as \$6524
- The price varies with factors such as cabin class, the number of stopovers, whether it's a refundable flight or not, what day of the week you depart and return, which airline you travel with and what day of the week you book your travels on

Somewhat unexpectedly, the price difference between cabin classes is not as big as you may expect. Business class trips are most expensive (on average, at \$786), first class tickets would cost you \$726 and economy class flights usually fare at \$674.

Travelling without any stopovers is more convenient but it is going to cost you (on average, \$957). At least one stop (either departing or returning) will save you over \$100, with the cheapest fares possible for 1 or 2 outbound stops and 3 on the way back.

		Number of return stops					
		0	1	2	3		
Number of outbound stops	0	\$957	\$827	\$776	N/A		
	1	\$781	\$651	\$639	\$489		
	2	\$759	\$635	\$611	\$470		
	3	\$769	\$727	\$648	N/A		

Figure 1: Number of outbound and return stops.

If you less risk-averse, you may decide to purchase non-refundable flights, which are usually quite a lot cheaper (\$675 on average). The refundable trips cost almost double that amount - \$1145.

The cheapest airlines to travel with are United Airlines (average price \$540) and the most expensive airline is Lufthansa (at \$6473).

If you think that you have to book your trip on a particular day of the week, you will be happy to hear that it does not make that big a difference – making reservations on Monday and Tuesday will result only in a slightly lower price (\$660). If you want to save some money, don't leave it until the weekend – you will pay up to \$40 more on average.

You can see that departing on Tuesdays and returning on a Friday is usually the cheapest combination (\$521 on average). It is also relatively inexpensive to depart on a Sunday. If you want to return to Boston during the weekend, you should expect to pay more for your trip.

		Day of week (return)								
Day of week (departure)		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun		
	Mon	\$602	\$559	\$708	\$610	\$591	\$645	\$711		
	Tue	\$572	\$532	\$729	\$618	\$521	\$706	\$730		
	Wed	\$684	\$632	\$552	\$586	\$575	\$798	\$834		
	Thur	\$670	\$631	\$669	\$672	\$641	\$702	\$734		
	Fri	\$672	\$613	\$754	\$669	\$648	\$784	\$703		
	Sat	\$679	\$584	\$689	\$638	\$664	\$732	\$687		
	Sun	\$664	\$563	\$566	\$579	\$576	\$669	\$719		

Figure 2: Days of the week of departure and return vs. total price.

The average flight price is lowest in the following timeframes: 7-9 months, 4.5-3.5 months and between 30 and 9 days before departure.

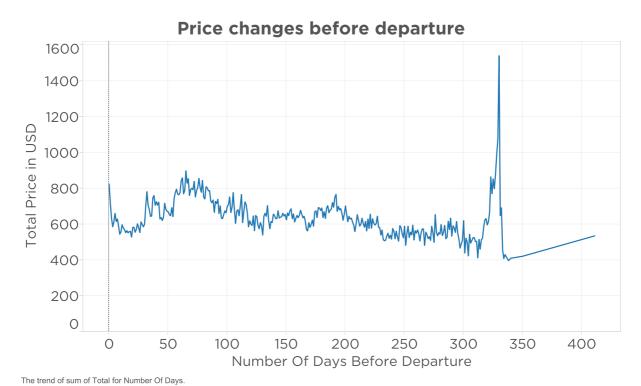


Figure 3: Average flight price change with days before departure.