

How to get the cheapest airfare every time

Today we share a few tips on cutting through the B.S. and finding the lowest airfares, no matter when and where you're flying. All it takes is three simple steps and about 15 minutes of your time.

Step one

Let's say you want to fly from New York to Barcelona on October 15. First up, hit the big aggregator sites like Skyscanner, Kayak and Expedia. Compare the prices on each of these sites and make a note of the cheapest airfare.

Step two

Go to that airline's website and search for the same flight. Despite every aggregator claiming that it charges no fees, airfares are often \$20 or \$30 cheaper when you book directly with the airline. Compare the airline price with the aggregator price and write down whichever number is lower. But don't book anything yet.

Step three

Call your local travel agent, preferably one of the budget outfits like Student Flights or STA Travel. Most of these companies guarantee to beat any quoted airfare. Tell them the best price you've found online, and they will probably offer you a further discount of \$10 or \$20.

After checking the aggregators, the airlines and the travel agents, you can rest assured that you've bagged the cheapest possible airfare. And no matter where you're flying, don't forget to search 9flats for the cheapest rental accommodations.