

Published based on [Not All Cheap Flights Are Good](#)

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Oddly enough, some of the same things that enable you to [travel](#) cost-effectively can be quite problematic. To begin with, establishing a baseline ticket cost means you may want to call the major airlines. This will enable you to do some comparative shopping, but it does take time, and you need to keep careful records.

The availability of Internet sites promising cheap airfares has made flying more assessable, and much more affordable. However, there are some definite downsides. The biggest problem for many seems to be that they do not know where to start. With so many options available, it is hard to know which one will give you what you need at the best possible price. Each [travel](#) company runs things a little differently, and you cannot assume the stipulations that govern one, will apply to all the others. The only answer is to search until you find the package that works for you, but again, this can be a long, drawn-out process, and there is no guarantee you will end up with a significant savings.

Some [travel](#) sites won't confirm which airline you will travel with, or even your traveling times, until after you have made the purchase of a ticket. If your travel plans are flexible, then this will not be problematic. If they are not, you could be looking at significant inconvenience.

Most flights purchased through a cheap-fare site, are non-refundable. You can reduce the cost of your ticket by booking the flight early, but that also means you are more vulnerable to unexpected changes in plans. If this happens, you may have to eat the cost of that 'cheap' ticket, not to mention the fee most sites will charge for a cancellation.

Remember that flights purchased on low-fare sites are usually non-refundable. Booking your flight fourteen to twenty-one days in advance will save you money, but if your plans change, you could be in a bind. Many of the cheap booking sites can and will charge a cancellation fee, not to mention you may be out the price of your ticket. Hidden costs like this can make a cheap flight quite expensive.

It is very common for travel deals to have a number of restrictions attached. Do not count on using your frequent flyer miles or a standby option. You need to familiarize yourself with all the pertinent information available, but this isn't always easy. It is not that the information isn't out there, the problem is that it's often hidden in pockets all over the site. You may need to dig a little.

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