Booking International Flights on a Budget

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Agenda

● Tips for Finding Lower Cost Airfare
● Avoiding Pitfalls
● Helpful Apps / Websites
● Passports/Visas
● Booking an International Flight Demo
● Q&A
Tips for Finding Lower Cost Airfare

- Flight Prices based on ...
  - Inventory and
  - Advanced purchase
  - Day of week? Time of day?

- Decide if price or flexibility is more important
  - Consider change and cancellation penalties

- Consider an open jaw - get creative with routing!
  - Example: DTW to London, then Paris to DTW

- Get the most bang for your buck with free stopovers!
  - Iceland Air - Layover in Reykjavik
  - Iberia Airlines - Layover in Madrid
  - Turkish Airlines - Layover in Istanbul
  - Other airlines
Tips for Finding Lower Cost Airfare

● Date of Flight:
  ○ Flying on Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday can be cheaper (Friday and Sunday are most expensive)

● Flying out of a different airport
  ○ Instead of DTW: Chicago, Cleveland, Toronto, sometimes even Windsor!

● Look for the cheapest flight to a country/region
  ○ Google Flights: Click on “Explore” tab
  ○ Kayak and Skyscanner: Search “Detroit to Anywhere/Everywhere”

● Look for student discounts (Student Universe)

● The 24 hour rule: full refund if you cancel within 24 hours of booking
  ○ Flights booked last minute may not qualify
  ○ Book directly with the airline
Found Cheap Airfare? Avoiding Pitfalls

● Avoid mixed carrier tickets
● Be wary of booking through a third-party site
● Cheaper ≠ Better
● Look closely at TOTAL travel times and itinerary

● Layovers
  ○ Make sure you have enough time to make connecting flights
    ■ At least 1.5 hours is recommended
  ○ The cheapest flights can have very long layovers
  ○ Look up layout of connecting airport

● DIRECT ≠ NONSTOP
Avoiding Pitfalls, continued ...

- Research additional fees
  - Examples: baggage costs, seat selection, flight insurance, cost of checking in at the airport vs. online

- Only book your flight AFTER final program plans have been determined

- Avoid lost luggage catastrophe: pack an extra set of clothes in carry-on

- Check to see what food options will be on flight

- Make sure name and passport info are correct

- Read all of the fine print!
Helpful Websites, Apps, Newsletters

- **Google Flights, Skyscanner, Momondo, Kayak, and Orbitz**
  - Don't have student-specific discounts
- **StudentUniverse**: discounts exclusively for students
- **Hopper** - app that tells the best times to buy flights
- **Going (formerly Scott’s Cheap Flights)** - gives you email alerts when there are cheap international flights
  - [How to Find Cheap Flights in 2023](#)
Passports/Visas

- Make sure passport is valid at least six months after going abroad
- Assume you need a visa
  - [IC Visas Page](#): How to apply, application requirements, visas for international students, resources, FAQs
- When in doubt, contact the consulate or embassy
  - Calling is better, but limited hours. Email responses can take a while, so plan in advance.
- Some countries offer visa on arrival, so look up costs and currencies
- Make copies and/or email yourself:
  - Passport and visa
  - Passport picture
  - Flight information
Upcoming Events

● Staying **Safe & Healthy** While Abroad
● Travel Considerations (**travel tips** by region!)
● **Exploring Culture** & Respectful Community Engagement
● Making the Most of Your International Experience with the University Career Center
● **Survival Language & Culture** with the Language Resource Center
● **Managing Money & Budgeting** While Abroad

*Click here for more info about the “Additional Support Option”*
How to book a Flight Demo!
Thank you!

Any Questions?