



PACK YOUR BAGS

Whether you're opting for a snowy escape or a sun-soaked winter getaway, now's the time to get savvy about your travel planning.

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ILLUSTRATION, SHUTTERSTOCK/E

The winter holiday season is just around the corner (yay!), and with it comes a world of travel possibilities—some affordable, and some not so much. But we've sifted through the latest travel reports from Expedia, Google and more to help you get to your destination without breaking the bank.

1

SNAG EARLY BIRD SALES

Dreaming of skiing down freshly powdered slopes? Or lounging on a tropical beach with mojito in hand, perhaps? No matter where you're going, the best way to make your dream a reality is to book it early. Expedia's 2024 Air Travel Hacks Report reveals that booking flights up to six months in advance for international trips and three months for domestic ones can land you the best price.

2

SEARCH THE WEB LIKE A PRO

To find the best deals without the hassle, check out travel aggregator websites and apps. These tools compare prices across multiple airlines and hotels and often have exclusive discounts. This can streamline your booking process—perfect for nailing down those cost-friendly options!

3

THINK OUTSIDE THE AIRPORT BOX

Don't settle for the main airport if there's a less expensive option close by. Google's 2024 Holiday Travel Trends report suggests checking for flights that depart and/or arrive at smaller, alternative airports near your destination. A short drive from a secondary airport can save you a surprising amount of cash. For example, flying into Hamilton instead of Toronto might make your trip to the big city more affordable!

4

FLY MIDWEEK FOR A DEAL

Why pay more when you can fly for less? According to the Airlines Reporting Corporation (ARC), midweek flights—especially on Tuesdays and Wednesdays—are often cheaper than those on other days of the week. These quieter travel days mean less demand and lower fares, making it easier to stretch your travel budget further.



“Travelling with just carry-on luggage can save you extra money, as well as from hassles at the airport.”



5

BE FLEXIBLE WITH DATES

The more flexible you are with your travel dates, the more money you can save. Use flexible date search tools to find those hidden gems, so you can allocate those extra bucks in your pocket for treating yourself to a romantic dinner or an off-resort excursion instead of a costly flight.

6

TRAVEL DURING OFF-PEAK TIMES

Booking your trip during off-peak times, or in “shoulder” seasons, is a great way to save some dough. And if you’re looking for quiet and relaxation, it’s also a great time to visit certain destinations, as they won’t be as crowded as they are during peak season.

7

USE REWARDS AND POINTS

Vacationing can be even sweeter when you’re able to pay for it using rewards or points you’ve accumulated during the year. Whether you collect points through a frequent flyer program or have travel credit card perks, make sure you’re taking full advantage of them.

8

WATCH FOR DEALS AND DISCOUNTS

Sign up for fare alerts and keep an eye out for promotions so you can catch those holiday sales and special offers before they disappear. Being proactive about tracking discounts can lead to substantial savings.

9

CHOOSE ACCOMMODATIONS WISELY

When it comes to choosing where you’re going to stay, think beyond the luxury hotels. Google’s report suggests considering vacation rentals or budget-friendly hotels. Staying in a cozy rental with a kitchen can save on dining-out costs, while at the same time giving you a unique home-away-from-home experience during your travels.

10

PACK LIGHTLY

Avoid those pesky baggage fees by packing efficiently. As ARC suggests, travelling with just carry-on luggage can save you extra money, as well as from hassles at the airport. Just be sure to check the airline’s baggage policy and don’t go over the carry-on weight or size limit or you might be forced to check your bag.