



MONEY WISE

VALUING PEOPLE. VALUING MONEY.
MANAGING IN TOUGH TIMES INITIATIVE



Alex Elswick, MS
Extension Associate
Family Resource Management
(859) 257-3290
alex.elswick@uky.edu

AUGUST 2018

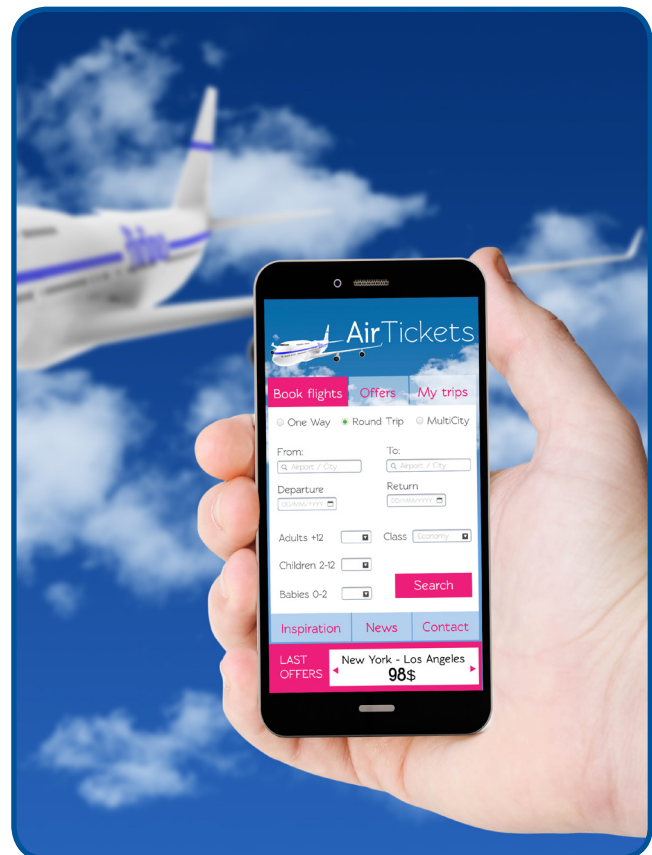
THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:

GET THE BEST DEALS ON AIRFARE

Airfare costs can be the difference between an affordable trip and an expensive one. Unfortunately, the reality is that different people will pay different prices for the exact same flight. At times these differing airline prices may seem utterly unpredictable. However, there is a method to the madness. Consider some of the following suggestions to ensure that you will get the most convenient flight at the best possible price.

Compare Options

When consumers make any kind of purchase, be it items at the grocery or a major home appliance, comparing options is always a smart place to start. With multiple options at your disposal, you can pit one airline against another to leverage the lowest ticket prices. Using comparison websites may be helpful, but they won't necessarily give you the lowest flights of all the airlines. Search big airlines and budget airlines alike to secure the best price.





Timing is Everything

It is a cliché that timing is everything, but it is particularly true in the case of selecting flights. The price you pay for airline tickets is determined by a number of time-bound factors including: How far in advance you buy tickets, what day you buy tickets, what time you buy tickets, what day you choose to fly, and what time you choose to fly. Luckily for us, research has already found the best way to minimize airfare costs. Although prices tend to fluctuate, these rules are a useful guide:

- Book airfare about seven weeks or 50 days in advance. According to 2017 data, flights are about 10% cheaper when booked 50 days in advance.
- Be flexible on your travel dates. Generally speaking, the middle of the week (e.g. Tuesday or Wednesday) will give you the cheapest flights. If at all possible, leave yourself the flexibility to leave on a couple of different days. This way you can compare among multiple departure dates.
- Be willing to wake up early. Typically, the cheapest flights are at times that most people

do not wish to fly. While waking up at 4 o'clock in the morning may not be your preference, it could save you some money.

Redeem Rewards

There are a number of different rewards that you may be able to redeem for airline miles or flying perks.

- Although you will always want to compare multiple options, frequently flying with the same airline has its advantages. You may accrue free miles you can apply to a later flight.
- Some credit cards are affiliated with airline companies and offer specific benefits such as priority boarding or seat selection. Other credit cards may allow you to convert your cash back directly into airline miles. If you fly fairly often, a credit card with these kinds of benefits may be useful to you.
- Sign up for cheap airfare alerts through a flight search engine. These sites allow you to enter a destination and a date range and will alert you when prices have dropped. If you plan far enough in advance, these websites could do the job for you!

Alex Elswick, MS, Extension Associate for Family Resource Management, Department of Family Sciences, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, (859) 257-3290; alex.elswick@uky.edu

Jennifer Hunter, Ph.D., Interim Assistant Director of Family and Consumer Sciences Extension, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, (859) 257-3887; jhunter@uky.edu

Stock images: 123RF.com



Become a fan of MoneyWi\$e on Facebook!
[Facebook.com/MoneyWise](https://www.facebook.com/MoneyWise)