FLIGHTS 101

By Michael Reinisch
GENERAL STRATEGY

- 1. Check several sites for ticket prices twice a day for 5 days. (morning and evening)
- 2. Get a feel for how much prices to your location are.
- 3. Keep monitoring the price and check at least once a day.

Protip: Never book the first flight unless you’re absolutely sure and the price is super cheap.
SEARCH SITES

priceline.com

StudentUniverse

Google

KAYAK

momondo

skyscanner

ORTBITZ

Expedia
MASS SEARCHES
1. Don’t trust them, but they give you a good idea.
### FLEXIBLE SEARCHES

- 1. Don’t trust them, but they give you a good idea.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depart</th>
<th>Sun, Jul 30</th>
<th>Mon, Jul 31</th>
<th>Tue, Aug 1</th>
<th>Wed, Aug 2</th>
<th>Thu, Aug 3</th>
<th>Fri, Aug 4</th>
<th>Sat, Aug 5</th>
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<td>Sat, May 20</td>
<td>$1,464</td>
<td>$1,399</td>
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WHEN TO BOOK
WHEN TO BOOK

- 2 months+: Don’t buy yet unless good fare available
- 2 months-45 days: Good fares available
- 45 days- 2 weeks: Best fares on average
- 2 weeks-day of flight: May God help you

- April 15th, prices go up on average:
  - Tax returns
  - Demand spikes since people finalize plans
BUDGET AIRLINES

- Budget airlines generally don’t want to pay search engines
- Generally fly to remote airports
- One-way tickets may be cheaper
- Pay per service
- Always get paper boarding pass
BUYING 2 SEPARATE TICKETS

- You are liable for delays!
- You have to re-check through security.
ERROR FARES

- Prices are calculated according to algorithms
- …algorithms mess up.
SAFETY

- Don’t book more than 3 layovers.
- Check for airports that track luggage.
FREQUENT FLYER PROGRAMS

- No matter what airline you fly with, look up their frequent flyer program
- It’s free miles stored on your account. Make one!
ADDITIONAL TIP FROM MATT BENTLEY

- Check ITA matrix site – it’s the software behind the search engines!
  - https://matrix.itasoftware.com/