

How to Travel ON A BUDGET



A step-by-step guide
to making the trip of your dreams
work for your budget

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LOVE AT FIRST FLIGHT
TRAVEL

Flexibility

The key to traveling on a budget is flexibility. I find that what saves the most money is flexibility with dates and airport location.



important tip

Write down 2-3 different airport locations that you're willing to drive to. It is even better if at least one of those airports has international flights arriving and departing.

Once you have written down your dates and airports, go to www.google.com/flights. Choose your departure and arrival city. When you click on the date section, you will see dollar amounts listed for each day. This shows you the price for the flight. Here, you can adjust your days according to price. You can also go in and adjust the departure or arrival city to see how that affects cost. You can also subscribe to services like Scott's Cheap Flights or Hopper to notify you of price drops.

Book Trips with Reward Travel

There are many credit card companies that offer travel incentives as a perk to using their card. By using a credit card that has great travel rewards for your everyday expenses, you can help your travel budget by earning points to use toward flights, hotels, or car rentals.



important tip

Use your card for normal, everyday purchases. Be responsible. Don't outspend your means. Pay your balance every month. This ensures that you are earning the travel perks and not the interest.

Make sure to do your research before you commit to a travel card. Many cards offer different perks and different bonuses. I love my Delta AMEX because we get a free companion ticket each year and we accrue SkyMiles, but sometimes the blackout dates are bothersome. I also have a Chase Sapphire. This card is nice because it allows your travel points to be used toward multiple companies. I suggest researching by following someone like 10xTravelInsiders.

Travel During Shoulder Season

What is shoulder season? It is the period between a destinations high and low travel seasons. This not only means that the prices will be cheaper, but the destinations are typically less crowded as well!



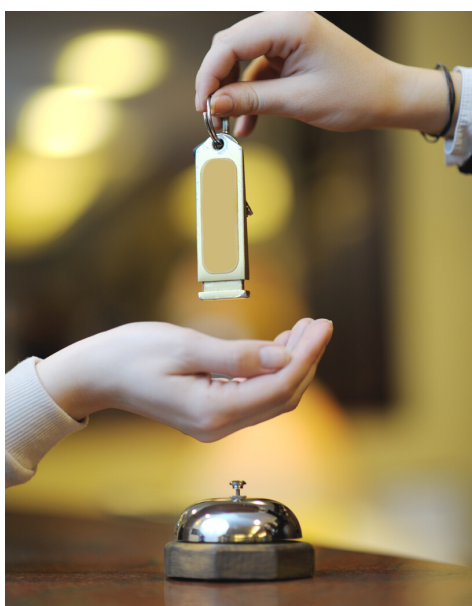
important tip

Research each destination well to discover what dates make up each shoulder season. Also, be mindful of special events that may be taking place and could also increase prices.

Most locations have shoulder seasons in the spring and fall. One example of a shoulder season is booking a ski trip in the warmer months of winter, toward the end of the season. Again, be mindful of special events. You wouldn't want to book Disney during the half marathon weekend or a stay in Pittsburgh on the day of a Steelers game. (Unless of course that's what you're going for. Black and Yellow!)

Choose Your Accommodations Wisely

Airbnb, VRBO, and even camping can typically beat the cost of most hotels. When researching a destination, be sure to check out local hotels, Airbnb, and VRBO.



important tip

Think about the logistics of your trip before booking accommodations. Will you be able to walk or commute? Will it cost you more money in transportation than you're saving?

Logistics and convenience are important points to consider when choosing a reservation. Food is also important. Resorts are typically more expensive, but are the perks making up for the cost difference? An all-inclusive may seem pricey, but how much money would you spend on food otherwise? Check with your travel agent for current specials, check "deal of the days" on Expedia or other sites, and check the Top 20 on Travelzoo weekly.

Investigate Transportation Options

Transportation can be a huge chunk of expenses while traveling. Make sure to research public transportation options, rental car prices, Uber availability, and walking distances.



important tip

Make sure to make safety a priority when planning transportation.

Rental cars have become quite expensive since 2020. Always try to book rental cars early. The closer you get to your departure date, the more expensive they are. Check for any discount links through your work or through your credit card apps. Transportation options to consider at your destination include trains, subway, shuttles, Uber, Lyft, taxis, Turo, bicycles, and walking.

Bring Snacks!

Eating out for every meal can add up fast. If you are trying to stay within your budget, avoid buying food at airports and bring snacks along for the plane and for your trip.



important tip

Many people are under the assumption that you can't bring outside food into the airport. This is FAKE NEWS! There is a carry-on liquid restriction only.

When I travel, I always pack some snacks in my checked bag for my destination and some snacks in my carry-on bag for the plane. Airport food and in-flight food is RIDICULOUSLY expensive. I like to take protein bars with me in my checked bag. This can save me from having to grab breakfast somewhere, and it can also help if I'm not a fan of the food in the country I'm visiting. When we go to National Parks, we always pack some fruit, bread, PB, and protein bars. This saves us from having to eat at the limited restaurants in the park and saves on cost.

Checklist

1. Flexibility with dates/airlines/airports
2. Use travel rewards when possible.
3. Travel during shoulder season.
4. Explore different accommodations.
5. Investigate transportation options.
6. Bring snacks.



Conclusion and Next Steps

I hope this PDF has helped give you an insight on ways to travel within your defined budget. Please reach out to me if you have any questions. I hope that you will continue to follow my blog. If you would like me to help you plan a vacation, my contact info is listed below.



*Thank you!
Cassie*

Love at First Flight Travel
"Inspiring Wanderlust and the Urge
to Explore"



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