

# Cheap Flight Deal Checklist

17 things to check before you book - Great Price Flights v6.6

Use this checklist to compare the true total cost of a flight, especially for last-minute trips. Estimates only; always verify current prices, airline rules, baggage policies, transfer options, and cancellation terms before booking.

## 1. True Flight Cost Checklist

Check	Why it matters	Your notes
Base fare	Headline price can hide baggage, seat, and schedule tradeoffs.	
Carry-on fee	Some low fares do not include a full carry-on bag.	
Checked bag fee	Round-trip checked bag costs can erase the deal.	
Seat fee	Families/couples may pay more to sit together.	
Priority/boarding fee	Sometimes required for realistic cabin-bag use.	
Airport choice	A cheaper airport may cost more in ground transport.	
Transfer cost	Taxi, train, shuttle, or rideshare costs change true value.	
Arrival time	Late arrivals can create taxi or hotel friction.	
Departure time	Very early flights may add hotel/taxi cost.	
Layover risk	Short, overnight, or separate-ticket layovers can increase risk.	
Cancellation terms	Cheap nonrefundable fares can be risky for prepaid trips.	
Travel insurance	Useful when flights connect to prepaid hotels/tours.	
Hotel timing	Flight should align with check-in, tours, transfers, and meals.	
Visa/entry timing	International trips need enough time for documents/requirements.	
Weather/season risk	Storms, winter weather, or peak season can affect flexibility.	
Reward points/cashback	Compare cash price against miles/points value.	
Total deal score	Choose the best full-trip value, not only the lowest fare.	

## 2. Last-Minute Flight Decision Tool

Question	If yes	If no
Trip is within 7 days?	Book faster when value is clear.	Keep comparing dates and nearby airports.
Dates are flexible?	Check +/- 1-3 days.	Focus on baggage, schedule, and transfer fit.
Nearby airports work?	Compare total flight + transfer cost.	Do not chase alternate airport savings.
Need baggage?	Add bags before comparing fares.	Basic fares may be more competitive.
Arrival after 10 PM?	Check transfer cost and hotel check-in.	Schedule risk may be lower.
Hotel/tours are prepaid?	Consider flexible fare or insurance.	More room to choose lowest fare.
International trip?	Avoid risky layovers and tight arrival timing.	Domestic flexibility may be easier.

Decision guidance: If your score is strong, the trip is soon, and the total cost still beats alternatives, book. If the only savings come from a bad airport, bad arrival time, or hidden fees, keep comparing.

### 3. Destination-Specific Cheap Flight Checks

Destination	Cheap-flight trap	Planner to check
Paris	CDG vs Orly airport savings can disappear after transfer timing/cost.	Paris travel planner
Rome	FCO vs Ciampino affects transfer convenience and attraction timing.	Rome travel planner
Tokyo	Haneda vs Narita can change transfer time and late-arrival friction.	Tokyo travel planner
New York City	JFK/LGA/EWR fare savings can disappear after city transport.	NYC travel planner
Cancun	A cheap CUN fare may not matter if resort transfer is expensive.	Cancun travel planner

### 4. Screenshot Proof Slots

- Base fare before fees
- Fare after baggage and seats
- Nearby airport comparison
- Late-night arrival example
- Better-value flight with higher headline fare but lower total trip cost
- Completed calculator screenshot