

Ticket and Flying Glossary



APEX Advance Purchase **EX**cursion. This is the standard discount ticket available from airlines and most regular travel agents. Depending on the airline, these tickets require a seven to thirty day advance purchase, a minimum stay of usually seven days, and a maximum stay of thirty or sixty days, sometimes longer. Round trip is required, and fees are usually charged for date changes or cancellation.

Open jaw A ticket which allows you to fly into one city and return from another. For example, you might fly into London, travel Europe by train, and then return to the U.S. from Athens. Open-jaw tickets usually cost more than a regular return ticket from one city, but convenience makes up for that. Not every travel agent or airline sells open-jaw tickets for a reasonable price, but some budget agencies specialize in them.

Ope

n return

A round-trip ticket which allows you to make the return flight at any time--providing there is space--during the period the ticket is valid.

One-year ticket

This Cadillac of tickets is generally a full-fare that allows changes and cancellations without penalty for up to one-year. It should also be fully-refundable. While you usually cannot get a

discounted one-year ticket directly from the airline or most mom-and-pop travel agents, they are sometimes available from bucket shops.

One-way ticket

Usually costs more than half of a round-trip, but sometimes the same or even twice as much. The great risk with one-ways is the return may be astronomically priced or unavailable when you desperately need it.

Nevertheless this is my preferred ticket (when cheap enough) since I like the feeling of being uncommitted to place and date, and because my travel is mostly limited by money, not time.

Confirmations

For international flights, but especially those originating outside the United States, call the airline to confirm your reservation at least 72 hours before the flight

regardless

of what your ticket says. Otherwise your seat may be given to someone's cousin on the waiting list.

Bucket shops

Experience tells the airlines that a certain number of seats are going to be empty on certain flights, so they discount that space--sometimes heavily--to travel agencies variously known as bucket shops, consolidators, and discounters. These agencies mostly serve individuals who are only going to fly cheaply or not at all. This maximizes airline revenue by forcing customers of regular travel agencies to pay non-discounted prices. Some regular travel agents may be able to get discounted tickets from wholesalers.

Wholesalers

A middle-man who handles discounted tickets between airlines and bucket shops.

Newspapers

One of the best ways to find discounted tickets is to check the Sunday travel sections of major newspapers, such as (for the U.S.)

The New York Times, San Francisco Examiner, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Houston Chronicle,

and

Miami Herald

. (The latter three are good for flights to Latin America.)

USA Today, The L.A. Weekly

, and

The Village Voice

also have bucket shop advertisements. Some agencies clearly label one-way and round-trip fares, while others list "half-round-trip" to make prices seem lower.

TOURIST ROUTES: Air Traveller Glossary

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Information about the 2015/16 tourist routes is determined from competitive advertising in major newspapers.