

The image features a tropical beach scene. In the foreground, a man is relaxing in a blue hammock that is suspended over clear, shallow water. A large, vibrant yellow and orange hibiscus flower is positioned to the right of the man, partially overlapping the hammock. In the background, there is a sandy beach with several thatched-roof umbrellas and lounge chairs. The sky is blue with some clouds. The entire scene is framed by a dark red background that contains the main title and a subtitle.

Secrets To Last Minute Travel Deals

Discover Countless **INSIDER** Secrets To
SAVE BIG With Last Minute Traveling

SECRETS TO LAST MINUTE TRAVEL DEALS

**How to make the most of every
savings and booking opportunity**

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**Section I – TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT LAST MINUTE TRAVEL
KNOWING WHAT YOU ARE DEALING WITH FOR GREAT DEALS**

– Introduction and Background

We all want the best for our travel dollar. These days, it is all about getting there quickly and cheaply. We all want to make the most of what the travel industry has to give and offer up in terms of savings and value. This leads and inspires us (even obsess over!), increasingly try to secure the BEST pricing, discounts and lowest rates possible, even for short-term travel and last minute arrangement.

Lots have changed in the modern world we live in. Travel is no exception, whether by car, plane, train, boat or rail and other means of transportation. The fast-paced nature of society sometimes pressures us to spend a little more time and less money getting where we need and want to go. Worldwide, people are moving, on the move, passing through and going places. We are nomadic at heart and the economy and activity demands that we do, often and repeatedly.

Booking online has also become a reality. We are wanting more and more to get where we need to go, as quickly as possible, as affordably as possible and as cheaply as possible! This, combined with the wonderful enabling technological advances that we have had in recent years, all contribute to almost on-demand and real-time travel solutions at our fingertips.

Booking last minute afford you flexibility, but also savings sometimes, if you do it right. You do not have to necessarily pay more if you are booking short-term travel. We all just accept that it will be more expensive, as supply and demand dictates. You need to know where the real savings opportunities are, whether charter flights, preferred rates or more applies and then use, leverage and optimize these individually and collectively to your advantage.

Discovering The Best Deals When Traveling Last Minute

It is an art and science to discover and capitalize on any and all last minute travel bargains PRIOR to booking. Asking the right questions, using the right booking service and provider, even doing things yourself can save a lot of money. You will be left with more on-hand spending money and make your travel dollar go that much further, if you can make these last minute travel deals work for you, not against you!

Short-notice travel is a reality today. Low-cost options are available to you, if you know what you are looking for, who to get them from and through and securing the lowest possible cost and price for all aspects of your trip.

Many a time there are disasters, unfortunate events and unfortunate incidents that happen in our lives and those of others. We cancel, reschedule and shuffle our plans last minute, creating a type of fluidity in the market, openings for some/others to take advantage of. This affords consumers choice and opportunity to save money, even for traveling.

Cancellations and even weather, can have you dig in on some savings for vacation or quick last-minute business or destination travel that you did not think possible.

You also need to know the difference between advanced booking prices, hold and reserve flight specification to ensure your pricing and availability. You have to be able to make the most of any rock-bottom pricing, bulk discounts, charter, re-routed flights and preferred rates, to put together great last minute packages, specials and bundled deals for making last minute travel a breeze.

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When you not ready to surrender that extra cash, higher price for a flight, opt for seeking out value, ask about lower fares, rates and specials. If you do not ask, no one will necessarily volunteer that information (especially NOT if they are making a commission on the travel that they are selling!).

If you do not settle or compromise when it comes to comfort, convenience and cost (they do not have to be excluded by the way in last minute or discounted travel plans – you might be surprised at some of the deals that you will find as you get more and more in touch with where the actual savings and bargains are).

Now, most of us would beg to know this information, share ideas on how to save money while traveling, especially as it pertains to last-minute travel details. Stay tuned for more subtle tips, tricks and insider recommendations on how to make your travel dollar stretch and reach that much further.

A lot has been published online and in print on travel, the industry, challenges and opportunities to save money. Oftentimes there are portions of the market that remain very much tucked away, underestimated, unused, yet open to all. It is up to you to surface and unearth some of these hidden travel treasures and pricing gems to get where you need or want to go.

There are many online providers and sites that afford you a better handle on what is available in the marketplace, with lots of quality comparisons and side-by-side pricing and analysis for your perusal and use.

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Here are but a few of them:

** NOTE: see the reference listing at the end of this text for more useful links and resources to make your hunt for last minute travel easier!

- travelzoo.com
- site59.com
- Ratestogo.com
- lastminutetraveller.com
- lastminutetravel.com
- Lastminute.com
- cheaptickets.com

This travel market, technology enabled, web-based bookings and more can be brought to life, if you study, research and get to know the different providers, special deals and rules of thumb for making and getting the most of and for last minute travel deals.

The market does have lots to offer, but it is up to each of us to find out how to make the dynamics and intricacies of it work to our own advantage, making our trip not only more enjoyable, but possible, memorable and AFFORDABLE! That is what it is all about.

Increasingly a wide/diverse set of travelers exploit and optimize all that the market has to offer. **YOU TOO CAN BE ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES IN THE KNOW, TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE, TO YOUR OWN BENEFIT!**

- Whether for business, wedding, leisure or vacation, getaways or last minute trips, there are always cheap options, empty seats, cancellations, connecting or charter flights, that demand some flexibility, responsive agility

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- There are many sites and providers with exposure online on the worldwide web, promising the world when it comes to last minute travel deals.
- We can realistically do a lot of our travel bookings ourselves these days, without a huge amount of risk.
- You do not necessarily have to deal with travel brokers, intermediaries or booking, reservation agencies any more. YOU CAN GO IT ALONE – cautiously and as an informed consumer-decision-maker. You can effectively track down, identify, find and complete your own travel itinerary and booking (travel plan), booking directly!
- Taking full advantage of all special offerings, discounts, deals, vacations, hotels, airfare, destination vacations.
- Using smaller, or niche booking specialists, bulk pricing and other go-betweens, major trusted brand providers of distinction and solid reputation, can all contribute to getting you the bottom-dollar pricing, for top-rated traveling. **It does not have to cost an arm and a leg.**
- You can very easily secure last minute travel deals to the Caribbean, Mexico and Florida and even Europe... AT THE LAST MINUTE!

So, we all know there are savings to be had out there regarding travel. But, how do we get at it, effectively, successfully and consistently?

- Package deals and one-stop shopping provides great options and very real savings.
- DO NOT SETTLE FOR LESS – there are always options, ask about them if the information is not offered as alternatives routes or possibilities.
- Ensure that you are taking full advantage of overlapping schedules, reschedules, cancellations and more.

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- Ask and answer yourself, if you will and can benefit from what the deal has to offer. In other words, if it is right for you and offering real value. For some destinations, means and carriers, you can easily be booking listing price for some deals and destinations and really save a buck or two.
- Nobody in the travel industry, like to see empty seats, chairs, rooms or space. That translates into costs to the business and profit loss. Offering lower rates and special travel combination packages, even discounted airfare, there are many options and choices for your to consider. Make traveling easy , a joy and cheaper than you thought and you will be on your way pretty soon, for less that you have come to expect.
- Limited wholesale fares and specials are oftentimes listed and advertised online through Orbitz, Travelocity and Expedia. They are considered limited in time, availability and great list of providers to partner up with. Dropped pricing, discounts, low fares, special rates and deals, discounts and offers abound. It is hard to sometimes imagine ever paying FULL PRICE or too much for traveling and globe-trotting.
- Make if worthwhile for yourself and pocketbook to look at and weigh all your options, picking the best option, most affordable and ask about last minute travel deals, packages, specials and discounts at every point in the process. Booking in advance can be of great advantage but also have you missing out on some of these special deals.

STEP # 1: Familiarize yourself with some of the low-cost, last minute travel deals, dynamics, providers, pitfalls and opportunities. Your best interests will be well served by paying close attention to the different sources and angles the savings can come from:

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- Online and agency, carrier, travel bargains and discounts,
- Packages, customized vacations, bundling all keep costs low
- Discounts, coupons and special deals
- Industry consolidators and travel brokers or wholesale travel booking can get you better rates as well super-saver air-tickets and travel packages or discount bundles

Everyone who has had to book a last minute flight or made short-term travel arrangements, know that there is a price to pay. It is just the pace and part of the realities of life sometimes. Other procrastinate and delay making that final commitment. Short departures, even stand-by type arrangements can fall into this category. This however, does not have to break the bank or your pocketbook. You can still get good value for your travel dollar, without spending an arm and a leg due to the urgent or last minute nature of your booking.

Bargain travel is possible. There is a well-defined, opportunistic travel market that awaits, with myriads of savings and opportunity.

Have you even thought about

- Connecting, Charter Flights, Red-Eye Or 'Unpopular' Flight Times, Hubs Or Departures
- Cheaper Seats
- Tours And Packages
- Budget Traveling
- Overnight Travel
- Cancellations – waiting list type bookings
- Limited time offers
- Travel directories with special deals
- one of, once in a lifetime, limited time (even auction-type) travel deals that goes to the highest or most timely bidder.

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- cheap all-inclusive getaways
- early bird specials offerings
- special travel deals and discounts for subscription or members ONLY
- non-refundable travel packages
- Travel point redemptions, air-miles and loyalty program seats

... and many others.

These can all help you take advantage of great last-minute travel opportunities that might otherwise go untapped.

This access to real-time availability, resale, wholesale, discounted, cancelled, and special rate bookings, DO NOT LAST LONG! **Do not hesitate or they might just be gone all together.**

If you are adaptable, flexible and willing to make some personal sacrifices on stopover, departure times, connections there are some real options open to you in the marketplace. IF YOU ACT QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY! and If you are a budget-conscious traveler, you can take advantage of these 'specials' out there.

If you act pro-actively, you can even save money on last minute travel. Regardless of where you go, for how long you plan to stay or the purpose of your travels, there are savings to be had.

Travel industry incentives and incentives (tools of the trade), coupons, preferred rates, discounts can all be made to count in your favor. If you are traveling what is known as this 11th-hour travel circuit, you need to know how to get the best value for your dollar, without paying too much, due to the urgency of your requirements and booking. YOU

DO NOT HAVE TO FALL VICTIM TO HIGH PRICES FOR SHORT-TERM TRAVEL! It is not a given.

You need to seriously ask yourself, what you need to be doing, or can actually put in place to mitigate and even lower the costs incurred in this fashion. A combination of strategies and options, questions and queries might just lead you to find that treasures low fare or last-minute travel special you need and want! Your whole approach to this situation should NOT be one of 'begging' for a deal. Orchestrate and put together all the different angles you might need to effectively lower the cost of your last-minute trip.

- Last Minute Travel Deal Basics – How to make the most of the deals that are available out there

Everyone has their perspective on what constitutes 'last minute' type travel. Industry and travelers have varying views, opinions and ideas on what this means. Recent global events (heightened security) has also changes the dynamics of this a bit.

Definitions of LAST MINUTE TRAVEL, will vary greatly, depending on whom you actually ask. There are numerous parties involved in this equation and booking cycle and process.

- Traveler himself/herself or group of tourists
- Carrier or operators
- Travel providers
- Agents and middle-men, agencies
- Booking and reservation agent(s) themselves (working for commission we might add! And not necessarily your best interest)
- Travel industry experts or representatives.

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- Those travelers who have succeeded in taking full advantage of these special travel deals, to be found with frequency and in the most odd and unexpected of places.

But, we still have not quite answered to everyone's satisfaction what we are dealing with or referring to, if we are speaking of last minute travel. In question would be the

- On-demand
- Real-time
- Availability and access, affordability.
- Special offers, bundles, limited time special pricing or discounts and even getaway packages
- Intended for expedient, short-term, 11th-hour, last-minute, almost 'immediate use' type travel
- In other words, some responsive and timely travel when and where you need it at a price that is lower than expected, NOT HIGHER! (which would be the norm in most cases – or so is popularly thought)
- Weekender travel, this week, tomorrow, today, 2-3 days could all qualify, as will travel in 1-2 weeks time, (depending again on whom you ask) – answers, responses and timing, as well as pricing WILL VARY – that is a given! It is up to you to make sense of the implications of these options and how to best mitigate and lower the cost of your last-minute needs and requirements for travel, without having to pay the full-price and /or the penalty for either booking late or last minute.
- A constant stream of last minute deals, discount packages, value travel package bundles, discounts and the like are available 24/7 in different formats, pending availability from the existing pool of spaces and/or cancellations. Empty

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spaces cost money and operators would rather fill them at a lower price than having them sit around empty!

- Travel packages typically put together a value package that costs much less (significant savings can be had in some cases) for a combination of travel services, like airfare, hotel, rental car (
- Sometimes these packages can afford and include additional bonuses, trade-ins or trade-ups, or even add-ons such as event tickets, activities, excursions, drinks, or even pre-paid meals.
- Incentive travel
- All travel industry players want to make money in the end, not waste it – it is up to you to figure out how to best capitalize on the 'empty', at risk or costly seats that are not spoken for and taking full advantage of the potential savings and discounts these can bring for you.
- Try to figure out the rationale behind some of these pricing.
- Some pricing might be seasonal, the property might be going through a renovation or change of ownership or myriads of other reasons – tap into these and always check with the front-desk upon check in for a cheaper rate.
- Always ask about loyalty programs, initiatives, points and special bonuses for repeat clients.
- Always remember that you are just one side of the value equation here – try to find some middle ground where the one hand washes and serves the other. It can be rewarding and mutually worthwhile for all parties, both sides!
- Three to fourteen days PRIOR to departure qualifies as last minute travel, based on some formal industry regulations and definitions. We are constantly expected to get and go places quickly, fast and effectively, without breaking the bank. The industry pricing and models do not always

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necessarily enable or encourage it, but if the seats and full everyone is smiling and happy. Lowering the price to accomplish that goal is not that far fetched and in fact is happening worldwide as we speak on major and smaller carriers and service providers alike.

- Bulk bookings versus per person, might get you some family or tour discounts. Seniors and students will get discounts and sometimes the kids are free or at a highly reduced rate – always ask, verify and confirm the small print, implications and possible savings.
- Taxes and administration fee waivers might apply – check at the time of booking. Travel packages bring with them great deals, helping you make the most of every minute, dollar and booking that you make, whether on or offline, yourself or through an agent.

You need to be able to adapt and consider a wide range of options and prices. A more open-minded approach, willingness to negotiate and compromise will get you much further along with discounted last minute travel deals than you imagine. Stop and take the time to ask some questions, regarding

- Flights and hotel combination packages (some are below \$200 for US cities for example)
- Bonuses and upgrades, limited time offers, specials and discount coupons, two-for-one, 50% off etc. are all available. Airfare can be enhanced with activities, event tickets and the like for local or area attractions, shopping and more.
- Hotel accommodations booked for blocks of time at a time, is typically cheaper too and always, if traveling for business, ask about the corporate, preferred and cheapest available rate.

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Last minute travel deals does offer a wide selection of choice, so you are not merely left with bad or no choices, or have to settle for scraps. There is actually lots of variety and options available to you, despite the fact that it is a last minute booking or travel decision on-the-fly! YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PENALIZED FOR IT TOO!

- **What are last minute travel deals? What do they mean and can they do for you?**

WE WILL HAVE TO SAY IT AGAIN AND REPEAT IT OFTEN.... You do not have to pay an arm and a leg for (your, any or all) last minute travel. It is misguided to think that the longer you book in advance, the better the pricing would be... guaranteed. These days, this does not always ring true anymore. There are exceptions and the market has changes and will be continuing to morph and adapt to modern demand, advancements and requirements as time passes. Many will or have already discover(ed) that it is not really always the case. There is more here than meets the eye, or at first glance.

It is wonderfully refreshing to know, that you can actually take a proactive role in how much you want to end up spending on your last minute travel deals. The hunt is on for the best value for your dollar, make every avenue, second and penny count!

You will also not have to compromise on quality and choice necessarily. Most of the specials, offers, bundles and travel packages offer some of the most recognized brands and providers. These might include some of the top rental car companies and hotels from around the globe.

Just some examples of these include:

- American Airlines

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- Avis
- Bass
- Budget Rent-A-Car.
- Continental Air Lines,
- Delta Airlines
- Loews Hotels
- Starwood

Through the dynamics and functionality of the internet, all this travel information, facts and data is available.

Limited timing and availability *there until it is gone, taken advantage of by you or someone else – DO NOT HESITATE OR POSTPONE, IT MIGHT BE GONE BY THE TIME YOU COME BACK. That is the risk you take if you do not act right away and decisively with your bookings for last minute travel deals. It is also about more than the money-saving and economical value promise and potential.

When travel packages are no longer available, the websites or providers will simply remove them and when the seats, flights or rooms (a given price) are no longer available, are all quite common characteristics and features of this process and outcome.

Would be travelers would be well advise to not dally or delay. Typically reservations and holds cannot necessarily be done and they carry no refunds.

Some of the major advantages of these types of last minute travel deals could include exotic destinations, island vacations, major US cities, excursions into nature, cruising and many others.

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These types of last minute travel deals and bookings are quick-responders, on the market quite fast, not available long, requiring instantaneous, immediate, urgent ACTION!

For many it may seem utterly opportunistic, to an extent it is, and for open-ended type individuals the perfect fit with their preference of suspending judgment, waiting until last minute etc. to get the BEST deal. The excitement, spontaneous nature of the process and outcome make it a worthwhile pursuit of many a hopeful moneysaving traveler.

Even if you are well-planned, organized, structured, booking too long in advance thinking you are locking in savings and a fixed rate, might actually discover later down the line that you ended up by doing this, NOT being able to benefit from some discounts or later lower fares!

You should remember that these last minute travel deals tend NOT TO LAST! It is up to you to capitalize on them quickly.

You can without much effort online and offline, find, identify, scrutinize, and research on the internet, phone around for the best pricing. Some sites offering comparison and calculators right on their website for you to utilize to get the best value and availability around.

YOU TOO CAN ENJOY Discount Prices on Last Minute Travel Reservations, Bookings and Plans.

If you are looking for bargains or concerned with traveling within a tight budget, even an extremely tight or small one at that, there are some viable and feasible solutions and answers for you, that might surprise you.

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The marketplace abounds with numerous budget traveling on-demand, in real-time, travel options and low discounted, even rock-bottom pricing.

There are myriads of last minute availability for flights hotels, cars, packages, vacations, cruises, destinations and deals to and from anywhere in the modern world. Our globe has shrunk tremendously and global economies are increasingly interacting and shrinking it even more and more.

Your last minute travel deal have to be tailored and customized to your individual and specific situation, circumstance and need.

- **Last minute travel deals strategies and options**

There are many information and reservation services, travel industry experts and niche providers, sites that can all help you out with getting low prices for traveling out, about, around and even abroad!

THESE LOW-COST travel options and bargains go fast, so act equally as fast, if not FASTER! SOONER, rather than LATER!!

You do not have to sacrifice or compromise necessarily of quality, choice and/or variety. There are lots of deals for cheap and last minute travel impulses and indulgences.

You can make your budget dollar stretch and reach further too. Consider destinations that you might not have considered in the past. Visit sites or countries that otherwise might not have been on your shortlist of venues to consider.

Go in off-season and stretch your limited travel budget even further. Live in and for the moment. Be impulsive and indulge yourself in some exotic destination. Consider all-inclusive resorts and bundles packages,

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family passes and pricing, shared accommodation, all in order to cut down on traveling expenses.

DO NOT ALLOW CHANCES TO SLIP YOU BY – NO REGRETS! Once the deals are gone or made, the deals are gone for good (until something else catches your eye or fancy.

Unsold, undersold/oversold, cancellations can all be chances and opportunities for you to cash in on bargains for last minute travel deals.

You too can benefit from all aspects and areas of the business and travel industry. There are eventualities that most of us can never really plan for. You can make wiser and more informed enquiries when making your booking, to enable better pricing, deeper discounts and GREAT DEALS!

Here are some more tips on how to optimize your chances of paying less, getting more and what you need and want at an affordable, or even GREAT last minute travel pricing DEAL!

- All-inclusive packages and combinations
- Coupons and discount booklets
- Insider tips
- Limited time (or long-standing) promotional offers,
- Off-season, all-year-round, less popular destinations or times of the year, time-savers bargains and online deals.
- Online travel auctions and bid-type sites
- Repackaged unsold inventories at better pricing
- Travel wholesales or clearing houses
- Under or unsold flights, hotels and cruises

- **Who, where, when and through whom you book really matters and can make a difference**

Even for short-term travel needs and last minute travel arrangements , there are options and choices available. It is not merely the scraps that are available! Finding them and getting your hands on those special offerings and limited time deals are the secret and answer.

It is however not merely luck and up to random chance, will take some research, homework, know-how and effort on your part. People travel for various different reasons, times and motivation and they need options to get them there quick, easily and cheaply mostly. The general consensus is that online you will find the best travel deals. This could be true, but do not dismiss some of the traditional channels open to you as well.

Bargains and value for your travel dollar does not have to be out of your reach or hard to get. You can secure the lowest possible fare quite easily if you consider for a moment whom to book it through or with, when, where and how you book and pay, to capture all the potential savings for last minute travel deals. They might just go beyond your wildest dreams, exceeding your expectations.

There is always the possibility to get some value and savings for your travel dollar. There are great travel packages available. Even if you do not have a lot of funds at your disposal, there are destinations you can quite easily get to and enjoy for small amounts.

Always remember though that budgeting is key. Allow for incidentals and extras like tips, cab fare, drinks and entertainment as well as a contingency fund and some shopping allowance.

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We travel because we have and want to. We want to optimize how far our travel dollars can go. In the end we still want a memorable, hassle-free trip, where we get where we want to go , as quickly and affordably as we possible can. You can have a fun time, even on a tight budget. Your sole purpose and focus need NOT be on the monies required to get you there and back ONLY!

PLANNING YOUR TRIP WELL, choosing the best route, connection, cheapest flight can all do its part to cut your travel costs. Success is in your hands. You do not have to cripple your budget or go deeply into debt to fund your travel plans and itinerary. Take from these comments and suggestions all you need and require, how little or much it may be, to get the best value from last minute travel deals, on or offline!

There are many tips, tricks and insider recommendations to avoid costly commissions, agency administration fees, hidden costs and more involved in the travel booking process. Lots of the activities can these days be done online, by yourself, saving lots of cash and costs that you would have otherwise incurred following traditional older methods of getting your trip organized through a third party. For all your travel needs in the near or foreseeable future, even short-term and/or short notice travel, there are answers. The mutual goal and outcome, to save your money and put it back in your pocket.

There is a wide selection of special offers available to you for travel packages and combination deals deeply discounted. It is up to you to hunt them down and take advantage of them. Sometimes banner advertisements, newspaper print specials and promotional offers have great deals as well.

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Even if you wanted to customize your travel plans, there are ways to keep costs low. If you already have a destination in mind (or not), some initial research and background on pricing, seasonal or year-round rates, carriers and providers, specialists in the area, tour operators and more, can all shed some light on what to expect and budget for and enable you to see when pricing is better and when a great price or package comes along, you will actually know its true value and see more than mere dollar signs and cents saved.

It is extremely important also that you are able to make quick decisions that count in your favor. Brokered deals and discount packages will not last forever – they are typically gone quite quickly actually and if you were hesitant and/or planning on going back later to finalize your booking, you might come up somewhat short or miss out entirely – someone else might just have scooped it up in the interim while you were making up your mind still!

Do not miss out through delay or hesitation. If you spot a good deal and checked the details, fine print and refund policy, go ahead and book with confidence, knowing that you are getting exactly what is advertised and what you want for the price that you simply cannot resist. When you see it, seize the moment and opportunity.

There are sometimes insider tricks and secrets that not to many of us are aware of. For local travel, even international trips or destination, vacation and leisure type bookings, short and long, there are lots of financial money-saving, budget-busting secrets to take advantage of, beyond booking in advance!

Even if you are a procrastinator at heart and always leave things until the last minute, there is hope for you and light at the end of the travel dollar budget, cost and pricing tunnel! The whole process and outcome

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depends on what you put into it. It will take some time and effort, but the rewards will be worth its weight in gold!

If you are considering booking your trip, yourself, through an agency or online, you will be well advised to do MORE PRIOR to finalizing your booking. That is the reality. In order to make an informed decision, you will require some additional groundwork, scouring the internet for deals, shopping around online or checking some websites or travel magazines might just yield the unexpected savings and price that seems too good to be true at first. The more you know, the easier and more rewarding the prize at the end is and the better the savings potential and promise of affordability can get.

There are also lots of great savings to be had from those in the know, like travel and booking agents, online brokerages and travel warehouse-or wholesale type outfits. Call and ask around and have numerous agents do the foot, leg and homework on your behalf to get the best, lowest or cheapest price.

Even for impulse travel, if you have not taken a trip in ages, there are ways to save money and rake in the savings around every corner. The important thing to remember is to stay alert and open-minded and not set your heart on a given outcome, be disappointed if it does not work out exactly as you might have envisioned or planned. If you have to take a little longer to get there, take a different flight to save a couple of bucks and get the trip of your dreams or a lifetime sooner than you expected, DO NOT GRIPE – get the booking done and take full advantage of what last minute travel deals might get you in terms of value, availability, extras, add ins and bonuses. Always ask for the cheapest, discounted, preferred rates and optimize using the providers' vulnerability and opportunistically cash in on the empty

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spaces or left-overs, that cost them money! You might just be surprised at how low they will go to fill those seats to capacity.

Whether student, couple, retiree or adventure-seeker, traveling alone, with someone or in a group, there are lots of ways to save money while traveling, making your booking, and more. You can save money at every step of this process, from start to finish, if you make it a priority.

Promise and potential for low-fares, unsold or undersold specials need to be explored sooner rather than later, to make the most of your travel savings.

Cancellations might throw some bargains into the market that will be up for grabs to all. They are normally not on the market for long and taking the time to put yourself on waiting lists or stand-by for these might just prove very fruitful. You never know what might be possible. Life and eventualities, unforeseen, unknown, weather, deaths, work schedules, conflicts etc. all have us canceling, postponing, delaying or rescheduling our travel plans all the time (even if there are fees attached). It is just a reality and dynamic of daily life. It is undeniably part of who we are and what we face when criss-crossing the globe. Short-term travel bookings are a dynamic interplay of numerous factors and circumstances that make for a vibrant market you can tap into. Most rarely consider this option, for its unpredictability and possibly yielding no return. But, seize the moment, you never know what life, luck and mother nature might throw your way.

There are so many options to choose from these days across the board for travel, even last minute offerings, on –demand and real-time savings for

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- weekenders
- vacationing deals
- travel packages
- time-share
- romantic or themed travel
- Leisure packages
- destination vacations
- cruises
- city-tours
- breakaways

There might just be that one special place that you have always wanted to visit or see, but never thought you would be able to afford, now possible. Deeply discounted rates are available as the travel industry struggles to attract and keep interest high despite global tensions, weather and other forces of nature and intervention. For most of these savings and trips, the itineraries and specified dates and times are set, with little to no chance of changing some of the details. You might have to be flexible and accept them to not incur change fees.

Approach all your travel plans like you would any other formal business transaction, where you would go the extra mile, do the background checks and homework, PRIOR to transaction and closure of the deal – **always make it a top priority to try to find the best buy, value and discount,** stretch and reach for every single travel dollar you have to spend and invest. After all it is your money and your trip! YOU CAN MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

- Individualized discounted trips
- Market availability
- Special limited time offerings and promotions

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- Tour discounts (under or unsold portions)
- Typical costs, travel budgets and incidental expenses

Some, any and preferably all of the above categories might need your energy and effort, scrutiny and closer consideration as you try to make sense of where the market's real savings lie and to capitalize on it.

From start to finish you can finalize every detail and phase of your trip online.

- The type of trip or travel required
- Departure, arrival, connections, and charters required
- All transportation (getting to and from your destination)
- Other considerations – accommodation, incidentals and miscellaneous expenses

There are many different ways to get in on the last minute travel deal magic and offerings out there. How you book your trip is up to you and could be another great source of savings (without you even realizing it, you are taking advantage and benefiting here too!)

Here is just some of what you could/should consider:

- Book it yourself, directly
- Doing so online, by phone, email or letter, in person, through and agency
- Confirmations at a click of a button
- Online payment
- Reservation clearing houses
- booking agent(s)
- wholesale travel providers.

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- book directly with the airlines, tour operators or providers themselves to make the most of discounts available.
- 'bulk' type deals and bundles , promotional offerings, limited time special offers only available through certain partnerships or alliances.

All of the abovementioned options are open to you as the informed, empowered consumer. Both the choice and benefits are yours to be had. Opt for the one that brings you the most fits and utility, savings and benefits. Work to secure the lowest cost travel and value that makes sense for you and your plans, requirements, wants and needs.

Pay very close attention to:

- Be pro-active and knowledgeable, educate and empower yourself about what is available, market costs, discounts and more to take full advantage of what the market has to offer and NOT BE TAKEN IN for pricy options that earn others commission!
- Be your own best-representative booking agent, advocating your cause and pocketbook!
- How and what to ask from whom
- Make effective enquiries and ask the right types of questions to get at the savings and deals that most will not volunteer at first glance and consideration.
- Where to look for and find travel deals
- Watch out for scams and schemes – NEVER PAY CASH UPFRONT OR PROVIDE PERSONAL INFORMATION WHEN YOU DO NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE DOING SO.
- Always deal with reputable providers and check references and testimonials from clients, even a background check of the booking agency, website, carrier etc. can prove prudent in

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some cases, as fraud is always a risk and rampant still in some portions of the world and industry.

Make your enquiries and questions specific, to the point and as detailed as required. Ask about all hidden costs, administration and booking fees, taxes and additional requirements, information and discounts that might be available. Mostly if you do not ask, the rule of thumb is that no-one is obliged to tell you about these – especially if it is going to be saving YOU money, not them! THE ONUS AND RESPONSIBILITY TO GET THE BEST DEAL ULTIMATELY LIES WITH YOU!

Be timely in your diligence, research and decisive action when required might be the best way to quickly jump on market opportunity that might be here now, gone the next moment, so typical of the travel industry last minute deals and packages available. It is in constant flux and dynamic offerings come and go. It is up to you to spot the one that is right for you, reserve and pay for it, enjoy the savings and trip of a lifetime at a fraction of the cost that you imagined.

Be realistic in your expectations, research, planning, requests and dealing with booking agents, forms online and/or on the telephone. Ask about all the details and concerns that you might have, including insurance and refund policies surrounding this particular booking. Assess your risk!

You can frame your request quite successfully to accommodation specific time-frames, departure/return dates, even how much you have or want to spend, how long to stay, where and much, much more. IT IS UP TO YOU –you have more power and contribution in this process and outcome than we normally tend to think. You are not merely passively accepting everything and anything that is quoted to

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you. QUESTION and ask again if that is what it will take! Keep asking and looking, keeping your eyes peeled for great deals and bargains.

Here are some more tips for travel dollars going further and optimizing savings that the market has to offer for last minute travel.

- Ask about the small things, considerations and concerns that you might have
- Clarify all medical and travel insurance PRIOR to departure and preferably at the time of booking to ensure full coverage and best deal pricing, as well as peace of mind.
- Ensure that you communicate your needs clearly, without ambiguity and always confirming details, being as specific and detailed as you possibly can be (regardless whether this booking and trips is being made online or by phone, email or in person, by yourself or third party).
- Search your heart, desires, budget and means, envisioned travel plans and requirements BEFOREHAND – even writing them down before price-hunting and make a list of what and where you are willing to make some sacrifices.
- Watch for deals that sound and look too good to be true – they might actually be fronts for scams and schemes to lift your cash and travel dollars right from your pocket, even steal your identity and ruin your life! Deal with reputable providers and booking channels to protect your interests and investment.
- You have an active role to play in every stage and phase of planning and execution of this process
- pay attention to all details and requirements, documentation, visa, taxes and more, at the time of your booking request
- Ensure match and agreement on the stated intention, offering, involved parties, location, purpose and the timeframe of travel

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as well as the payment process, tickets, reservation confirmation and the like.

The better you know and opt for what you want, there easier it becomes to book the trip of a lifetime or that last minute, urgent travel request to your satisfaction.

Broker what it is that you want. With all the consumer and customer focus in the travel industry, there is lots of maneuverability and flexibility in the marketplace to accommodate myriads of very diverse requests and needs. LAST MINUTE TRAVEL DEALS ARE YOURS FOR THE ASKING AND TAKING!

Expect to pay less you even possibly imagined and supply and demand dictate and drive the market.

Familiarize yourself with in-season, high-season, shoulder season and off season, all year round and other related travel industry lingo, terminology and features, that can help you capitalize better on what is available when.

- The saying goes, that if you can potentially imagine it, it might just be possible!
- Always remain positive while hunting for the perfect deal.
- Have the right frame of mind to look and find what it is that you are looking and hoping for... and then make it a reality from the offerings that come your way and that you unearth.

Leave allowing yourself enough time to get to the airport and not miss your flight for example!

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Always spend at least a moment, going over and confirming details or last minute bookings especially. Do so, even if your travel is within the next 24 hours or less! It might spare you a head-ache or two!

Online access to your itinerary is another great way to print what you need to summarize and verify your trip. This will make it easier for check in, customs and peace of mind that you know where, when and how you are traveling.

**** NOTE and TRAVEL TIP:** Use your travelID and booking confirmation code to check details online.

- As far as documentation goes, ensure that you have everything, preferably in one place, including passport, booking and any visas required.
- Check and verify all document and small details PRIOR to departure.
- PLEASE notify the booking agent if you are traveling with infants, toddlers or kids that might require paper-tickets!
- Print e-tickets and e-ticket receipts PRIOR to DEPARTURE and CHECK IN.

FIVE CRITICAL THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN BOOKING LAST
MINUTE TRAVEL

- **YOUR MAIN CONCERN IS GETTING THERE, GETTING A GOOD DEAL AND NOT PAYING TOO MUCH IN THE PROCESS! Make savings, dollars and cents a top priority, but not the only consideration! There is more that actually matters here.**
- **REMAIN OPEN-MINDED AND DO NOT SET YOUR HEART ON SOMETHING SPECIFIC.** Find combination, specific solutions, options that are right for you. Bundle hotels, car rentals, airfare, destination travel, food, maximize discounts, comparison-shop, special offers, insider-tips and more to make the most of any last minute travel, business or leisure.
- **DO NOT STEP INTO PIT-FALLS – IF A DEAL SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT NORMALLY IS!** Read the fine-print, try to resist and effectively deal with impulse buying, compromise of safety, un-reputable travel service providers, traveling without insurance and the like. Assess and assume risk cautiously and consciously.
- **GO THE EXTRA MILE AND CHECK ALL YOUR DETAILS PRIOR TO FINALIZING THE TRANSACTION! YOU HAVE TO ACT QUICKLY, BUT NOT INRESPONSIBLY! Check the itinerary, any restrictions, change fees, cancellation, visa requirements, medical and travel insurance** Get all your questions, concerns and issues addressed before you leave for your trip and discovering nasty surprises or additional cost, delay or related problems, inconvenience.
- **EMPOWER AND EDUCATE yourself.** Have a personal checklist for evaluating, screening and picking last minute travel deals.

- Where to look to find last minute travel deals

You do not necessarily need a lot of money to enjoy great last minute travel savings.

Do not take it that travel has to be expensive, you can hunt for a better and lower price, ask about discounts and special offers. Not asking only hurts your own cause. For the more travel-savvy, there are obvious savings to be had around every corner, ask your friends and family who travel often about how they save money on the road. Travel savings on last minute deals are no longer on reserve for those in the know, or exclusively for travel agents and experts. The playing field for last minute travel deals have been equalized to a large extent, in our favor.

Taking additional care with short-term travel details, block-outs, restrictions and more, need to be confirmed to ensure that you get the most from it. Take control of your process and get involved. Do not merely rely on someone else to search, find, book and 'deliver' your trip! YOU CAN DO SOME OF THE BARGAIN HUNTING, BARTORING on your own and then also take full advantage of what insiders and travel providers have to offer in additional incentives.

Most, if not all travelers want and demand quality, consistent service and getting what they pay for. Ensure that you confirm details and read all the fine-print. Ask about what is included and what additional charges will be incurred or necessary to make this trip truly a bargain, within budget. Just because it is last minute travel, does not mean it has to be second best or of poor quality at all. You do not need to sacrifice quality or compromise on your trip of a lifetime or that urgent business travel that cannot wait. You can still travel in comfort and style.

You can learn from others on where the real money-savings tips lie. User-groups, online blogs, reviews and chat-rooms can also yield some insights that otherwise would have been left by the way side. There are so many travel options to choose from, that you will never really feel at odds about where to go or where to spend your dollars wisely.

But where will you look and start to find some great minute travel deals? Here are some suggestions for your consideration and review: (add your own as you discover great untapped or under-exposed resources that are less known or just starting up)

- Blogs, travel portals and online auctions (www.priceline.com is a good example),
- Dedicated travel websites with last minute fares and seat sales,
- Discount fare operators, charters, carriers, even airlines with last minute deals (for them to get rid of empty seats that ends up costing money – they would rather have them filled (even at a discounted rate!)
- Sites with specials, bargains, discounts, packages and unsold or undersold, limited travel deals
- Vacation wholesalers, travel deal brokers
- web-pages and travel-dedicated sites, providers and travel specialists, niche providers of specialty travel

You can benefit from cheaper rates by capitalizing on...

- comparison-shopping
- Consulting budget travel magazines
- Taking advantage of 'empty' seats, cancellations and the like

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- Insider or agency specialties, tips, advertisements and industry secrets
- Stop-over and/or multiple connections; or
- Online subscription services, like newsletters, email lists and e-zines
- Destination guidebooks
- other ways to save money
- overnight flights
- Publications or sites focusing in on budget-travel, (customized online keyword searches optimized keywords for the best and most popular deals in town (worldwide))
- researching travel brochures, magazines and other printed material
- Travel shows on TV
- Travel books, brochures, cruises and destination travel guides
- Short-notice, 11th hour, last-minute travelers have great advice, recommendations and cautionary notes – speaking with confidence and experience.

When dealing with a booking agent, take extra care to state your last-minute travel deal options FIRST, upfront, even mentioning your budget or range might be helpful for them as well to get you the options and choices you would need. These deals will not necessarily be the first ones the system brings up or that the agents suggests.

Here are more tips to get the agents to scour the possible available deals to get you the best.

- Another welcome source of great deals are all-inclusive, even exclusive resort-type vacations, blocks of time, off-season specials, time-share, tour operator, cruise or vacation promotions.

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- Banner advertisements, pop-up windows on travel sites, even tourist boards and information centers, could all have some information on last minute deals.
- Be specific about your own requirements
- Ensure you take full advantage of any vouchers, online discount coupons, membership discounts, limited time internet-bargains, travel auctions and more.
- Learn from the lessons and experiences of others – ask them if they have been there or know of special deals
- Special deals come and go, do not typically last and are very popular, scooped up quickly and varies greatly. It represents a vibrant and dynamic market and opens the doors of opportunity a little for every traveler – making it possible to get a great deal, if you know where to look, what to look and ask for and get the last minute travel deal value you want, need, desire and deserve.
- There is MORE to discount, last-minute travel than seat sales!
- Travel word-of-mouth from regular travelers, colleagues, family and friends, who travel frequently often share great insights.
- When given options (ask about cheaper/cheapest options) – never accept the first quoted price (as this might be high-priced due to them working on/for commission, benefiting from the higher rate, not serving your best interest necessarily
- You are asking from them MORE than minimum input, MORE legwork and effort to find the best deal possible – without having to spend an arm and a leg necessarily.

But how would you go about finding your low-fare, traveling last minute deals and bargains?

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It used to be, that the longer in advance you booked your flight, early on, the better. You benefit from peace of mind and lock in your price. This has/had both its advantages and disadvantages. What if you cannot secure a great last minute travel deals or cheaper airfare? Then the strategy shifts in avoiding additional costs and penalties and making your dollar go further. If your flight is booked close to departure (say 3hrs – 24 hrs in advance), they will tend to be MORE expensive, but always ask about cancellations, deeply discounted and preferred rates. It does not necessarily have to be more expensive.

How airlines operate, schedule, ticket, flight times, deal with cancellations, no shows, standbys and more can only help you when you want to take full advantage of what is on offer. (which would otherwise go under or un-utilized!)

Airlines want to fill seats and planes to get the most from their investment in fuel, staff, resources, time and to optimize their profitability. You can take full advantage of this – always ask about empty seats, unreserved, no-shows, cancellations, reschedules and more, to see if you cannot get in on the dollar-saving trend. Also, there might be an opportunity (last minute) to upgrade your seat. Do not be hesitant to ask if any such opportunity exists. But, last minute travel on train, plane, boat, bus or more includes more than the mode of transportation to get from and between points a, b and z! Where and how long you stay also needs some closer attention to stretch your travel dollar.

Again rates and ratios dictate pricing. There is always room to negotiate. If you do not ask, it is simple – you lose out on the chance to save some money. ALWAYS ASK ABOUT THE LOWEST, CHEAPEST, REDUCED, PREFERRED or CORPORATE rates and opt for the least

expensive choice they have available. With sites like cheaphotels.com and other bid-type auction sites, you can actually name your price and see what you get. Place your bets and the participating hotels and properties might just have a great deal for you! All cheaper than you have ever expected these to be by the way!

Last minute travel deals and saving money on hotel or other alternative accommodations

- Be creative and do not always take the first quoted rate as the final offering. There is always room to negotiate. Booking more than one room-night at a time might get you a discount as well – with mid-week check-in typically getting you great value, versus just mere weekender type bookings for Friday, Saturday nights, that tend to be more expensive due to higher demand.
- Yes, here too supply and demand is what fuels the pricing. Prepare and book all other parts of your trip BEFORE finalizing your hotel booking. Always check the refund, cancellation and fees portion. Verify and confirm all details, costs and small print before getting that confirmation number.
- Package deals and pre-sold accommodation blocks provide you the option on capitalizing on some bundling of services and great discounts.
- Partnering up with airlines, charter flight providers and other carrier, industry partners, rental car companies, restaurants, tour operators, event sponsors and organizers, all make it possible to get great deals on heads in beds!
- Try to be as flexible in and with your plans as possible. Find out as much as you can about the property you are considering, the area, pricing, client and consumer testimonials to get a feel for the service, value and reach of your discount, last minute travel dollar.

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- Even if you are paying lower rates for accommodation, hotels, parking and the like, ensure that you get the best value for your dollar. Ask about amenities, early check-in, services included and added in (extra cost), to get a good handle at what you can come to expect from your prospective accommodation, regardless of whether it is for last minute business and/or leisure, vacation travel needs.
- Often hotels are not fully booked. There are always rooms open or held – ask about these and any rooms available. You can get a choice hotel for discounted pricing. BUT REMEMBER TO ASK! Volunteering this type of information is not a priority for the hotel. You need to ask about these upfront, at the time of booking and PRIOR to finalizing your booking and getting a confirmation number. You can ask yet again at check in if there are any additional discounts and/or lower rates available, BEFORE getting your room-key and signing anything.
- If you do ask the question about lower fares and rates for accommodation, the worst that could happen is someone actually replying that there is nothing of the sort and move on.
- Pick when, where and for how long you will be staying and book accordingly. Refund, change and cancellation policies, penalties, check-in and check-out, additional charges, services included in cost and all extras have to itemized and asked about beforehand as well.

Getting to and from locations, in-between ground-transportation, car rentals and the like

- Weekly, monthly or longer rentals typically get you better deals than shorter days here and there, sporadic or weekend only, mid-week rate and range specials, membership discounts, value

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coupons, packages deals and even upgrades are all within your easy reach.

- Get and stick with fuel-efficient models, meant for commuting/
- Always ask about all and any deals, discounts and packages available.
- Insurance is the one option you want to take and NOT try to save money on. You can still travel safely, without paying too much! Protect yourself, your life, your interest, by getting the insurance coverage you need to travel safely and securely, regardless of your location or type of rental car that you are driving.

Last-minute travel insurance

- Medical and travel insurance are crucial sub-components of any booking that is worth its weight in gold. This type of coverage has to be in place to ensure your investment and travel dollars are save. Most of the last minute travel deals are non-refundable, in its totality or a portion of it) . The best way to make certain you get the most value from your last minute travel deal, is to promote and ensure that you have recourse of action, in the event that something does go wrong.
- Whether weather or unfortunate circumstance, health or illness, sudden change of plan or schedule, death in the family or more, changes are part of our daily lives. Last minute travel deals can be a rescue, but also end up costing you MORE (if you are not careful). Read the fine-print on cancellation, refunds and change fees. Ensure you make informed, empowered decisions regarding your travel bookings and travel dollars, specifically for last minute travel deals.

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- Educate yourself on the nature of what you are buying into. Whether your trip is planned or unplanned, you can take some precautions to safe-guard your trip, travel dollars and get the value and pricing you deserve, without assuming all the risk yourself.

Take full advantage of these aspects of your trip, individually and collectively to get you real value for last minute travel deals, discounts and bargains that await out there – just luring you in, to be had and taken advantage of. Mitigate and minimize your risk by knowing and understanding what you are signing up for and getting yourself into!

**Section II – TAKING A PRACTICAL PRO-ACTIVE PERSPECTIVE:
WHAT YOU CAN “DO”**

- **Brokering the best last minute travel deal FOR YOUR NEEDS! A method that works.**

IN many cases, you have to be where the action is to take full advantage on what is on offer. Be informed on where to look and find the best deals.

Ensure that you get your bid in early. Hold bookings and make up your mind quickly, after weighing all the facts. If you do wait too long prior to finalizing your booking, deposits may be forfeited, prices range higher, availability be an issue or nothing be left/available to you to opt into and take advantage of.

Decisions are what counts here. Remember, that first come, first serve and savings online are for the asking and taking by all. If you act quickly, you might just be the one to capitalize on that last slice of pie or value in the last minute travel deal pie!

Due to limited availability, on-demand, open-access type of commodity that last-minute travel actually constitutes, its very nature demands ACTION!

There will always tend to be more demand than actual available products at low prices, which makes for a highly competitive market. It is simple math really. Lots want value, there are limited offerings and not everyone can bid or secure at once. So step in early and act without delay or hesitation. Know your pricing, risks, options and refund, cancellation, payment, reschedule, change fees and policies BEFOREHAND! If you do see great value and low price, jump at and reserve it for yourself, for when you do return to check and/or finalize, the offers might have long gone, expired or all spoken for, leaving you

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high and dry. Avoid disappointment by being ready to book, confirm and finalize on the spot, to take full advantage of what is on offer, without risking losing the opportunity.

Eventhough booking early and quickly will get you in on the savings, there are also smaller details to still pay attention to as you plan and enjoy your last minute travel.

- Leave a contingency plan and funds for those incidentals you do not plan for
- Think ahead and plan for unforeseen (even unwelcome possibilities that accompany trips and travel in some way, shape or form, due its very nature), like weather delays, unplanned extensions, layovers, complications and other unexpected, unpredictably events.
- Budget for extras and additional services, tips, cab rides and more (entertainment, mementos and souvenirs, even postage (if you want to send some shopping home)!
- Ensure that apart from the money, your last minute travel does not turn into a nightmare of missed opportunities and things you were either not prepared for or not well enough thoroughly outfitted for.
- Stay flexible and agile and optimize every aspect of your last minute travel deals and trips, without only focusing on the dollars and cents side of the equation. (although this is important of course!)
- Stick to your travel budget if at all possible (if you have one) and resist to overspend, overstay or run the risk of paying too much due to waiting too long to finalize your arrangements and booking details.

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- You can travel well-kept, in style and comfort, without having to spend too much. possible for you to travel in style and enjoy a great trip, you can do so, even on a limited budget!

Regardless of the nature and scope of the travel, duration and/or time of booking, we all have to consider some key basic facts PRIOR to making any booking:

- how much money we have to spend (our means),
- where and when to go (destination and timing),
- where to stay (accommodation, type and needs),
- how to get there (transportation)
- All other things travel, including all and even incidental, unforeseen costs and expenses, pocket-money
- As well as all related documentation and travel/medical insurance.

There are many different types of individuals or groups who take/want to take full advantage of last minute destination travel options:

- Retirees
- Seasonal travelers, snowbirds, seniors etc.
- Thrill, sun or adventure seekers
- Backpackers, students and global explorers (on a shoestring budget)
- Romantics and anniversaries, special occasion travel (wedding, honeymoons, family celebrations),
- weekend getaways
- holiday travel (Christmas and Easter, thanksgiving)
- foreign/international travel for family, work or studies
- destination travel, exotic places, or island travelers
- ... and many more

*** WHICH CATEGORY ARE YOU? There are last-minute travel deals ready for the picking, regardless of your reason, budget, nature means or preference for trotting and exploring!

Opportunistic and even impulse to some, last minute travel can be exciting and invaluable at the same time, saving you money, if you have to know-how to make it happen, translating your booking into a value-enhancing reality!

You can go it alone, or tap into some of the great resources the travel industry has on offer, to consumers in the marketplace today.

When you deal with fact-finding, pricing, quoting booking or reservation agents, travel brokers or wholesale, discount travel providers, there are lots to remember.

- Check and verify dates and details, validity and period, block-outs and more for every aspect of your trip, line by line if you have to (including transportation, destination, accommodation, taxes, documentation, details on flight, rooms and any additional, hidden or extra costs you might incur or have to pay to make this last minute travel deal come to life!
- Agents can oftentimes provide you with real-time information, that you might not be able to find online as quickly by yourself.
- They are privy to some systems and insider booking tools that the common Joe or Jane, even when using the internet, might not have access to.
- Agents, carriers and other players oftentimes consolidate services and work together to get the most effective deals in place for all key stakeholders and players. You can tap into these effectively, if

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you know of such alliances and arrangements, loyalty points and partnerships.

- Ensure pricing is accurate and confirm the refund, cancellation and/or changes fees that applies/not.
- Get up to date, real-time, on-demand answers to real last minute travel needs and requirements, with immediacy and no delay. Technology-enabled, web-based processes have made it that much easier to get things done quickly and effectively – travel bookings are no exception here.
- Online or offline, going it alone, working through and with a booking agent, you can make the most of getting all relevant travel industry updates, (even warnings, weather), possibilities and pricing, availability, plan and book vacations, in one easy clean-sweep channel and step!
- These types of environments and dynamics of the current travel industry make it all possible for consumers to cash in and find big discounts and special deals easily and constantly.
- Dealing with an expert will help you better safe-guard your travel investment dollar and expose you to less risk of making the wrong costly decisions that can hurt your pocketbook, vacation or business schedule!
- Databases not available in the public domain are now at your disposal through a booking channel and agent with full-access to real-time availability and pricing. You can take just-in-time booking advantage of this by dealing with the right parties.
- Deal with reputable service and booking providers, brokers and agents, warehouses, clearance sales or auctioneer type travel services who want to provide you with the best travel and customer service options and solutions that are right for you.
- Represent your best interests, financially, not merely interested in commission based reward.

WHEN TRAVELLING, ALWAYS STOP AND ASK! (yes, for directions, but also for savings!) Asking lots of questions upfront will end up saving you some precious dollars. If you do not ask, some information may not be volunteered and you might lose out on some savings opportunity.

ALWAYS!! check for special offers and discounts. If you do not ask, again the cheapest option(s) might not even make the shortlist of what is offered to you.

Be informed and educated about what is available in the marketplace, to get pertinent information and capitalize on travel secrets few know, or insights that many are quite willing to share!

- **Making your last minute travel dollar count**

There are also other ways to cash in or discover the best deals when traveling last minute:

Take the road(s) less traveled!

- Consider something different, less popular or less common
- Mainstream versus niche travel might be an option for you (depending on your flexibility, budget, schedule and need).
- Always stay focused on making the most of your trip, even on a budget.
- Make the most of and cash in all points, miles, discount coupons and promotional offers you can find, taking full advantage of bundled, packages or deeply discounted last minute traveling bookings, seat sales, travel auctions and more.

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- For last minute travel always have a plan B, back-up or contingency plan.
- Budget for your trip in advance to make the most of consider affordability, cashflow, means and resources at your disposal to stack the odds in your favor for when the right deal does come along.
- Always remember that value is defined in many different ways to many different parties. You can opt to pick the options that work best for you, your budget and your travel needs, without having to fork out a lot of cash.
- There are promotional options for free flights, redeemed points, airmiles, loyalty programs, buy-one, get one half-off type promotions, children half-fares or travel under the age of two for free and more to look into. Family packages, senior and/or student discounts for travel can all be utilized to drive down the cost of last minute travel or trips of any kind for that matter.
- **Stretching your travel dollar can be made a conscious priority in every aspect and area of the research, booking and enjoyment of your trip, duration, notice and/or destination, getting there, to and from and having a great time while doing it!**

For many of us, last minute travel just happens, in the moment, the demand or call is there and we respond, without thinking, focused on getting the quickest route, cheapest fare there and back, even in a short time-frame, without necessarily stopping to think about what we are doing PRIOR to finalizing the booking itself. We advocate the opposite, even if it is for short-notice, last minute travel, TAKE YOUR TIME (not too much!) but make researching the lowest price a priority too. Getting there is important, yes, we agree, but NOT HAVING TO COMPROMISE ON CHOICE, QUALITY, PRICE and VALUE are too!

You can take a very hands-on, pro-active approach when dealing with the demands of last minute travel. You can focus your energy, resources and time effectively on :

- where to go (location),
- what is available (access, availability, information, data, marketplace offerings),
- Costs and fees, budgets - how much you want to spend or can afford, Variety, choices and options
- Different modes of transportation (air, road, and train)
- Consideration of all package deals, special offers and discounts.
- Shopping online for the best deals available
- Ensure your very own custom answer, individualized trip, from start to finish, priced and put together, to address all needs for on-demand, real-time answers and solutions for short term travel, dilemmas and/or plans – regardless of what life may throw at us!

Road-trips and when traveling by car, there are a lot of ways you can optimize savings.

- Using your own car or renting a small compact can be a lifesaver for short weekend getaways a little closer to home. You get to spend some time alone or with the family getting where you need or want to go.
- Deeply discounted rates and packages (including insurance, mileage etc) are all available from main carriers, with convenient pick-up, drop off and streamlined processes. Well-maintained vehicles and carefree driving goes a long way to get you there safely.
- Having and using an Automobile Association membership, can get you additional discounts and coverage. Even on hotel rooms and

service, should the car give you trouble along the way. Some restaurants and other providers also give discounts when you show your membership cards. Be sure to ask about these 'membership' rates and perks at time of booking and then again when at the establishment.

- Entertainment and snacks in the car can also save you some money. Typically picking up these items at convenience stores or rest stops, gas stations and the like, tend to be more expensive. When filling up, do so closer to larger centers, as gas might be more expensive in more remote areas. Travel necessities like a first aid kit and cell phone can also save you money and lives if required due to an accident or breakdown.

Hotels

- Car rental and hotel packages are popular and bundling at times is cheaper than booking it separately.
- Frequent guest plans and family discounts are all available. It is up to you to ask about package deals, special offers and discounted or best rates available.
- There are also other options than pricy hotels, like motels, self-sufficient apartments, B&B's and guesthouses .
- Decide what the most important part of your vacation is and spend your dollars there. You will not be spending a lot of time in your hotel room, so opt for what are priorities for you.
- Continental breakfast is included at some.
- Hotels are rarely fully-booked, so always ask about cancellations, last-minute check in specials and more, even upgrades to suites and even lofts, or beach-view rooms in certain areas.
- If you do not ask, you will not know. The worst that could happen is that nothing is actually available.

Here are just a few suggestions for reduced 'Airlines':

Like everyone else, the internet has put real-time, competitive pricing and even the dynamics of bidding on how much we want to pay for flights at our fingertips.

It is enlightening, freedom and empowering to have and make these choices, pro-actively and involved in the process, rather than just merely being on the passive, receiving and responding side of the equation. Actively partnering to find the best deal is the new wave or trend for all travel bookings, not just last minute travel deals.

There are numerous providers that let you search, sort, compare and prioritize, even name your own price to find 'matching' deals and best pricing. Seat sales are not the only sources of great fares. Here are some more online suggestions for your consideration:

- Use a park-and-fly service and park your own vehicle at the airport. Driving your car there and back is much cheaper than a taxi if you live far from the airport. There are also airport bus services or shuttles that are cheaper than taxis.
- Flexibility on your part regarding dates and times will translate into more substantial savings.
- Explore offerings online, comparison shop and booking with discount airlines are all smart strategies.
- Even for last-minute holiday travel, avoid so-called 'peak' periods during the day for example, business hours etc., (pick red-eye or weekends if available) For holidays, spring break, and peak business hour time's makes for more travelers en route and supply and demand will dictate pricing and cost. It

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is usually much higher. Take advantage of shoulder and low season travel periods.

- Enrolling in an air miles, reward or frequent flyer plan that often includes discounts on hotels and car rentals can be used at this time to optimize your savings even more.
 - Dealing with the carrier directly, logging on to the airline's website and checking out unadvertised flight specials are also great ideas. Booking on-line usually saves a few dollars too.
 - A little known fact is that some of the best airfare rates often involve a Saturday night stay.
-
- **Negotiation on price and final outcome, results and rewards of last minute travel deals**

The deal is never done until you say so! No matter how far in advance or how quick/soon to departure you book, locking in the best pricing with flexibility to get you where you need to go, expeditiously, for value and savings, lots of budgets, tastes and requirements can be addressed. The system and providers are diverse and flexible enough in their service offerings that there is this pool of unutilized 'space' available that you as a member of the consumer public have equal access to these days (not true just a mere few years ago!) Tides are turning in the favor of the traveler. More and more carriers and travel providers are collaborating to get solutions and answers. Partnerships, alliances and even working with customers and consumers to mobilize and optimize our travel resources will continue to grow in both trend and reality.

Protect your investment and travel dollar with some cancellation insurance and medical coverage PRIOR to departure, or even at time of booking, to ensure total peace of mind.

Some MORE tips for making your travel dollars go further

- Get to know your destination, accommodation available and what is on offer in the local area
- Ask or even phone around and ask about hotel recommendations, off the beaten path, not necessarily the touristy, pricy options (especially if your layover is only one night)
- Shop around for cheaper/cheapest options and weight your choices carefully. Know what you are willing to compromise on if required to do so. Never risk your own personal safety for saving a buck or two!
- Value and hospitality are key criteria when screening any type of travel or service.
- For upscale or first-class, top-notch properties or providers for example, without exception, do not hesitate to ask about their best available rate upon check in and/or any discounts or special offers at the time of booking and then again at check-in. You can even confirm the pricing when you check out and ask about loyalty programs, additional discounts and complimentary stays.
- Call on and use the concierge or check-in desk services.
- Optimize the local perspective and expertise in and around the property of choice that you will be lodging in.
- Get tips about how to save money and what to see - FREE OF CHARGE! There is never any harm in asking and most are willing and quite capable of volunteering things that you might not find in a guide or brochure.

Be on the hunt for as much information and details about where you are going, staying, getting there, what to take, how best to prepare, get around once there, connections, packages and more.

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Ensure that you are your own best representative for interest and value. Ensure that no-one will ever take advantage of you, exploited or extort money for your lack of know-how, knowledge or travel-savvy. Guard yourself and be on the look-out for scams, schemes, misrepresentation or false information – just to get personal access to confidential information or disappear with your precious travel dollars. There are unscrupulous elements out there as well to be aware of. BUYER BEWARE!

Feel free to ask as many detailed questions as you might like and get a testimonial, referral or two for the parties you are dealing with. Read Tripadvisor.com for details on accommodations, reviews and more.

These days being and going online gives you unbridled access to real time availability, value and discounts. There are numerous boards and sites listing cancellations, last minute cruises and short notice travel bargains here-and-now, gone later/quickly, updated, current – almost providing you a snapshot of what can be possible if you look, at the right time, in the right place, for the deal that is just right for your needs and requirements.

Even if you for some or other reason cannot or could not book early or way in advance and left to the wire, last minute dash, here are some tips to ensure you get success, results, without paying too much!

Learn how to take advantage of unforeseen events, unpredictability even misfortunes, ill weather and the like.

Realize that you cannot possible plan for every eventuality, consequence and reality. We do not have a blue-print or schedule for life and how the future, next moment will unfold. Travel is and will always be and require flexibility.

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Remember that empty or extra/released seats can result in cheaper rates. Also ask about waiting lists, standby and cancellations. All want to make money, not lose it. This premise and fundamental underlying principle for the travel industry will provide you with all that you require to take full advantage of last minute travel arrangements, that suit your pocket and save you money.

Last minute travel websites are increasing in number and quality of what it puts within your easy reach. Many, if not most, will almost certainly check online and shop around at least for travel deals before even picking up the phone to talk to an agent. Many sites offer live-chat that can instantly connect you with a booking tool or voice, real person on the other side that can take care of your last minute travel need.

If you are not committed in any way to going somewhere specific, anytime or anywhere in particular your choices and options will obviously be more and less limiting than specific times and places.

Finding and booking it quickly is what is at stake for successful last minute travel. Special promotions and discounts are to be had around every corner.

Connections and less popular departure times or terminals, airports (smaller, not major hubs) might tend to be more affordable as well.

It is no longer just an insider market for a privileged few, all are on equal playing field now with enabling technology and web-access to what is available, there are more options and more competition. You can totally tap into live auctions, limited offers and special online

booking discounts to make your trip cheaper, more affordable and light on the pocketbook – even last minute!

Bereavement and funeral rates are not as popular anymore and some carriers do not even offer them anymore. They are typically seats discounted by 50% for close blood-relatives (spouses, grandchildren, children, parents, grandparents and aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces). It might not always be applicable, but you can ask. No harm done there. Stay away from fraudulent practices to get a cheaper fare – it is not worth the effort, trouble and prosecution.

Cheaper, smaller airlines, charter providers, even discount carriers are another option for cheaper pricing for flights. Fares tend to be lower, no-frills approach seem to really be part of the airline industry in recent years as they battle to stay afloat in a challenging economy and competitive market.

You can also act as a courier or transporter for organizations or businesses. You give up your luggage allowance and travel with a carry-on and their packages or shipment gets there safely and quickly. Again partnering for the best mutual value proposition possible.

***Priceline* and *Hotwire* are popular online bidding, travel auction type providers where you take a hands-on, pro-active role in the bidding, booking and final pricing for your trip.**

The consumer names the price

You do assume some risk here (availability, discounted rates, limited seats – ending with no trip at all, wasted time and effort)

non-refundable and with no change options.

Limited choice

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Selecting the day of travel or departure/return may be fine and offered in some cases, but not always, and not the timing of your flights either. You can often select your day of departure, but not necessarily the time of the flight.

Flexibility is a pre-requisite for these types of bookings.

You are shopping without knowing what you will necessarily get. Uncertainty to an extent is very much part of this whole process and dynamic.

Credit cards are billed automatically.

You will be well served to familiarize yourself with all booking, refund and fine print of these online tools, sites and providers PRIOR to making any booking yourself.

Offering very low fares – the lowest on the internet at times.

Find and book quickly.

If oversold or unavailable, you might get a free flight or reschedule. Hidden or additional charges need to be unearthed and queried beforehand.

- valet parking service
- Room-tax
- requesting extras - additional cost
- Phone services and long distance
- In-room movies

Blogs and discussion groups can share some wisdom with you on how to get the most from websites, online auctions, booking agents and even dealing directly with carriers, providers, alliances and package deals. The world is truly your oyster and yours for the asking and taking.

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There are many ways that you can maximize your chances and odds of getting the deal and landing the discounted price:

- Know what things actually cost
- Get data and information about destination, location, rate ranges and more
- Start and look at ratings of hotels (starting with the higher (e.g. four stars and work your way down to the no-frills and minimum requirement that will be acceptable to you)
- Lots of factors will need to be considered at the time of your bid, market, availability, empty space in hotel, events in the area, supply and demand, renovations, time of arrival, duration of stay and more
- Bring an extra dose of determination and open-mindedness with you when bidding online.

Weekender package do not have to be expensive either. There are lots of last minute deals to major cities that can provide you with great value and opportunity.

Package deals are and tend to be cheaper, bundled than what you will be able to put together separately yourself. Look at the combination, impact of all aspects and areas of your travel to get the overall picture of cost, means and budget required to make your last minute travel deal count and worthwhile, not too expensive.

If you optimize search engines online and type in keywords like last minute holiday, you will be surprised at the overwhelming hits you will get! HAPPY HUNTING!

Be alert, diligent and practical about all aspects of your last minute travel needs.

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If for any reason, you are doubtful or hesitant, rather do not make the booking.

Discount travel package deals are oftentimes, mostly priced better and lower. They can be limited time offers, special promotional deals, discounts, family-oriented lowered fares (kids stay free under a certain age, meals included and more)

You need to be aware at all times of your plan flexibility. This means paying close(r) attention to things like the cancellation and refund policy. Assess and assume risk at your own discretion and wisdom.

Budgeting extras and keeping an eye on incidentals and shopping will help keep your last minute, even destination travel affordable.

Bookings, administration fees, credit card charges, interest and more all need to figure into your final calculations.

- **Last minute travel deals - Do and DO NOT**

It is all in the end about finding the right thing for the right price. This means you have to be an informed and involved travel shopper. You need to learn as much as you can about the nature, processes and dynamics of researching, booking, finalizing and enjoying last minute travel to its fullest.

Pick the right partners and industry providers
Negotiate a better deal at all times – never accepting the first quoted pricing you are given

Discovering The Best Deals When Traveling Last Minute

Utilize package deals

Bundle and save aspects and areas of your travel

Short-notice travel can and needs to be approached with value/cost dynamic and ratio taken into full account

Remain open-minded as to destination, timing and more (if possible), if not, try to avoid additional costs and penalties.

Look for options that will also save you time, effort and money.

Last minute travel does not have to be sub-standard, cheap travel necessarily – you just need to know what to look for, where to look, how to book and take full advantage of the opportunities at your disposal

Explore and discover the secrets and rewards of last minute travel.

Click or call to cash in on what is available right now in the marketplace.

Capitalize on the virtual marketplace, online markets, sites and custom travel providers catering to consumer need and demand

Visit banner-recognized provider giants like Travelocity and Orbitz.

Book all airfares online and try directly with the airlines as well, discount brokers to and benefit from block-bookings they have, released, seat sales and more.

Emails, sign-ups and subscriptions, even memberships can have you privy to some deals as they become available, for first come first serve advantage and a competitive edge.

Check pricing and confirm legitimacy, reputation and customer satisfaction ratings, reviews and testimonials if you can and have the time PRIOR to making the actual booking.

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Off-peak and midweek timing and time-frames offer good deals, as do red-eye or earlier, later flights. Ask about peak and off-peak times, less volume.

Off-season and shoulder-season, in and out of season travel might yield some savings too.

Discount travel is now open to all and not limited to a few insiders or privileged few.

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO USE AN AGENT OR BOOKING SERVICE.
Some bookings can be booked from start to finish right online.**

Know that you are getting exactly what it is that you are paying for!

Take advantage of wholesale discounts for car rentals

- DO NOT risk paying too much
- DO not risk losing out by delay or hesitation in making or confirming, paying for a booking or trip.
- DO NOT stay ignorant about what the market has to offer and end up paying too much simply for NOT knowing any better. You can take and play an active role in these process, not merely being the passive recipient of what rates and availability gets thrown at or offered to you.
- Business needs and opportunity will have lots of choice and options available just by the nature of travel and life in general. You can make these realities work in your favor to save travel dollars as you go along.

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- NEVER compromise on quality, safety or personal comforts that you would rather NOT be without.
- NEVER show up late for departures for last-minute travel options. It might end up being very costly and inconvenient for you.
- Never pay upfront for something that you are unsure about or to someone you have not dealt with before, or if you feel uneasy about things. Ask lots of questions, verify and confirm all details PRIOR to departure and at time of booking.
- NEVER TAKE THE FIRST PRICE GIVEN, ask about discounts and comparison shop for great rates and offerings on last minute travel

- Closing Thoughts and Remarks

There are lots of savings to be had in the travel market today. The internet has brought many of them right to our screens and fingertips and with minimum effort, time and money, they translate into trips of a lifetime, even last minute at an affordable price, great reward and value, even if booked in the 11th hour!

Lots keep changing both for consumers, technologies and services, online and trends in the travel industry. This holds true for both leisure and business travel.

As the fast-paced nature of our society increases, we keep having to sell more seats, beds, trips in less time, resulting in more discounted rates and as we continue to synergize and coordinate our global village, this trend will continue. Industry consolidations, partnerships and alliances keep forming.

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Creative booking tools and channels will be of the utmost importance in the near future. Packaging and bundling of services and possibilities will continue. Many opt to scour the web for last minute travel clubs, discussion boards, blogs and forums to get the latest skinny on where to go for deals and saving. People sharing information and insider tips freely will continue to influence and shape the direction the industry is taking.

- Open-mindedness, informed, empowered decision-making
- Shopping around, pricing comparisons
- **Flexibility**
- Criteria and budgets.
- Assess and assume risk
- Value and reward
- Take full advantage of technology and competitive positioning, other booking tools and sites like bookingbuddy.com, smartertravel.com, expedia, orbits, Travelocity, tripadvisor and others set the standards for tomorrow and things to come.
- Research and weigh options

ONE SUGGESTED STRATEGY TO GET YOU STARTED FINDING LAST MINUTE DEALS ONLINE

Have a personal plan and time set aside to find the best last minute trip deal you can find. Tailor your internet search strategy for online last minute travel deals websites, URLs, hits and relevant, related information, to get the most value, discounted, lowest rate, weight options, decide, act and BOOK!

If you want to really make the most of your last minute travel deals, make the search engines and power of the internet, guide your quest.

Here is a list of eclectic samplings of keywords that you might want to consider to get the GREAT short-term and last minute travel deals that you want, need, desire and deserve.

(in no particular order – some repetitions might occur)

Airline Fare
Airlinetickets
Bargain Flights
Best Air Fare
Best Air Fares
Book Flight
Cheap Air Fair
Cheap Air Fairs
Cheap Air Flights
Cheap Air Line Tickets
Cheap Airfare
Cheap Airfare
Cheap Airfares
Cheap Airflights

Cheap Airline Fares
Cheap Airline Ticket
Cheap Airline Ticket
Cheap Airplane Ticket
Cheap Domestic Air Fares
Cheap International Airfare
Cheap International Airline Tickets
Cheap Plane Ticket
Cheapest Air Fare
Cheapest Air Fares
Cheapest Airfare
Cheapest Airfares
Cheapest Airline Tickets
Cheep Airfare
Cheep Airline Tickets
Cheep Flights
Cheep Tickets
Discount Air Fares
Discount Air Tickets
Discount Airfare
Discount Airfare
Discount Airfares
Discount Airfares
Discount Flight
Discount Flights
Discounted Airfare
Discounted Airfare
Discounted Airfares
Discounted Airline Tickets
Discounted Airline Tickets
Flight Fares
Flight Tickets

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Flight To Boston
Flight To Miami
Flight To New York
Flights To Dallas
Flights To Washington
International Airfares
International Flights
Last Minute Air Fare
Last Minute Air Fares
Last Minute Airfare
Last Minute Airfares
Last Minute Airline Tickets
Last Minute Flights
Last Minute Travel Deals
Low Air Fares
Low Airfare
Low Airfares
Low Fare
Low Fares
Lowest Airfare
Lowest Airfares
Plane Fares
Student Airfare
Student Airfares
Travel deals

- **Other Resources and links**

- www.Tripadvisor.com
- www.travelocity.com
- www.quotationspage.com
- www.orbitz.com
- www.Newstarget.com
- www.expedia.com
- www.ajc.com

- [Vacation Rentals .com](http://VacationRentals.com)
- TravelProfessor.com
- [The Cruise Line website](http://TheCruiseLine.com)
- [last minute travel deals:](http://lastminute.com)
- [Hotel Discounts Worldwide](http://HotelDiscountsWorldwide.com)
- [Discount Travel Promotions, Offers and Traveling Tips](http://DiscountTravelPromotions.com)
- [Interesting Holiday Properties For Rent](http://InterestingHolidayProperties.com)
- [Discount hotels and hotel reservations](http://DiscountHotels.com)
- [Cheap hotels and hotel reservations](http://CheapHotels.com)
- [Asinah.NET CyberWorldTravel.com](http://Asinah.NET)
- [An Online Travel Resources and Directory](http://AnOnlineTravelResources.com)
- [1st Choice Vacation Rentals:](http://1stChoiceVacationRentals.com)