

Top 5 Travel Tips

Book Smarter, Not Earlier

- Most people believe the myth that you should book as early as possible
- The reality – the best deals for domestic flights are often 1-3 months out; international is 3-6 months out
- Use Google Flights for price tracking – or the Going app
- Set alerts instead of guessing
- Fly midweek to save significantly
- Timing the booking matters as much as choosing the destination

Being Destination Flexible = Big Savings

- The most expensive way to travel is saying “*I have to go to this exact spot on this exact date!*”
- Instead, search by region rather than by city
- Compare multiple airports – it might be cheaper to fly into one further from your destination, rent a car, and drive there.
- For example – you want to visit the beach – check out Destin, Gulf Shores, and Padre Island – from the sand, the ocean looks the same

Avoid Travel Day Chaos

- The worst travel days aren’t random – they’re predictable
- Friday and Sunday tend to be the busiest days at airports
- The days right before a major holiday are even busier.
- Early morning flights are typically less expensive; Saturdays are often overlooked and cheaper
- Half of travel stress isn’t the airport – it’s when you choose to go.

Protect Your Trip Without Overpaying

- Travel disruptions are going to happen – weather delays, cancellations
- Consider using a credit card with built-in travel protection when you buy
- Selective travel insurance (not always necessary)
- Trip interruption coverage
- Medical coverage – especially international
- Don't just insure the trip – insure the parts that can actually cost you money

Plan For the Hidden Costs

- This is where most people get burned
- Resort fees, baggage fees, rental car price spikes, hotel room price spikes, increased costs at popular tourist dining spots can all add unplanned thousands of dollars to your trip.
- Be sure to build a full budget for the trip – not just air and hotel
- Consider alternatives
 - Vacation rentals for longer stays – buy groceries and cook meals
- The trip isn't expensive because of one big cost – it's death by a thousand little costs