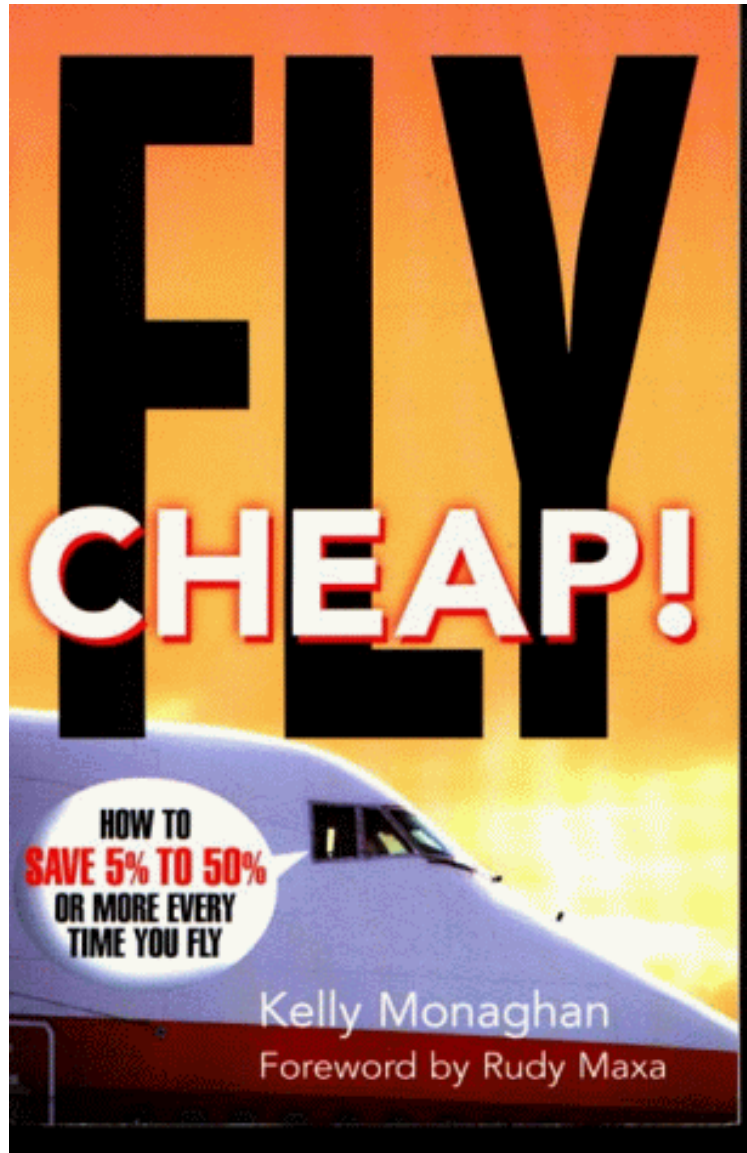


(Ebook free) Fly Cheap!: How to Save 5% To %50 or More Every Time You Fly

# Fly Cheap!: How to Save 5% To %50 or More Every Time You Fly

*Rudy Monaghan*

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**Rudy Monaghan : Fly Cheap!: How to Save 5% To %50 or More Every Time You Fly** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fly Cheap!: How to Save 5% To %50 or More Every Time You Fly:

Now more than ever, knowledge is power in the never-ending fight to hang on to your travel dollar. Fly Cheap! reveals

the hidden secrets, the sneaky tricks, the insider information sources, and the plain old common sense you need to save money on every flight you take. Plus exactly what to do and who to call.

If the title of something is meant to say it all, then this book's title does it perfectly. In its 248 pages, there's a wealth of newsy, nifty, really worthwhile information about airlines, what they offer, their phones and faxes, and more unique facts about how to get deals that save you money than I've ever seen in one book. -- John Clayton, *On The Road*, May 28, 1999  
If you want to save on your next flight, this book should prove to be a great help. Especially useful is a section on using the Internet wisely. -- Bobbie Leigh, *Physician's Travel Meeting Guide*, November 1999  
If you're looking for a deal on air fares, you may want to read up on the way airlines work. A new book called "Fly Cheap!" lets you in on airline secrets and some methods you can use to get cheaper fares. (Kimberly B. Williams, *The Orlando Sentinel*, May 23, 1999) -- Kimberly B. Williams, *The Orlando Sentinel*, May 23, 1999  
Monaghan covers the how-tos of flying free as an air courier, getting every discount to which you're entitled, and grabbing huge overseas airfare bargains. -- Korky Vann, *The Hartford Courant*, June 3, 1999  
The "Ticketing Ploys" chapter provides a sophisticated analysis of all the ways, airline-approved or not, through which agents and consumers can get better fares. -- Phyllis Fine, *Travel Weekly*, May 24, 1999  
From the Publisher  
Knowledge is power in the fight to hang on to your travel dollar. *Fly Cheap!* is the insider's source for every trick in the airfare book. Where are the best fares? Where do I get the lowest fares? What about low fare airlines? And air passes? I've heard about hidden cities and back to back ticketing, but how can they save me money? Everyone promises the lowest fare, the cheapest fare, the absolute rock-bottom low discount air fare, but who's telling the truth? What about Internet booking engines and online travel agencies with their fare trackers and fare finders? Are they cheap? The cheapest? Do air couriers fly free? How do I find air courier bargains? Do I have to join one of those high-priced air courier associations? Where can I fly as an air courier? How much money can I save as an air courier? What are the tradeoffs to being an air courier? How do I find consolidator tickets? Are consolidators safe? Are they the same as bucket shops? What about airfare bargains overseas, in Europe? *Fly Cheap!* has the answers you're looking for. Use the airlines' own ticketing rules to your advantage, not theirs. Get every senior, youth or other discount to which you are entitled. Amass a treasure trove of frequent flyer miles and learn to spend your frequent flyer mileage wisely. Grab huge airfare bargains overseas from consolidators and discount travel agents. Use the Internet travel agencies and booking engines wisely, not blindly. They don't always have the cheapest airfares. Save big bucks in the bargain basement of air travel - the little-known world of airline ticket consolidators and bucket shops. Fly free! (It can still be done when you fly as an air courier.) And much, much more.  
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From Chapter Eight: Using the Internet  
One of the most pernicious myths in circulation today is that the best - perhaps the only - way to get the absolutely cheapest fare is to go on the Internet. I'm not sure what makes this myth so tenacious. Maybe it's the airlines. They'd love nothing more than to tear customers away from travel agents and sit them down in front of computer screens where the airlines could control the information they receive. Maybe it's the press, which seems all aswoon with the romance of life on the Information Superhighway. But one thing I know for certain: It just ain't so. That's not to say that you cannot find great deals on the Internet - sometimes. But the syllogism "I booked my ticket on the Internet, therefore I got the best fare" just doesn't withstand scrutiny. A 1998 study by Penn State professor Arvind Ranganaswamy found that, due in part to the many options served up by online booking services, customers became confused and often wound up spending more than they intended. Much of the anecdotal evidence seems to back him up. Preview Travel, one of the Internet "booking engines" (described below) drew a great deal of flak from the travel agent community with a series of radio advertisements that ridiculed the very idea of dealing with a travel agent. The ads suggested, none too subtly, that logging on to Preview Travel would not only offer the customer better service but better fares. One travel agent was so incensed that he put Preview to the test and discovered that on a typical midweek business trip booking his agents were able to beat Preview's fare by \$200 - on exactly the same flights. Terry Trippler, an industry observer who has made a career of puncturing myths about air fares, cites the example of an international trip booked on an airline's own web site. The "lowest" Washington-Cairo fare quoted by the online booking engine was \$2,412.33. A call to a travel agent turned up a fare of \$961.33, a saving of over 60 percent - on exactly the same flights. What's going on here? Are the online booking engines and the airlines' own web sites setting out in a cold and calculating fashion to lie to us and rob us blind? Not really. There are a number of factors at work, starting with the computer programs that power these online booking engines. They are written to be efficient and, therefore, follow a line-of-least-resistance logic. "If this, then that," they say to themselves and not "If this, then maybe there are three or four things I should try out." That results, for example, in an airline's own "Lowest Fare" search option reacting to a request for a Seattle-Miami ticket by routing the passenger through Atlanta when a change in Cincinnati would result in, not only a lower fare, but a shorter trip. A savvy travel agent will know that trick but a computer's just too dumb. So even with the best intentions in the world, an online booking system may fall short of the goal. But what if the creators of the system decide that there are some things it won't let you do? In that case, you're out of luck. An airline's own site, for example, is certainly not going to tell you about lower fares available from other airlines, even from their code-share "partners." If whoever creates the site decides not to include a space in which to enter the passengers' ages,

you will never learn about any senior discount to which you may be entitled. If the programmers decide not to feed in information about promotional fares, you will not be alerted to their existence. Some of these omissions are obviously deliberate, others may be oversights, but the result is the same. Another problem is that computers are at the mercy of the information fed into them. An online booking engine may try to give you the best fare for the dates and times you gave it, but it will not think to suggest that you could get a lower fare by leaving a few hours or a day earlier. And it certainly won't think to suggest an alternate routing. And no online booking engine that I know of will allow you to enter a known fare code to come up with an itinerary on which that fare would be valid. (See Ploy #6 in Chapter One.) But don't turn off your browser just yet. For all its faults and pitfalls, the Internet remains a cornucopia of information. Used wisely, it will provide you with good information and the occasional bona fide bargain.