

True Flight Cost & Seat Planner

Compare the trip you will actually buy

Use the same travelers, baggage, seats and currency for every quote.

A fare comparison is only useful if the options cover the same needs. Start by identifying which items are essential and which are preferences: permitted bags, accessible seating needs, airport transfers, connection time and the ability to change the trip. Do not add an optional fee to one quote while leaving it out of another.

1. Save each quote with the operating carrier, fare name and date.
2. Add required bags and the seat choice you actually intend to buy.
3. Include transfer or overnight costs created by the itinerary.
4. Write change and refund restrictions separately from the total price.
5. Choose a workable journey; the lowest calculated total can still be unsuitable.

Seat support

Where disability-related seating accommodation may apply, ask the airline about it. Do not assume that every accessibility need must be solved by buying an upgrade.

Worked example: the cheaper fare costs more

Fictional round-trip quotes for one traveler, in U.S. dollars.

Item	Fare A	Fare B
Base fare	\$240	\$320
Baggage needed	\$80	\$0 included
Chosen seat	\$40	\$0 included
Extra ground transfer	\$30	\$0
Comparable total	\$390	\$320

Fare B is \$70 less for this traveler’s needs despite the higher headline price. If the traveler removes the checked bag and does not pay for a seat, the comparison changes. Record what is included rather than assuming that a higher fare covers everything.

One optional item I might remove

A restriction the cheaper total does not show

Keep the units consistent

Check whether a fee is per person, per flight, per direction or for the entire booking. Double-counting a round-trip fee can reverse the answer.