

How to avoid mistakes when booking your next flight online | Skyscanner Australia

Booking flights online has never been easier or cheaper. In fact airlines encourage us to book airfares online, offering cheap deals for savvy travellers. But what happens when things go wrong? It's easy to accidentally key in the wrong details when booking flights online. Follow [Skyscanner Australia's](#) tips to avoid making mistakes when booking your next holiday online.

We've all heard stories about friends who have booked a flight for the wrong day. They're the ones who turn up at the airport a day early. Or, even worse a day late! Only to find out they've missed their flight entirely and have to cough up for another one. Booking the wrong date is a sure fire (and costly) way to ruin a holiday! Here's our airfare booking tips to save you money and help avoid those holiday blues.

Check arrival and departure times

Crossing time zones can be confusing, especially when travelling on long haul flights (like Sydney to London for example). Depending on the route you're booking, your arrival time at the destination could be two days after departure. Or, confusingly, even before you left (this can happen when flying to the Americas from Australia).

Tip: Double check departure and arrival dates, particularly when booking multi-sector flight itineraries

Read more: [How to use Skyscanner's multi-city flight search](#)



Avoid spelling mistakes

Another common mistake when booking airfares online is typing names incorrectly. Even something as simple as typing Mr instead of Mrs is problematic. You may find that you're unable to board your flight if you turn up at the airport with a ticket issued in the wrong name or the wrong gender. Airline tickets are considered legal documents and are notoriously difficult to change. Even if the airline permits a name change it's likely to be a costly affair.

Tip: Double check your typing!

Get your documents in order

Travellers without proper documentation will likely be denied boarding at the airport. Domestic travellers need to show photo ID in the exact same name as the ticket. Many countries (Indonesia for example) require that international travellers have at least six months validity on their passport, regardless of the return date of travel. Visas should be valid for transit stops and final destination, if required. Frequent travellers may come unstuck if they don't have an empty page for visa stamps.

Tip: Ensure you have correct documentation for the flights and destinations on your ticket



Book flights to the right city

This might sound like a no-brainer but it's a fairly common error when booking flights online. There are many duplicate city and place names around the world. For example, Melbourne can be found in in Ontario, Quebec (Canada) and Victoria (Australia). Wellington is located in New Zealand and twice in Canada. The United States lists 88 place names for Washington! Southampton appears in the United Kingdom as well as Nova Scotia and Ontario Canada.

Tip: Book your flights to the right destination (check the three letter city code)!

Read more: [Tips and tricks to find the right flight for you](#)



Read the airfare terms & conditions

Things go wrong, plans are disrupted, buses to the airport are cancelled, kids get sick. Sometimes the universe conspires against us and we need to change our flights. Airlines have heard every excuse under the sun about why you have to change your flight. They don't care. Airfares are issued subject to strict rules and fees will invariably be applied when you need to change your flights. Your travel insurance may provide some relief eventually but if your ticket needs to re-issued you'll likely need to hand over your credit card.

Tip: Check airfare rules to minimise fees when/if changes are required



You can book your flight, then search for great value hotels and car hire, using [Skyscanner Australia](#). If you're always on the go, [download our mobile app](#) to use when you're on your travels!

About the author

Fiona Harper is one of Australia's most respected travel writers. Follow her at [Travel Boating Lifestyle](#).

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