

# How Do I Find Cheap Flight Tickets

Words: Sai Karthik Reddy Mekala



**T**he cost of air travel is increasing every day, making flying an expensive affair. When you are planning a trip overseas, flight tickets are going to be the biggest expense in your budget.

The cost of flight tickets depends on five main factors –

- [Competition between](#)

[the airlines](#)

- [Supply & Demand](#)
- [Crude Oil prices](#)
- [Currency exchange rate](#)
- [Airport and other taxes](#)

While none of the above is under our control, I am able to find cheap flights while traveling.

Continue reading to find out how you can find cheap flight tickets as well.

## Be Flexible With Dates

Though the prices of flight tickets are not under our control, the good news is that the pricing is dynamic i.e the prices of the airline tickets to the same destination is not the same every time.

This is the biggest factor that is going to save money.



Like I mentioned above, supply & demand plays a role in determining the cost. As it is a holiday on Saturday and Sunday, most people travel on these days. That means the demand is more and the airlines increase the price on these days. These people are most likely to return back on Monday, so the cost would be higher on Monday as well.

**The cheapest flights would be on weekdays and not on weekends.**

During festivals the prices are going to be higher. If you have to fly during the festive season, booking your flight a day or two day before/after the festival.

## Depart (Chennai → Kuala Lumpur)

02 Sep, Wed ALL-IN from 7,699 INR			03 Sep, Thu ALL-IN from 7,699 INR			04 Sep, Fri ALL-IN from 7,699 INR			05 Sep, Sat ALL-IN from 7,699 INR			06 Sep, Sun ALL-IN from 6,598 INR			07 Sep, Mon ALL-IN from 6,598 INR			08 Sep, Tue ALL-IN from 5,299 INR		
Low Fare									Premium Flex											
Depart	Arrive	Duration																		
08:30 (MAA)	14:55 (KUL)	3h 55m	8,956 INR (Adult)									11,174 INR (Adult)								
23:45 (MAA)	06:10 +1 (KUL)	3h 55m	7,699 INR (Adult)									9,916 INR (Adult)								

## Fly At Odd Times

No one really wants to fly during early morning or late nights. If there are multiple flights during the same day to the same destination, the prices are going to be cheaper during the odd times.

Look at a sample search (left) I made from Chennai to Kuala Lumpur. The airliner (Air Asia in this case) is the same, the date of departure is the same and the destination is the same but look at the price – it's cheaper by almost 30-40%. There are few people who want to reach their destination at 0:20 AM. So, fly when no one is flying.

**Result – Flying at odd times will save about 30-40% than flying during the peak time.**

Moreover, you can observe that the cost is higher on Friday, Saturday & Sunday than during the weekday.

## Book A Return Flight

Airlines will give you whooping discounts if you are going to book a round trip ticket. I do not know the exact reason beyond it. Maybe they do not like the fact that you are flying with another airline during return.

Another sample search (above) from Hyderabad(HYD) to Kuala Lumpur(KUL). First, I searched for a one way ticket from HYD to KUL and then another one way ticket from KUL to HYD. Then, I searched for a round trip between HYD and KUL.

**Result – The cost of round trip from HYD to KUL is cheaper, than single way from KUL to HYD, saving more than 50% of the cost.**

## Flight Selection

Hyderabad (HYD) – Kuala Lumpur International Apt (KUL) – Sun 23 Aug 2015

Thu, 20 Aug N/A	Fri, 21 Aug N/A	Sat, 22 Aug N/A	Sun, 23 Aug 11,038	Mon, 24 Aug 11,038	Tue, 25 Aug 11,038	Wed, 26 Aug 11,038	
Prices are in INR for all passengers, excluding GST, other taxes and fees <a href="#">Additional baggage and fees may apply</a> . The prices shown are intended to help you decide the most suitable option(s). The exact total will be shown after you have selected your outbound and inbound options and may be higher than the amount shown on this page.							
Flight	Departs	Arrives	Airports	Duration	MH Basic	MH Smart	MH Flex
<a href="#">MH199</a>	00:55	07:45	HYD-KUL	4h 20m	11,038	14,553	22,068

Kuala Lumpur International Apt (KUL) – Hyderabad (HYD) – Tue 01 Sep 2015

Sat, 29 Aug 11,038	Sun, 30 Aug 11,038	Mon, 31 Aug 11,038	Tue, 01 Sep 11,038	Wed, 02 Sep 11,038	Thu, 03 Sep 11,038	Fri, 04 Sep 22,068	
Prices are in INR for all passengers, excluding GST, other taxes and fees <a href="#">Additional baggage and fees may apply</a> . The prices shown are intended to help you decide the most suitable option(s). The exact total will be shown after you have selected your outbound and inbound options and may be higher than the amount shown on this page.							
Flight	Departs	Arrives	Airports	Duration	MH Basic	MH Smart	MH Flex
<a href="#">MH198</a>	22:20	23:55	KUL-HYD	4h 5m	11,038	14,553	22,068

## Flight Selection

Hyderabad (HYD) – Kuala Lumpur International Apt (KUL) – Sun 23 Aug 2015

Thu, 20 Aug N/A	Fri, 21 Aug N/A	Sat, 22 Aug N/A	Sun, 23 Aug 18,770	Mon, 24 Aug 18,770	Tue, 25 Aug 18,770	Wed, 26 Aug 18,770	
Prices are in INR for all passengers, excluding GST, other taxes and fees <a href="#">Additional baggage and fees may apply</a> . The prices shown are intended to help you decide the most suitable option(s). The exact total will be shown after you have selected your outbound and inbound options and may be higher than the amount shown on this page.							
Flight	Departs	Arrives	Airports	Duration	MH Basic	MH Smart	MH Flex
<a href="#">MH199</a>	00:55	07:45	HYD-KUL	4h 20m	18,770	21,245	33,105



## Fly Budget Airlines

Currently there are only few budget airlines flying to from India. And they flying to only a handful of destinations.

Budget airlines are cheaper because they are no-frill airlines that means they do not charge for the services that you do not need. Normal airlines comes with everything included like food, check-in baggage, etc. even if you do not want. But budget airlines charge only for the services you are going to use and charge only the base fare.

Sample search from Chennai and Kuala Lumpur has been displayed on your right.

**Result – Air Asia charges very less than Malaysia Airlines, but you have to pay extra for food, check-in baggage and other services.**

## Try Alternate Routes

Sometimes direct flights can be more expensive than flying via a transit.

Last time, when I was flying from HYD to KUL, it was cheaper to fly from HYD to SIN (Singapore) on Tiger Airways & then to KUL on Jet Star from SIN rather than flying direct to KUL on a Malaysia Airlines flight.

## Check Multiple Booking Sites

The prices of the same flight on the day is different on different booking sites. The difference might be minimal, but none the less you are saving few bucks.

Use this tool to compare the costs on various booking sites. My first preference for booking flight tickets is either Yatra or Expedia.co.in.

## Depart (Chennai → Kuala Lumpur)

22 Aug, Sat	23 Aug, Sun	24 Aug, Mon	25 Aug, Tue	26 Aug, Wed	27 Aug, Thu	28 Aug, Fri
ALL-IN from 11,749 INR	ALL-IN from 10,218 INR	ALL-IN from 10,218 INR	ALL-IN from 8,956 INR	ALL-IN from 8,956 INR	ALL-IN from 9,723 INR	ALL-IN from 9,723 INR

  

Depart	Arrive	Duration	Low Fare	Premium Flex
08:30 (MAA)	14:55 (KUL)	3h 55m	8,956 INR (Adult)	11,174 INR (Adult)
23:45 (MAA)	06:10 +1 (KUL)	3h 55m	8,956 INR (Adult)	11,174 INR (Adult)

AirAsia Ticket Price Chennai to Kuala Lumpur

## Flight Selection

Chennai (MAA) – Kuala Lumpur International Apt (KUL) – Tue 25 Aug 2015

← Previous Day   Next Day →

Prices are in INR for all passengers, excluding GST, other taxes and fees [Additional baggage and fees may apply](#). The prices shown are intended to help you decide the most suitable option(s). The exact total will be shown after you have selected your outbound and inbound options and may be higher than the amount shown on this page.

Flight	Departs	Arrives	Airports	Duration	MH Basic	MH Smart	MH Flex
<a href="#">MH181</a>	00:35	07:05	MAA-KUL	4h 0m	12,870	17,355	28,740
<a href="#">MH183</a>	11:45	18:15	MAA-KUL	4h 0m	12,870	17,355	28,740

Malaysia Airline Ticket Price Chennai to Kuala Lumpur



Image by: Josh Janssen CC

If you follow all the strategies I mentioned above you will be able to grab some cheap flight tickets. ■

Karthik Reddy has been **Romancing The Planet** since completing his M.B.A in 2012. He is passionate about photography, trying out new food, meeting new people, experiencing different cultures and explore places solo.

