

Hopper's 2018 Travel Cheat Sheet



By Patrick Surry
Posted Jan 3, 2018

If you're anything like us, traveling is high on the to-do list for the new year, and there's no better time than now to start planning so you don't break the bank.

You've probably already heard that watching early and being flexible leads to the best flight deals (you can start watching a trip up to 1 year in advance on Hopper to receive notifications about when to buy), but we know that sometimes you want a little more pointed guidance than that when getting started.

So, we've pulled together the ultimate cheat sheet for when to book your 2018 travel, no matter where that may take you this year.

How to get the best deals on holiday airfare...

First, let's talk holidays. You know when you'll have time off, and when your folks are expecting you home... there's no excuse for *not* getting a good deal this year!

Holiday	2018 Date	Book By The Week Of	When to Buy	Good Deal
MLK Day	Mon, Jan 15	Mon, Dec 29	3+ weeks ahead	\$229
President's Day	Mon, Feb 19	Mon, Jan 29	3+ weeks ahead	\$247
St. Patrick's Day	Sat, Mar 17	Sat, Feb 24	3+ weeks ahead	\$254
Easter	Sun, Apr 1	Sun, Feb 18	6+ weeks ahead	\$281
Memorial Day	Mon, May 28	Mon, May 7	3+ weeks ahead	\$271
Fourth of July	Wed, Jul 4	Wed, Jun 13	3+ weeks ahead	\$314
Labor Day	Mon, Sep 3	Mon, Aug 13	3+ weeks ahead	\$245
Columbus Day	Mon, Oct 8	Mon, Aug 27	6+ weeks ahead	\$225
Thanksgiving	Thu, Nov 22	Thu, Oct 25	1+ month ahead	\$271
Christmas	Tue, Dec 25	Tues, Oct 30	2+ months ahead	\$324
New Year's Eve	Mon, Dec 31	Mon, Nov 5	2+ months ahead	\$324

Table 1: Hopper's recommendations for when to book your 2018 holiday flights.

If you can't wait for the holidays...

Want to book something ASAP?

- This month, flight prices will bottom out with a 2.6% decrease in average domestic round-trip flight prices to \$212 in January from \$218 in December as the post-holiday season begins.
- Prices are expected to be down about 1.7% compared to the same time last year and approximately 1.6% higher compared to two years ago.
- We're forecasting that prices will steadily rise and peak in June at \$257.
- The price of jet fuel increased about 1.2% last month, though prices are still at 2010 levels.

Month	Price Forecast	Change from Preceding Month
January 2018	\$212	-2.6%
February 2018	\$224	5.8%
March 2018	\$230	2.5%
April 2018	\$236	2.7%
May 2018	\$253	7.5%
June 2018	\$257	1.5%

Table 2: Hopper's six-month forecast for consumer airfare, showing prices bottoming out for winter before rising again.

Print out this Cheat Sheet and keep it all year long and save money on your next flight.