

# Flight-search websites

Tired of trawling the internet in search of the cheapest airfares? Make the web work for you with these one-stop sites, says **Jill Starley-Grainger** – and save up to £821!

	<b>EBOOKERS</b> www.ebookers.com	<b>EXPEDIA</b> www.expedia.co.uk	<b>KAYAK</b> www.kayak.co.uk
<b>THE LOWDOWN</b>	Searches more than 200 airlines; the website is dull, but has a clean, clear design.	Searches 450 airlines; has a messy home page, but it's fairly easy to figure out.	Searches more than 400 airlines; clear and simple to use.
<b>CHEAPEST DIRECT RETURN FROM LONDON TO ROME</b>	<b>EXTRA BOOKING FEE</b> £112 with EasyJet, which includes Ebookers' own extra fee, yet no mention of EasyJet's extra fees for luggage, etc until the last page.	£107 with EasyJet, but once again, no indication of those extra low-cost airline fees.	£30 with Ryanair, but that doesn't include the £40+ fees you'll have to pay for online check-in, card payments and hold baggage.
<b>CHEAPEST DIRECT RETURN FROM LONDON TO NEW YORK</b>	£335 with KLM, including Ebookers' fee.	£336 with KLM, which it lists as an 'Expedia Special Fare'.	£336 with KLM.
<b>CHEAPEST MULTI-CITY: LONDON TO HONG KONG TO SYDNEY TO LONDON</b>	£740 with Qantas. Clear and easy to find.	£1,529 with Emirates and Virgin.	<b>BEST MULTI-CITY</b> £708 with Cathay Pacific. Fantastically easy options for tweaking results, such as changing dates.
<b>GOOD POINTS</b>	Easy to use, and you can search specific rates for children and the over 65s.	Has a useful summary of baggage fees for some major airlines – look for the 'checked baggage policies' page.	<b>FLEXIBLE RESULTS</b> Has great search options, and lets you fine-tune results to get what you want, such as choosing your preferred airport or time of day.
<b>BAD POINTS</b>	Charges an extra fee on most bookings, although this is usually included in the fare you see.	Shows lots of 'Expedia Special Fares' that are often not so special.	Needs to search more airlines, especially outside the EU and North America.
<b>BONUS FEATURES</b>	Tailor-made holidays: create-your-own packages that give savings over hotel, flight and/or car booked separately.	Nectar points – earn and spend. Tailor-made holidays.	<b>IPHONE APP</b> An excellent, free iPhone app for searches on the move.
<b>OVERALL VERDICT</b>	<b>5/10</b> Good for tailor-made holidays but not the best for just flights.	<b>6/10</b> Worth a check only if you want to be completely thorough.	<b>Runner up 8/10</b> Great search options (multi-city, weekends, direct and more), plus flexible fine-tuning.

**MOMONDO**  
www.momondo.com

**MONEYSAVINGEXPERT**  
http://flightchecker.  
moneysavingexpert.com/

**SKYSCANNER**  
www.skyscanner.net

**ZUGU**  
www.zugu.com

**DOES TRAINS TOO!**

Searches 800 airlines, plus 22 rail companies.

**BUDGET AIRLINE EXPERT**

Focuses specifically on low-cost flights, searching just nine budget airlines; ugly website but it's blissfully simple to use.

Searches around 600 airlines; very user-friendly site.

**NEW!**

Searches 500 airlines, easy-to-understand new site.

£30 with Ryanair, but again, with no indication of that extra £40+ in Ryanair fees.

**BEST SHORT-HAUL**

£30 with Ryanair. Clearly explains the extra charges you're likely to face when you book with Ryanair.

£30 with Ryanair, but guess what? That's right – none of those nasty extra fees mentioned.

£112 with EasyJet (via Ebookers). Not the lowest fare, but kudos for explaining those extra low-cost airline fees.

**BEST LONG-HAUL**

£328 with Delta. Over multiple searches, Momondo consistently gave the best prices for long-haul.

£605 with Air Berlin, Heathrow to JFK – via Düsseldorf. High fare reflects the fact that it covers only a few long-haul airlines and routes.

£328 with Delta.

£336 with Delta.

Not possible at time of press, but coming soon.

Not possible.

Not possible.

Not possible, but being considered.

**LOADS OF AIRLINES**

Has great coverage, searching more airlines than all the others, and featuring no-frills and smaller, niche carriers.

Clearly explains all the extra fees some low-cost carriers charge. Shows individual flights as one-ways, making it easy to mix airlines to get the best fare.

Well-designed site makes searches a delight, and features a broad range of airlines.

Fast searches, and has some useful tools for choosing your preferred airport, time of day, etc – but not as easy to see or use as Kayak.

No multi-city search (yet). No option to search only for non-stop flights on the home page, although you can choose this on the results page.

Apart from London, you must specify an airport you want to fly from/to rather than a destination (eg, you'd have to search twice for Rome – once for each airport).

Won't let you specify all your requirements in one go, from outset.

Like Skyscanner, it has few options for filtering results.

Daily email updates on fares for a route of your choice. Also searches ski trips and train journeys.

**£1 FARE-FINDER!**

A bargain fare-finder helps track down those '£1 sale!' tickets.

**SNIFFS OUT DEALS**

An 'Everywhere' search – choose a date and departure airport, then see where in the world the best deals are.

Allows you to email yourself a specific flight result. Useful option to search for discounted rates for children and infants.

**BEST OVERALL**

**9/10**

First-stop shop that would be perfect with multi-city search and low-cost fees added.

**7/10**

Fab port of call for short-haul, if you don't mind flying with budget airlines.

**Runner up**

**8/10**

Good in so many ways, but narrowly pipped to the post. Needs to up its game.

**7/10**

Keep an eye on this new site – it has huge potential. But will it live up to it?