

how to save money on spirit airlines

How to Save Money on Spirit Airlines: A Comprehensive Guide

how to save money on spirit airlines is a common quest for budget-conscious travelers looking to stretch their travel dollars further. Spirit Airlines, known for its ultra-low fares, can indeed be a remarkably affordable option, but it comes with a unique pricing model that requires savvy navigation. This comprehensive guide will delve into every facet of minimizing your expenses when flying with Spirit, from booking strategies and baggage hacks to understanding their fee structure and maximizing potential savings. We'll cover everything you need to know to ensure your journey is as economical as possible, making your next trip a wallet-friendly adventure. Prepare to unlock the secrets to a cheaper Spirit Airlines experience.

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Understanding Spirit Airlines' Fare Structure

Spirit Airlines operates on an "unbundled" fare model, which is the cornerstone of its low base prices. This means that the initial ticket price you see often only includes the seat itself. Everything else – from a carry-on bag to a checked bag, seat selection, and even printing your boarding pass at the airport – comes with an additional fee. Understanding this fundamental principle is the first step in mastering how to save money on Spirit Airlines.

The base fare is designed to be as low as possible to attract price-sensitive travelers. This strategy allows Spirit to be competitive in the market, but it also places the responsibility on the passenger to carefully consider what services they truly need and are willing to pay for. Failing to account for these ancillary fees can quickly negate the initial savings and even make a Spirit flight more expensive than a traditional carrier.

Booking Your Spirit Airlines Flight Smartly

The timing and method of booking your Spirit Airlines flight can significantly impact the final cost. It's crucial to be proactive and flexible when possible. Early booking often yields better prices, but Spirit also occasionally releases flash sales that can offer substantial discounts, so staying informed is key.

When to Book Spirit Airlines Flights

Generally, booking a Spirit Airlines flight several weeks or even months in advance is advisable. This allows you to lock in a lower fare before demand drives prices up. However, Spirit's dynamic pricing means that prices can fluctuate daily. Monitoring fares consistently is recommended, especially if your travel dates are not completely fixed. Be aware that last-minute bookings on Spirit can sometimes be exceptionally expensive, so avoid waiting until the eleventh hour if possible.

Using Spirit Airlines' Website and App

Spirit's official website and mobile app are your primary tools for booking. They often feature exclusive deals and promotions not available through third-party sites. When searching for flights, be sure to look for any special offers or discount codes that might be advertised. Utilizing the app can also provide push notifications for fare drops or upcoming sales, helping you stay ahead of the curve in your quest to save money on Spirit Airlines.

Navigating Spirit Airlines Baggage Fees

Baggage fees are one of the most significant areas where costs can escalate with Spirit Airlines. A thorough understanding of their policies and strategies for minimizing these fees is paramount to saving money.

Spirit Airlines Carry-On Bag Policy

Spirit Airlines allows one personal item that fits under the seat in front of you for free. This typically includes a small backpack, purse, or laptop bag. Any larger item, such as a standard carry-on suitcase that you wish to store in the overhead bin, will incur a fee. These fees are considerably lower when paid in advance online compared to at the airport. Therefore, if you plan to bring a carry-on, factor this cost into your budget and pay for it during the booking process or well before your flight date.

Spirit Airlines Checked Bag Fees

Checked bag fees on Spirit Airlines are also charged per bag and vary based on weight and dimensions. Similar to carry-on bags, checking in your bags online in advance is substantially cheaper than doing so at the airport. Spirit has strict weight and size limits for checked baggage, and exceeding them will result in even higher fees. It is always best to weigh and measure your bags before arriving at the airport to avoid unexpected charges.

Tips for Reducing Baggage Costs

- **Pack Light:** The most effective way to save on baggage fees is to pack only what you absolutely need and utilize the free personal item allowance.
- **Purchase in Advance:** Always pay for checked and carry-on bags online during booking or before check-in. The prices increase significantly at the airport.
- **Bundle Fees:** If you are booking multiple flights or have multiple bags, check if bundling fees can offer a slight discount.
- **Consider Shipping:** For longer trips, in some cases, shipping items ahead of time might be more economical than paying multiple baggage fees.

Spirit Airlines' "Bare Fare" Explained

The "Bare Fare" is Spirit Airlines' foundational pricing strategy. It represents the absolute minimum cost for a seat on their aircraft and includes only the most basic elements of air travel. This means that anything beyond the seat itself will likely have an additional charge.

When you see an advertised Spirit Airlines fare, it's important to understand that this is the "Bare Fare." It does not include amenities like a free checked bag, a free carry-on bag, seat selection, or refreshments onboard. Travelers who are unaware of this distinction often find themselves surprised by the subsequent charges for these services, leading to a perception that the airline is more expensive than initially thought. To truly benefit from Spirit's low fares, you must be prepared to pay for any extras you desire.

Maximizing Savings with Spirit's Bundles and Add-ons

While Spirit Airlines charges for many services individually, they also offer opportunities to save money by bundling certain services or opting for add-ons during the booking process.

The "Bundle It" Option

Spirit Airlines often presents a "Bundle It" option during the booking process. This package typically includes a checked bag, a carry-on bag, and sometimes seat selection at a discounted rate compared to purchasing each item individually. If you know you will need these items, this bundle can be a very effective way to manage your costs and achieve significant savings on your Spirit Airlines flight. Evaluate your needs carefully to determine if this bundle makes financial sense for you.

Other Potential Add-ons and Their Value

Beyond the bundle, Spirit offers various other add-ons such as priority boarding, travel insurance, and even inflight snacks and beverages. While these come with extra costs, it's worth considering their value proposition. Priority boarding might be beneficial if you want to ensure space for your carry-on in the overhead bins, though it's an added expense. Carefully weigh whether the convenience or perceived benefit of any add-on justifies its price, keeping your goal of how to save money on Spirit Airlines at the forefront.

Traveling Light for Maximum Savings on Spirit

The most impactful strategy for minimizing expenses on Spirit Airlines is to embrace the philosophy of traveling light. This directly addresses the most significant ancillary fees associated with the airline.

Utilizing the Free Personal Item

Spirit Airlines permits one personal item that must fit beneath the seat in front of you at no additional charge. This is your golden ticket to avoiding carry-on fees. Mastering the art of packing efficiently into a small backpack, tote bag, or a similar compact item is crucial. This requires careful planning, choosing versatile clothing, and potentially utilizing packing cubes to maximize space.

The Impact of a Minimalist Approach

By adhering strictly to the personal item allowance, you can potentially save tens, if not hundreds, of dollars on a round-trip journey, depending on the fare rules and time of booking. This minimalist approach not only saves money but also streamlines your airport experience, reducing the time spent waiting at baggage claim or dealing with oversized luggage. For those focused on how to save money on Spirit Airlines, this is a non-negotiable strategy.

Spirit Airlines' Loyalty Program: Free Spirit

Spirit Airlines' loyalty program, Free Spirit, offers a way for frequent flyers to accrue benefits and potentially reduce future travel costs. While it's not as extensive as some traditional airline programs, it can still provide value.

Earning Points with Free Spirit

Members of the Free Spirit program earn points primarily by flying with Spirit Airlines. The number of points earned is typically based on the fare purchased. Additional points can be earned through Spirit's co-branded credit cards, rental car partners, hotel stays, and other affiliated businesses. Maximizing point accumulation is key to leveraging the program for savings.

Redeeming Free Spirit Points for Flights

Free Spirit points can be redeemed for flights. The number of points required for a redemption varies based on the route and demand. While Spirit does not have blackout dates for award travel, the number of points needed can sometimes be high, especially during peak travel periods. However, for those who fly Spirit regularly, strategically redeeming points can offset the cost of future tickets, contributing to overall savings.

Tips for Finding the Cheapest Spirit Airlines Deals

Discovering the lowest fares on Spirit Airlines requires a proactive and informed approach to deal hunting. Beyond simply checking prices, there are specific strategies you can employ.

Be Flexible with Travel Dates and Times

Spirit Airlines, like most low-cost carriers, offers the most attractive prices on less popular travel days and times. Flying on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Saturdays can often result in lower fares compared to Fridays or Sundays. If your schedule allows for flexibility, experiment with different departure and return dates to uncover the best deals. Consider red-eye flights as well, as they are often priced lower.

Sign Up for Email Alerts and Follow Social Media

Spirit Airlines frequently announces flash sales and limited-time promotions through their email newsletters and social media channels. Signing up for their email alerts ensures you are among the first to know about these opportunities. Following them on platforms like Twitter and Facebook can also provide early access to discount codes and special offers, which are essential for anyone looking to master how to save money on Spirit Airlines.

Compare Prices Across Different Booking Platforms (with Caution)

While Spirit's own website usually offers the best deals, it can be worthwhile to briefly compare prices on reputable third-party travel aggregators. However, be aware that these sites may not always reflect the most current Spirit Airlines pricing or may include hidden fees. Always double-check the final price and the total cost, including all ancillary fees, directly on Spirit's website before confirming any booking.

Spirit Airlines' Seat Selection Strategy

Seat selection on Spirit Airlines is another area where you can incur additional costs, but with a strategic approach, you can manage these expenses effectively.

The Cost of Pre-Selecting Seats

Spirit Airlines charges a fee for selecting specific seats in advance. These fees vary depending on the seat's location in the cabin, with front-row seats and exit rows typically being the most expensive. If you have a strong preference for a particular seat, factor this cost into your budget. However, if your primary goal is to save money, consider foregoing pre-selection.

The Free Alternative: Random Seat Assignment

If you do not select a seat during booking or check-in, Spirit Airlines will assign you a seat randomly at no extra charge. This is the most economical option. While you might not get your preferred seat, you will still have a place on the plane. If traveling with companions, there is no guarantee that you will be seated together if you don't pay for seat selection, which is an important consideration.

When to Consider Paying for Seats

Paying for seat selection might be worthwhile if you have specific needs, such as traveling with young children and wanting to ensure you are seated together, or if you have mobility issues and require a specific seat location. For most travelers focused on cost savings, accepting the randomly assigned seat is the best way to keep expenses low when flying Spirit.

FAQ

Q: How much does it cost to bring a carry-on bag on Spirit Airlines?

A: Spirit Airlines charges a fee for carry-on bags that are larger than a personal item. This fee is significantly lower when paid online in advance of your flight date compared to paying at the airport during check-in or at the gate.

Q: What is considered a personal item on Spirit Airlines?

A: A personal item on Spirit Airlines is a small bag that fits under the seat in front of you, such as a backpack, purse, or laptop bag. There is no additional charge for bringing one personal item.

Q: Are Spirit Airlines flights always the cheapest option?

A: Spirit Airlines offers very low base fares, making them a strong contender for the cheapest option. However, it's crucial to factor in all potential ancillary fees for baggage, seat selection, and other services, as these can increase the total cost. Always compare the final price with other airlines.

Q: How can I avoid checked bag fees on Spirit Airlines?

A: The best way to avoid checked bag fees on Spirit Airlines is to pack only what you can fit into the free personal item allowance. If you must check a bag, ensure you pay the fee online in advance, as it is much cheaper than paying at the airport.

Q: Is the "Bundle It" option on Spirit Airlines worth the cost?

A: The "Bundle It" option can be worth the cost if you require a carry-on bag, a checked bag, and potentially seat selection. It generally offers a discount compared to purchasing these services individually. Evaluate your needs to determine if the bundled price is a good value for you.

Q: How early should I book my Spirit Airlines flight to get the best deal?

A: It's generally recommended to book Spirit Airlines flights several weeks to months in advance to secure the lowest fares. However, keep an eye out for flash sales and promotions, as these can offer significant savings even on shorter booking windows.

Q: Does Spirit Airlines offer any discounts for active military personnel?

A: Information regarding specific discounts for active military personnel on Spirit Airlines can vary. It is best to check Spirit's official website or contact their customer service directly for the most up-to-date information on any available military benefits or discounts.

Q: Can I change my seat selection after booking on Spirit Airlines?

A: Yes, you can typically change your seat selection on Spirit Airlines, often for an additional fee, depending on the fare rules and availability. If you have already paid for a seat and wish to change, you may need to pay the difference if the new seat is more expensive.

Q: How can I earn more Free Spirit points?

A: You can earn more Free Spirit points by flying with Spirit Airlines, using their co-branded credit cards for purchases, and booking through their designated partners for car rentals, hotels, and other travel services.

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This book is an essential read for any branding student or interested professional.

how to save money on spirit airlines: *Low-Cost Carriers in Emerging Countries* John Bowen, 2019-02-14 *Low-Cost Airline Carriers in Emerging Countries* traces the development of low-cost carriers (LCCs) in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa, examining airlines that have become significant players in their home markets but little known at a global scale. The book maps the geography of the LCC phenomenon, explaining the starkly varying success of budget airlines, and assessing their current social, economic and environmental impacts. The book concludes with insights into the future potential of the LCC phenomenon along with its global ramifications. Beginning with Southwest Airlines in the 1970s, low-cost carriers (LCCs) have democratized air travel around the world, fostering huge increases in airline traffic and transforming the airline industry. At the same time however, the ascent of these budget airlines has exacerbated aviation-related problems such as aircraft noise, airport congestion, greenhouse gas emissions and more. LCCs have been extensively studied in the US and Europe but not in emerging regions of the globe. Yet the impact of such airlines is greatest in low- and middle-income economies where only a small fraction of the population has ever flown, and where competition from alternative modes (road, rail) is weak.

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how to save money on spirit airlines: Princeton Alumni Weekly , 2009

how to save money on spirit airlines: Make Every Second Count Robert W. Bly, 2010-12-20

Dozens of proven methods to get more done in less time, from the author of *The Copywriter's Handbook* and *Little Blue Book of Business Wisdom*. *Make Every Second Count* goes beyond the usual time-management books to bring you a much broader range of strategies and tactics—you'll discover how to maximize your time by setting priorities, create useful schedules, overcome procrastination, and boost your energy level and productivity through diet, exercise, and sleep. You'll also learn how using the latest technology can enable you to manage information and communicate more effectively and efficiently. Find out: How to eliminate bad habits and unnecessary activities that slow you down The painless way to handle paperwork How to master the art of saying no The three types of to-do lists every person should keep Get time-tested advice on goal setting, business travel, social networking, mobile technology, planning systems, time management in the home, and more—and start making every second count!

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how to save money on spirit airlines: Soft Landing Andrew R. Thomas, 2011-12-20 *Soft Landing: Airline Industry Strategy, Service, and Safety* covers the immediate past, present, and future of the airline industry and its effects on consumers and the economy. Aviation receives a disproportionate amount of news coverage in the popular press—not to mention chatter at cocktail parties and workplaces around the world. And why not? Aviation represents a sector of the U.S. economy, for example, exceeded in size only by the real estate, healthcare, and automotive industries. Furthermore, hundreds of millions of people fly each year, including 80 million Americans. So we all have airline stories—experiencing a delay and losing a business deal, spending a night or three in the airport, dealing with ornery airline personnel, losing money on airline stocks, or being involved in a near miss. (Or, as George Carlin more accurately put it, a “near hit.”) But things might be on the upswing. Knocked to its knees by 9/11 and a decade of falling revenue and rising losses, the industry's “flying cheap” strategy and organizational efficiencies based partly on outsourcing have appear to have helped passengers and profitability return. As this book explains, we can look forward to better technology and infrastructure, speedier—and easier—travel, more effective and less invasive security measures, and more jobs in the air and on the ground. Turbulence is always a possibility. Rising fuel costs, economic uncertainty, and future terror attacks

could cause tumult once again. Plus, airline companies intend to charge us extra for everything from the weight of our own bodies to use of the bathroom. But as the industry has discovered, we'll put up with that—and more—if we can make it to our destinations with bags intact and a smaller dent in our wallets. Soft Landing will: Sort out the promise and perils facing the airlines Analyze and articulate the potential impact of changes in the aviation industry on passengers, airports, governments, the global economy, and the airlines themselves Give airline passengers worldwide an idea of what's ahead when it comes to airline service, security, and technology

how to save money on spirit airlines: The Cheapskate's Guide to Walt Disney World

Michael D. Lewis, Debbi Lacey, 1999 Showing vacationers how to plan ahead, this pull-no-punches guide will help anyone—not just cheapskates—have the best Disney World vacation ever.

how to save money on spirit airlines: Great Age Guide to Online Travel Sandy Berger,

2007-02-06 The Internet is an amazing travel tool, offering us everything we need—if we just know how and where to look. This book was created specifically for adults 50 and older who would like to take advantage of what the Internet has to offer. Even if you are new to computers, this book gives you the tools you need to become your own travel agent! It covers everything from planning your trip, getting the best prices, and choosing activities to keep you from getting lost during your journey. Regardless of what type of travels you are planning, this book provides essential do's and don'ts that will help lessen your surprises when reaching your destination. Inside you'll find more information on: • Comparison shop to find the best bargains on flights, hotels, and activities. • Find a vacation that suits your interests. Want adventure? Find the best places to hike, kayak, camp, rock climb, and even travel to space. • Be prepared for international travel by learning the essentials of traveling abroad. • Find the best places to go if you have special needs. • Stay in touch with family and friends through Internet cafes, laptops, hotspots, and high-tech gadgets. • Take your pet with you! Find out which places are pet friendly. Introduction 1 The Internet: An Amazing Travel Tool 2 Planning Your Trip 3 Bargains Galore 4 Tips for Air and Sea Travel 5 On the Road Again 6 Distinctive Travel Adventures 7 International Travel 8 Healthy Travel and Special Needs 9 Traveling with Pets 10 Stay Online on the Go 11 Don't Leave Home Without 'Em 12 Sharing Memories from Your Travels Category General PC Covers Internet User Level Beginning Sandy Berger has more than three decades of experience as a computer and technology expert and is a featured technology expert writer for AARP. Sandy is president of Computer Living Corp, a computer consulting and training company, and writes a monthly column in Smart Computing magazine called "TechMates." She has authored three Great Age Guides, including the Internet, Better Living Through Technology, and Gadgets and Gizmos. www.greatagebooks.com ...where learning never ends! The Great Age website is an oasis of information that will help further enhance your learning. The website will provide access to: • Great Age Bookstore • Great Age Product Reviews • Great Age Tutorials • Great Age Video Programs • Great Age Newsletter • Great Age Podcasts • Great Age Community Room \$19.99 USA / \$24.99 CAN / £13.99 Net UK

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a Budget – Inca Trail, Peru; Carretera Austral, Chile; Cycling the Death Road, Bolivia; Ruta 40, Argentina; Serra Verde Railway, Brazil; The Circuit, Torres del Paine, Chile; Valparaíso, Chile; Historic Centre, Salvador, Brasil; Cusco, Peru; Niemeyer's Masterpiece; Cartagena de Indias, Colombia; La Compañía de Jesús, Ecuador; The Pantanal, Brazil; Galápagos Islands, Ecuador; Amazonian Basin, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru; Cañon del Colca, Peru; Beagle Channel, Argentina; Los Llanos, Venezuela Insider recommendations – tips on how to beat the crowds, save time and money, and find the best local spots When to go to South America on a Budget – high season, low season, climate information and festivals Where to go – a clear introduction to South America on a Budget with key places and a handy overview Extensive coverage of regions, places and experiences – regional highlights, sights and places for different types of travellers, with experiences matching different needs Places to eat, drink and stay – hand-picked restaurants, cafes, bars and hotels Practical info at each site – hours of operation, websites, transit tips, charges Colour-coded mapping – with keys and legends listing sites categorised as highlights, eating, accommodation, shopping, drinking and nightlife Background information for connoisseurs – history, culture, art, architecture, film, books, religion, diversity Essential Spanish, Portuguese dictionary and glossary of local terms Fully updated post-COVID-19 The guide provides a comprehensive and rich selection of places to see and things to do in South America on a Budget, as well as great planning tools. It's the perfect companion, both ahead of your trip and on the ground.

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