

IN THE AIR (CHEAP AIRLINES)

CHECKLIST

From pp58–9 of *The Intelligent Traveller*.

- Where is the airport?
- Can you get to it easily?
- What is the luggage allowance? Some cheap flights do not allow luggage (for day business trips), or they may allow a maximum weight less than the twenty kilograms permitted by the long-haul carriers
- What is the excess baggage charge? It just might make the flight too expensive
- What are the add-on charges? Most charge extra for airport tax, credit card payment and luggage
- The tickets are usually non-refundable and sometimes non-changeable

CHECKLIST

Here is a step-by-step guide to booking cheap flights:

- find out who flies where – on airport websites or flycheapo.com, or go to the destination maps on individual low-cost carrier sites. Do this early, as it might determine where your travels take you
- on the airline destination maps, click on a city and see what other cities it connects to (some hubs offer many more destinations than others)
- look at the name of the airport, for example Stansted airport for London
- go to the airport's website and make sure you can get to and from the airport within time constraints and transport availability
- check the cost of travelling to and from the airport, and factor this in to the overall fare
- check across as broad a range of dates as possible, as the fares can vary enormously and you'll occasionally be lucky enough to find one for 0.01 euros! (plus charges, of course)
- check the luggage allowance, luggage cost (it might be any luggage that goes into the hold) and excess-luggage rates
- go through the steps up to the point of purchase to see what the total cost is going to be
- be absolutely sure that you are ready to book, having the right dates and times for the flight
- book the flight/s
- print out and save the e-ticket and receipt, and file safely with your other travel documents