

CHEAPO CHUCK PROUDLY PRESENTS...

HOW TO AVOID SPIRIT AIRLINES FEES!!!



Introduction

Bon Voyage!

Greetings fellow travelers. Especially those of you seeking cheapskate travel tips!!

My name is Cheapo Chuck. And my motto is: You don't have to be poor to be cheap!

You're probably reading this eBook because you enjoy air travel, or you need to do so for some reason, and you're thinking of flying on the budget carrier Spirit Airlines.

Some might say that's a wise choice. Some might say it's a fate worse than death.

My take? As a card-carrying Cheapo I fly on Spirit Airlines all the time and it has it's pros and cons. The pros are the often mind-blowingly low fares. The cons are the practically flesh-eating fees.

But I'm going to give you the skinny on one of my go to choices for traveling on the cheap. Follow along with my hassle-free guide to taking advantage of the lowest fares on Spirit Airlines while dodging and ditching those dreaded fees!

Soon, you'll be travelling the way you were meant to travel.....CHEAP!!!



This myth that air travel has to be expensive is just that, a myth. If you use the tools that you already have, (duh...the internet), plus my useful tips you'll see exactly what I mean. So get ready for takeoff...and to save some serious \$\$\$!!!

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Savings 101: Join The Club

So, you're itching to get out of town for a little fun but you're on a tight budget.

Hey, nobody understands that better than your old pal Cheapo Chuck. But here's the good news. Tight budgets like yours and mine, (heck, almost everybody's these days), are exactly why Spirit Airlines exists.

I have personally taken many flights on Spirit to more than a dozen cities across America...most at insanely low fares. Some as cheap as \$46 round trip, including taxes!

Now that I have your attention, class is officially in session.

The first thing you need to do is head to www.spiritair.com and join their \$9 Exclusive Fare Club. Does this mean you'll exclusively get \$9 airline fares? Weeeelllll...no.

But, this will give you access to ticket prices even lower than the "bare fares" that Spirit Airlines touts on its website. And some are, in fact, as low as \$9 (not including taxes and fees).

Now, let's dive into one of the perks of the \$9 Exclusive Fare Club. One great advantage is that, for family or group trips, the discounts apply to your entire traveling party. Let me tell you one of Cheapo Chuck's true vacation tales.

A few months ago, a Chicago family I know took a trip from the Windy City to Fort Lauderdale, Florida for a little fun in the sun. At the regular listed price, the round trip fare, with taxes, would've been \$218 per person. That's actually pretty cheap. But not cheap enough for the Cheapo patriarch of the family.

As a member of the \$9 Exclusive Fare Club, the Cheapo Dad cut the cost of a round trip ticket to \$78, including taxes!! By the way, all 5 people on the trip got the discounted price. According to my Cheapo math, that means that instead of paying \$1,090 the entire family flew round trip for \$390!

This may sound like a low-fare fairy tale, but Chuck promises it's true. And it's just one example of how much you can save if you join the club.

Membership costs \$59.95 for one year. Renewal is automatic at the end of the term, at the rate of \$69.95, so be sure you cancel before then if you don't like the privileges of membership.

But I doubt you'll regret joining this club! Especially if you fly often with friends and family. Simply put, the more you fly the more you save. So start packing!

But, don't pack too much...



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Chapter 3

Advanced Savings: Packing Away The Fees

Okay. You've joined the \$9 Exclusive Fare Club so you can get the absolute cheapest fares to fly to your favorite destinations. And you have your brother coming by to feed the fish and bring the mail in while you're gone. You're ready to move about the country right?

Wrong!!! You still have to deal with the fees. Lots and lots of fees.

One of the drawbacks of flying Spirit is that the ticket price truly does only include the ticket, hence the term "Bare Fare". The airline literally charges for everything besides gas. And this policy can be a bit overwhelming to the uninitiated. They once charged a couple traveling with a baby extra for the baby crying too much. (Okay, that's not true, lol).

But don't panic!

I wouldn't be Cheapo Chuck if I didn't show you how to save a few bucks, right? I have strategies to eliminate or drastically reduce every single fee.

Let's start with every airline's favorite, bag fees. The entire industry has gotten out of control when it comes to what they charge for luggage and, frankly, Spirit is one of the worst.



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Spirit Airlines charges fees for carry-on and checked bags, and the amounts vary. But, your “bare fare” does include a free personal item.

This can be a purse or a diaper bag or a midsized backpack. Lady Cheapos, keep reading for an alternative to carrying a purse. Baby Cheapos, let mom or dad pack.

All other Cheapos, grab your mid-size backpack, because your good buddy Cheapo Chuck has figured out a way to fit three days’ worth of clothing and personal items into it.

As we begin the exercise of packing our belongings to avoid paying bag fees I’d like you to put yourself in the frame of mind of a soldier. Channel your inner military spirit because this is basic packing training.

First, you need to understand how much space we have to work with. After all, when you go grocery shopping you shop based on how much money you have. Spirit Airlines will only allow a bag that’s no bigger than 18 inches high by 14 inches wide by 8 inches deep. I suggest you use a backpack without wheels.

If you attempt to board the plane with a bigger carry-on, you will be stopped at the gate and required to check your bag. All for a \$65 fee....YIKES!!

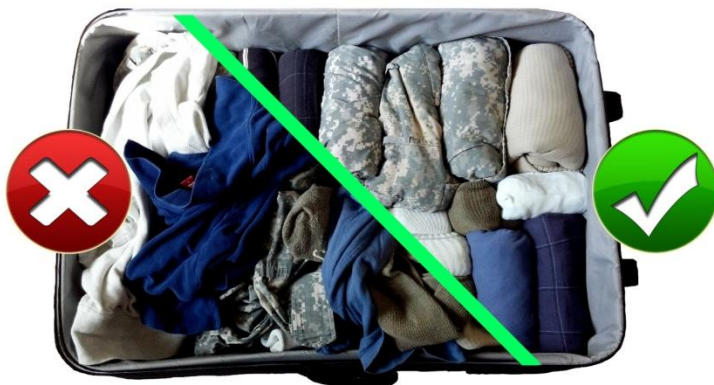
So pay close attention, because we’re in this to save money not waste money. And with all the \$\$\$ I’m helping you save maybe you’ll be extra nice and bring Cheapo Chuck a souvenir from your trip.

Alright class, now that we have the amount of space we’re working with stored in our memory bank we’ll keep moving with our training. **FORWARD....MARCH!!!**

Instead of folding clothes as you normally would when packing your suitcase, you’re going to “ranger roll” your clothes. That’s right, Cheapo Chuck is telling you to literally roll your clothes as tight as you possibly can. This will include all articles of clothing - pants, shirts, dresses in uncrushable fabrics, underwear, etc. - that you are taking on your Cheapo Trip.

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The following illustrations will show you what your clothes should look like when you've finished packing your bag:



By using this method, you can fit several days' worth of clothing into your backpack. Travel-sized hygiene products should fit easily into the bag's pockets. Boom!!! You just saved money that you can now use to have fun on your vacation!

Oh, I haven't forgotten you, Lady Cheapos. You can use a ranger rolled backpack and still carry a purse without paying an extra fee. Just bring a flexible handbag to the airport, and slip it into your backpack before boarding.

Easy, peasy, ditch the fee-sy!

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Now, as much as I hate to admit it, I realize that you might have to take a bigger bag for longer trips. Cheapo Chuck recommends "sharing the weight".

It's cheaper on Spirit Airlines to bring your larger bag as checked, rather than carry-on, luggage. In addition to being larger, a piece of checked luggage can weigh up to 40lbs.

Here's a cheapo tip:

When flying with a group, you can split your belongings amongst your traveling companions. If someone's bag is going to be heavier than 40lbs, transfer a few items to a lighter bag. This allows you to bring more stuff for less cash.

That's the Cheapo Chuck way.

Spirit Airlines bag fees vary based on when you pay and the type of bag you are taking. The cheapest options apply to checked luggage, carry-on bags always cost a little more.

Here's the price breakdown:

- \$21 per checked bag – When you pay for a bag at the same time you book your flight. This is the Peak Cheap option for when rangers rolled clothes won't do.
- \$31 per checked bag – When you pay for a bag when searching for flights. You'd only use this option when you're all packed, but you're not ready to pull the trigger on an itinerary.
- \$52 per checked bag – When you pay for a bag with a Spirit agent at the airport. That's right, you get to stand in line for the privilege of paying \$31 extra for your bags when you could have just done it at home online. Does old Cheapo Chuck even have to say what he thinks of this option?
- \$65 per checked bag – When you pay for a bag at the gate prior to boarding. Cheapo Chuck can only assume you'd only chose this option if you were fleeing a zombie apocalypse.

Bottom line, lay out what you need for your trip and decide, before you book your flight, whether you can "ranger roll" a free personal bag or if you'll need to take a conventional suitcase. Since there's almost no way to avoid bag fees altogether these days, this early prep work will at least lead to paying the 'CHEAPEST' price.

Please note:

The fees listed are for the \$9 Exclusive Fare Club members only. If you're not in the club the price is about 25% higher. But that doesn't matter to you because Cheapo Chuck knows you've joined the club, right?

Moving on. Prices for a carry-on bag are little higher. But I, grudgingly, admit that sometimes you need access to the contents of your bag during a flight.

So here's a breakdown of the carry-on fee schedule.

\$31 per carry-on bag – When you pay for a bag at the same time you book your flight. (Peak Cheap!)

\$40 per carry-on bag – When you pay for a bag when searching for flights. (If you must)

\$62 per carry-on bag – When you pay for a bag with a Spirit agent at the airport. (Don't be a sucker.)

\$65 per carry-on bag – When you pay for a bag at the gate prior to boarding. (Zombies! Run!)

Once again, there's no need for me to repeat this but I will anyway...PAY FOR BAGS IN ADVANCE!!!

That about covers getting you and your precious cargo on the aircraft for the least amount of cash. Woohoo!! But this class hasn't adjourned yet!!

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It's time to get a seat... because Cheapo Chuck ain't standing up all the way to Florida!!! You'll be shocked to learn that our good friends at Spirit Airlines charge between \$2 and \$50 to select specific seats. Okay, maybe you're not shocked. But don't worry, Cheapo Chuck has a loophole for avoiding this fee, too!!

The one way to beat this fee is to simply decline or skip selecting a seat when booking your flight online. If you agree to a randomly selected seat, you won't be charged a fee. Just login to your flight reservation within the 24 hours before your scheduled departure and find out which seat will be assigned to you.

But Chuck, you might ask, won't I end up sitting in a middle seat in the back of the plane next to a crying baby and fragrant bathroom? Weeeellll...yeah, probably.

Still, you won't have to pay another fee for the seat that's already included in your fare. Cheapo Chuck says get your butt to the back of the plane and be happy you have a few more dollars in your pocket for cool stuff. Like food, drinks, shows, attractions and, of course, a nice souvenir for yours truly.

Now, I'll level with you, Cheapo Chuck is NOT 6' feet 7" tall. If you are, I won't judge if you pay a bit more for an exit row seat.

Whew!! You'll never know how hard it was for Cheapo Chuck to write that.



AISLE SEAT



MIDDLE SEAT



WINDOW SEAT

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Okay guys and gals we're almost ready to get the heck outta town for a bit. Let's run down our cheap travel checklist:

- We've used the \$9 Exclusive Fare Club to book our flight Cheapo Chuck style.
- We've minimized or eliminated bag fees by using the "ranger roll" packing technique and being smart about how and when we pay for luggage.
- And we've avoided the seat selection fee altogether by...not selecting and just sitting.

All that's left is to get our boarding pass. And, wouldn't you know it, there's a fee for that. But Cheapo Chuck's got you covered.

The boarding pass charge is actually the easiest fee to avoid, in my opinion. Spirit Airlines gives you an option to check in at the airport with an agent...all for the low, low price of \$10.

Or, instead of standing in line at the airport and paying a sawbuck, you can sit at home in your underwear, pull up your reservation online and print your boarding pass for FREE!! No printer or home computer...no problem. Put on some pants and print it out at work. If all else fails, you can even print them at the fancy airport kiosk. Sometimes there's a fee for this and sometimes there isn't, but it always costs less than paying for an agent to print it at the Spirit Airlines counter. So don't do it!!

BOARDING PASS

Passenger _____

Flight N° _____

From _____ → To _____

TIME _____ DATE _____ SEAT _____ GATE _____

PASSENGER

NAME _____ DATE _____

FROM _____ TO _____

FLIGHT N° _____ SEAT _____

GATE _____

Barcode: [Barcode]

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Compromise = \$\$\$\$

We're pretty much ready to go and enjoy a much needed getaway. Now you just have to get to the airport and board the plane. And no guys, I'm sorry to inform you but Cheapo Chuck hasn't figured out a way to circumvent the cost of airport parking or taking a cab or rideshare to the airport – believe me, I'm working on it!

But I think it's useful to reflect on the fact that being flexible and open to compromise has allowed you to save plenty of money that can now be used to have fun on your trip. Think about it, would it really have been worth more money out of your pocket just to pick a seat on the plane that you'll only be on for a short period of time? Or to have an airline representative at the airport to check you in when you can easily do it yourself? Or to pay for a bag for a short trip when you could use great packing techniques like the "ranger roll"?

Of course, the answer to all of these questions is no!



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Last call for boarding...let's go!!

We've now come to the end of our journey. But before we part ways, for now I'd like to leave you with a few additional money saving tips. Some of them are Spirit Airlines specific and some are good for anytime you want to get away with a little extra disposable income. Think of it as prizes for penny pinchers.

- Tip 1: Spirit Airlines allows you to bring food and drinks on your flight at no cost (at least they do as of the date of this publication). And TSA is fussy, but you can bring most packaged snacks into the airport, so go for it.
- Tip 2: You're also allowed to bring an empty water bottle through security and there are plenty of water fountains you can use to fill it up. Boom, you've just avoided having to pay for a \$4 bottle of local tap water from the airport store.
- Tip 3: Beware of the Spirit Airlines MasterCard that will likely be offered to you at some point during your flight. They do a good job with the inflight sales pitch but, shockingly, the card does have a significant annual fee. Chuck's not saying don't do it, but keep that hefty fee in mind as you weigh the benefits of the card.



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Tip 4: Don't try to sneak a carry-on bag onboard when you should have checked it. Spirit Airlines boards by zone numbers, so they know whether or not a passenger has paid for a carry-on bag.

Well, I guess we've got to wrap this up. I think I've saved you enough money for now and you have a plane to catch.

But don't worry, Cheapo Chuck will be back soon with more money saving tips and tactics relevant to all types of great topics.

Have a safe trip!!

And don't forget Cheapo Chuck's souvenir!!



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