YOUR TRAVEL AI

The Travel *Playbook*

The rules that separate a good trip from an expensive, tiring one, and what your Travel AI does with them for you.



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INSIDE

One trip hides around a hundred decisions.

Most of the money and time on a trip is lost in decisions nobody thinks about: the day you fly, where the hotel really is, the rule nobody checked. This playbook collects the ones that matter most, from how experienced travellers actually plan. Read it once. Your Travel AI applies it every time.

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How to use it. Every chapter ends with an *Ask your AI* line: the command that makes your AI do it for you, adjusted to your Travel DNA and checked against current official sources.



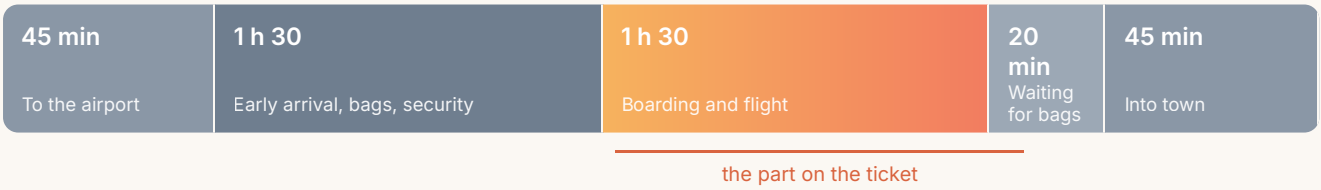
CHAPTER 00

Why travel is harder than it looks

Prices change by the day, rules change by the season, and the cheapest-looking option is often the most expensive once everything is counted. Take a typical “one-hour” flight between two European cities.

THE “ONE-HOUR” FLIGHT, DOOR TO DOOR

about 5 hours



Add bag and seat fees and the €30 ticket is rarely €30. A train from city centre to city centre often wins on time, money and nerves. That is the idea behind this whole playbook: judge whole journeys, for the person taking them.



CHAPTER 01

Where and when

If your dates are open, choose the month first and the destination second. The same place can be magical or miserable depending on weather, crowds, prices and events.

01 **Shoulder season wins**

Just before or after the peak you get the same place for less money and with more space. July, August, Christmas and Easter are the most expensive weeks.

02 **Famous is not automatically better**

Next to most icons sits a quieter place with the same thing: Naxos or Milos for Santorini, Puglia for Amalfi, Cassis for Saint-Tropez, Bologna for another day in Rome.

03 **Winter is underrated**

Vienna, Prague and Budapest with cafés, thermal baths and Christmas markets, or the Alps by train, often cost far less than in summer.

04 **Short trips need short journeys**

Cap the flight time for a long weekend so that travelling doesn't eat the trip.

Ask your AI year plan builds your personal 12-month calendar of where to go and when, around your climate, budget and wish list.



CHAPTER 02

Flights

There is no secret booking day. Fares follow demand and how many cheap seats are left, so flexibility beats tricks.

01 **Move the dates, not the browser**
One or two days earlier or later, or Tuesday instead of Friday, saves more than any hack. Use the price calendar and set an alert.

02 **Book long-haul 2–3 months ahead**
Last-minute panic is where people overpay. Book the flight before a hotel you can cancel for free.

03 **Count the total**
Bags, seats and the airport transfer turn a cheap fare into an expensive one.

04 **Business class is a bed**
Worth it on overnight long-haul when you land with plans, or above 12 hours. On a daytime flight of four or five hours, economy plus a better hotel wins.

05 **Choose the seat, not just the fare**
Avoid the last row: no recline, toilets, engine noise. Couples without paid seats: aisle and window in a row of three near the back.

06 **A long layover can be a free city**
Some airlines offer free or cheap stopover hotels or tours, for example in Istanbul or Doha.

Ask your AI new trip at the flight step, your AI compares dates around yours, fare rules, baggage and seats against your Travel DNA before you book.



CHAPTER 03

Where to stay

Location decides more about a trip than the room itself.

01 **Central beats cheap**
A hotel that costs a little more but sits where you want to be saves taxis, time and energy. Look at the map before the price.

02 **Fewer bases, three nights each**
Every hotel change costs half a day. Use day trips from strong bases: Florence for Tuscany, Nice for the Riviera.

03 **Sleep where the day-trippers leave**
Venice, Matera, Ronda and similar places change completely in the evening, once the coaches have gone.

04 **Ask for a better room**
Write to the hotel itself a couple of days before: a real occasion, an earlier stay, your room wishes and that any upgrade would be appreciated.

Ask your AI upgrade ask · direct request draft the message to the hotel and ask for its best direct rate.



CHAPTER 04

Planning the days

The best trips are not the fullest ones. A good day has one thing worth remembering and room around it.

01 **The 1-1-1 rule**
Every day: one experience only this place offers, one meal that is truly local, and one block of time just for you.

02 **Leave one to two hours open**
That is where the café you stumble into or the market nobody mentioned happens.

03 **Beat the coach groups**
Big sights are busiest from about 10:00 to 15:00. Go at opening time or late in the day.

04 **Travel in one direction**
Let the map set the order of your stops instead of zigzagging between cities.

05 **Icons, the clever way**
A famous hotel bar, a rooftop at sunset or a top restaurant's lunch menu give you the experience for a fraction of the price.

06 **Mind the local rhythm**
Closing days, siesta hours, public holidays and late dinner times.

Ask your AI new trip your plan comes as fixed anchors with a pool of options around them, never a minute-by-minute schedule.



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A night train is a travel day and a hotel night in one ticket.

On longer routes in Europe, sleep while you travel, wake up in the next city, and lose no day of your trip.



CHAPTER 05

Before you go

Most ruined trips are ruined before departure, by a document, a rule or a medicine nobody checked. Entry rules now change every year.

01 **Entry rules, official sites only**
Check visas and electronic permits for your passport and every country on the route, transit included. The UK needs an ETA; Europe is adding new border checks. Copycat sites charge far more.

02 **Passport validity**
Many countries want six months beyond your stay. Airlines refuse boarding otherwise.

03 **Medicines can be illegal abroad**
Some everyday cold medicines are banned in Japan; CBD is a serious offence in Singapore and the UAE. Keep originals and the prescription.

04 **Copies and offline basics**
Passport photo page and bookings saved securely offline, hotel addresses, 112 in Europe, your embassy's number.

05 **Money and phone**
A card without foreign fees, a little cash from your own bank, an eSIM before landing, offline maps and translation.

06 **Pack less, better**
Hand luggage if you can. Per pair of trousers: three tops and one layer that goes with all. Packing cubes, roll, don't fold.

Ask your AI **pre-trip check** runs through all of this for your passport, route and medication, with the official links.



CHAPTER 06

Travel day

Airports are where people are tired, rushed and distracted, which is exactly when things go missing.

01 **Valuables in one zipped bag**
Passport first, then phone and wallet, before anything reaches the belt. Never loose in a tray. Watch your bag in and out of the scanner.

02 **Never in the checked bag**
Medication, documents, chargers, electronics and one change of clothes.

03 **Before you check a bag**
Remove old tags, photograph it, put a tracker inside and your contact details inside and out.

04 **Watch the plane before yours**
If the aircraft flying in to pick you up is late, you will be too. The airline app shows it.

05 **Know how you get into town**
Decide before take-off. Tired travellers take the most expensive taxi.

06 **The iPhone trick**
Text the flight number, for example LX38, to yourself or whoever picks you up. It becomes a live tracker with gate, delays and baggage belt.

Ask your AI travel day gives you one card with when to leave home, your seat, lounge, connection and arrival plan.

CHAPTER 07

When things go wrong, airlines often owe you money.

On flights leaving the EU, the UK or Switzerland, or on European airlines flying in, arriving three hours or more late, a late cancellation or being bumped usually means cash compensation per person, unless the cause was truly extraordinary, such as severe weather.

€250	€400	€600
up to 1,500 km	1,500 to 3,500 km	over 3,500 km

01 **Money, not vouchers**
After a cancellation or a major schedule change you can usually choose a refund instead of a new flight or a voucher.

02 **Meals and a hotel**
Owed while you wait, even when the cause was extraordinary. Keep every receipt.

03 **Damaged or missing bag**
Report it at the baggage desk before leaving the airport. Then claim in writing: 7 days for damage, 21 days after delivery for a delay.

04 **Claim yourself first**
Claim agencies typically keep a quarter to a third of the money. US flights follow different rules.

Ask your AI emergency claim help you in the moment, then work out what you are owed and write the claim.

CHAPTER 08

Myths to forget, tricks to avoid.

MYTH	TRUE
~~Booking on a Tuesday is cheaper~~	Fares follow demand. The day you fly matters; the day you book barely does.
~~Private browsing lowers fares~~	Prices rise because the cheaper seats sell out, not because the airline saw you search.
~~The cheapest ticket is the cheapest trip~~	Bags, seats, transfers and lost hours decide the real price.
~~More cities means seeing more~~	Every hotel change costs half a day. Fewer bases, more trip.
~~Points are free money~~	Only if you redeem them well and pay your card in full every month.

Some popular hacks cost more than they save.

Tricks that break booking terms, paying a holiday rental outside its platform (you lose all protection, and it is a common scam) and entry permits from unofficial sites. Your Travel AI won't recommend them.



CHAPTER 09

Ask your AI

You don’t need to remember any of this. Your Travel AI applies these rules at every step, adjusted to your Travel DNA, and checks current facts against official sources. Type these in your AI chat:

new trip	Plans a trip with you, step by step	**year plan**	Your personal 12-month travel calendar
pre-trip check	Entry rules, passport, medication, money, phone, packing	**travel day**	When to leave, seat, lounge, connection, arrival
upgrade ask	A request to your hotel for a better room	**direct request**	The hotel’s best direct rate
airbnb check	What the rental photos don’t show	**walk now**	A spontaneous walk from where you are
emergency	Calm, step-by-step help in the moment	**claim**	What an airline owes you, and the claim

Rules, fees and entry requirements change often. Anything time-sensitive in this playbook is a reason to ask your AI, which checks the current official source before it answers.



YOUR TRAVEL AI

Travel like an expert.
Planned around you.

Independent and transparent. No commissions decide what your AI recommends: it works for you, from your own Travel DNA.

yourtravelai.club

MADE IN SWITZERLAND