

Own your coverage with Flexcare® [LEARN MORE](#)
*Source: The Globe and Mail, 2014, at 19/20 terms
 Manulife

Hidden city ticketing: How air travellers are taking chances to save big



A silhouette of an airplane flying overhead. (AP)

Facebook 121 Twitter G+ Reddit +121 Print Email

Alexandra Posadzki, The Canadian Press
 Published Monday, July 24, 2017 5:30AM EDT

TORONTO -- When Kevin, a Toronto-based entrepreneur, travels to San Francisco for work, he often books a flight to Santa Ana, Calif., instead. Then he disembarks the plane during the stopover in San Francisco and skips the last leg of the flight to southern California.

- [Scroll down or click here](#) to vote in our poll of the day

Kevin -- who didn't want his last name used to avoid any repercussions from airlines -- says the travel hack, often referred to as hidden city ticketing, has saved him thousands of dollars over the past two years.

PHOTOS



Checking the departures board at Denver International Airport, on Nov. 27, 2013. (Brennan Linsley / AP)

He says he has found flights to Santa Ana that stop in San Francisco for as little as US\$190, compared with US\$450 for a regular flight to his destination.

"It is somewhat infuriating that if an airline can get you from point A to point B for hundreds of dollars less, it does seem unfair," Kevin says.

Hidden city ticketing is not new, but its popularity has grown thanks to some travel websites that make it easier to find these sorts of flights.

But while the savings may be appealing, experts caution that the practice can be risky.

First off, the plane could be rerouted and not stop at the desired destination, leaving you scrambling to arrange another flight or mode of transportation.

Passengers using hidden city ticketing are also limited to carry-on luggage, as any checked bags will end up at the final destination, says personal finance and travel expert Barry Choi. And airlines will typically cancel return flights for those who are no-shows, he adds.

Choi says in some cases it may violate the contract between the airline and the passenger.

"Some of them state that you cannot purchase these types of tickets," he says. "So if you do, buyer beware."

According to Choi, it's more common to find such deals when flying across the border or within the U.S. than within Canada.

The Canadian Transportation Agency says the federal government does not have a stance on hidden city ticketing as the matter is addressed in most airlines' contracts with their passengers.

Air Canada says its terms and conditions require all segments of a trip to be flown as booked.

"Should a customer not take one of the flights, it is considered as a 'no-show,' and as per standard industry practice described in our tariff rules, the rest of the flights in the itinerary could be cancelled," spokeswoman Angela Mah said in an email.

2017 CHEROKEE
 AWARD WINNING INTERIOR

 Jeep BUILD YOUR OWN

Advertisement

BNN VIDEOS

TOP PICKS
 Keith Richards' Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF

WATCH: Keith Richards' Top Picks

AMGEN (AMGN)
 Keith Richards discusses Amgen

WATCH: Keith Richards discusses Amgen

CN RAIL (CNQ)
 Keith Richards discusses CN Rail

WATCH: Keith Richards discusses CN Rail

BROOKFIELD ASSET MANAGEMENT (BAM.A)
 Keith Richards discusses Brookfield Asset Management

WATCH: Keith Richards discusses Brookfield Asset Management

Powered by: BNN

MOST READ

Newborn dies in Montreal after mother was stabbed
 194,672 Views

'Team Human': U.S. paramedic glad he saved Khadr
 129,696 Views

Winnipeg man vows to fight city over unknown boulevard, calls bylaw 'slavery'
 79,859 Views

14-year-old girl drowns after trying to save dog in Edmonton
 76,641 Views

New Alberta conservative party meets, but loses caucus member Richard Starke
 67,035 Views

'Brainless billionaire': Trump under fire in latest video from al-Shabab extremists
 46,584 Views

MOST WATCHED

Fists fly at Scarborough No Frills over parking

Edmonton man run over in road rage incident

WestJet says it has no policy regarding hidden city ticketing because it is very rarely used on its flights.

"Due to how we price our fares, hidden city ticketing would be a very rare occurrence on WestJet as it would usually cost less to fly to A to B than from A, B, to C," spokeswoman Lauren Stewart said in an email.

"We would, overall, discourage this as it can cause operational delays and disruption to the second leg of the journey should the guest choose to no-show after checking in."

Russell Hannon, a budget travel expert, says he hasn't heard of any instances where airlines have taken action against passengers for hidden city ticketing. But if it becomes a major issue for the companies they may do so in the future, he says.

Choi says it's important to keep in mind that skipping a connecting flight can cause delays for other travellers, as the airline will usually try to ensure that all passengers are on board before taking off.

He also says the travel hack could end up hurting consumers in the long run. If airlines see their profits eroding, they will likely pass those costs on to customers in the form of higher ticket fees, he says.

"That means you may save \$200 now, but when airlines realize those losses, they're going to start charging more."

 121     121

 

[Report Error](#)

[Extended: Customer attacks robber](#) 

[CTV National News: Tragedy in Texas](#) 

[CTV National News: Royal brothers open up](#) 

[Child dies after pregnant woman stabbed](#) 

MYNEWS 

Share your image or video

[Upload Now](#)

TOP VIDEO



[Newborn baby dies after mother stabbed in Montreal](#)



[Saskatoon man in wheelchair target of alleged random attack](#)



['He could've killed me': Man allegedly run over in Edmonton](#)

DON'T MISS



[The strange history of U.S. presidential pets](#)



[Backyard transformation: From shipping container to pool](#)



[Time-lapse: Northern lights from space](#)

TODAY'S QUESTION

How often do you check baggage on a commercial flight?

[Always](#)

[Sometimes](#)

[I try not to](#)

[View results](#) [View the latest polls](#)

Related Article

[Hidden city ticketing: How air travellers are taking chances to save big](#)

MORE NEWS FROM BUSINESS »



[IMF raises outlook for economic growth in Canada, expected to be tops for G7](#)

- [S&P downgrades Manitoba's credit rating](#)
- [Canadian dollar hits 80-cent US mark amid further signs of economic strength](#)
- [UPDATED 'Energizer Bunny' loonie to peak near 80 cents US: experts](#)
- [Infrastructure bank studied as funding option for U.S.-Canada high-speed rail](#)
- [In Google vs. the EU, a \\$2.7B fine could just be the start](#)

JOIN THE CONVERSATION...

        

CANADA »



14-year-old girl drowns after trying to save dog in Edmonton

- Statistics show spike in crime in Manitoba, Saskatchewan
- Toronto-area police warn parents after release of woman who poisoned children

WORLD »



No Russia collusion, Trump son-in-law Kushner tells Congress

- Woman "slapped" squad car before Minneapolis police shooting: warrant
- McCain making dramatic Senate return for crucial health vote

ENTERTAINMENT »



Bieber cancels rest of tour for 'unforeseen circumstances'

- 'Dear Chester': Linkin Park releases statement about band member's death
- 'Dunkirk' triggers war-time memories for 97-year-old war veteran

HEALTH »



South African girl, 9, is third child with HIV remission: study

- Ontario mulls requiring disclosure of pharmaceutical payments made to doctors
- Alberta latest province to cover the cost of abortion pill Mifegymiso

POLITICS »



First Nations ink agreement with Ottawa, Ontario for more control of health care

- Carving out Canada's history: The work of Dominion Sculptors
- Taxes, census, treaties are obligations in new Canadian citizenship guide

SCI-TECH »



Microsoft cans Paint program with next Windows update

- Last orca calf born in captivity at a SeaWorld park dies
- Phelps loses to simulated shark by 2 seconds in 'Shark Week' race

BUSINESS »



IMF raises outlook for economic growth in Canada, expected to be tops for G7

- S&P downgrades Manitoba's credit rating
- Canadian dollar hits 80-cent US mark amid further signs of economic strength

AUTOS »



New pursuit-rated Ford F-150 police pickup is built to protect and serve

- Jaguar announces XJ 2018 upgrades
- German automakers' shares fall on diesel emissions concerns

SPORTS »



Jamaica stuns Mexico 1-0 to reach CONCACAF Gold Cup final

- Calgary urged to wait for more details before deciding on 2026 Olympic bid
- Martin homers, Liriano solid as Blue Jays beat Oakland As 4-2

LIFESTYLE »



B.C. teen swims across English Channel to raise thousands for charity

- Beer made for women sparks online outcry
- Researchers find buying time makes people happier than they may realize

CTV NEWS ON THE GO »



Former bishops found guilty of practicing polygamy in B.C.

- ▶ Princes open up about their mom Diana in new doc
- ▶ Thousands living in 'unsatisfactory' camps

IN PICTURES »



Homes of the Month: Quebec edition

- Powerful earthquake hits Greek island
- Comic-Con International in San Diego

Advertise on CTVNews.ca | Advertise with Bell Media | About CTV | Careers | CTV News Story | Press Room | Producer Guidelines | Contact Us |



Local News CTV News Atlantic | CTV News Calgary | CTV News Edmonton | CTV News Kitchener | CTV News Montreal | CTV News Northern Ontario | CTV News Ottawa | CTV News Regina | CTV News Saskatoon | CTV News Toronto | CTV News Vancouver | CTV News Winnipeg |

CTV Two Atlantic | Alberta | Barrie | London | Ottawa | Windsor | Vancouver Island |

CTV News Programs CTV National News | Power Play | W5 | CTV Question Period |

Video Sign In | CTV News GO | Video Help | CTV News on Mobile |

Subscribe to Newsletters | Manage Subscriptions |

View Mobile Site |

Use of this Website assumes acceptance of Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy