

How Creating My Own Layovers Saved Me Thousands.

The flight-booking trick that helped me save around \$500 on one trip, and how you can try it yourself.

01 / WHY I DO THIS

Booking one ticket isn't always the cheapest way.

I've traveled to 36 countries, and one habit has saved me more on flights than any deal alert: before I book a trip with a connection, I check what it costs in separate pieces.

Booking sites sell you one ticket with the connection built in. But the cheapest way there is sometimes two flights you book yourself, connecting in a city *you* choose. That's creating your own layover.

02 / MY EXAMPLE

Labuan Bajo → Bali → Da Nang.

Flying from Labuan Bajo, Indonesia to Da Nang, Vietnam, I booked one flight to Bali and a separate flight from Bali to Da Nang. Compared with the one-ticket options I was finding, it saved me **around \$500** on that trip.

What "separate tickets" means: each flight is its own booking, often with a different airline. Nobody gets you from the first flight to the second except you, so you'll usually collect your bags and check in again. Booking sites sometimes call this a **self-transfer**.



03 / FIVE STEPS TO TRY IT YOURSELF

01 Price the one-ticket trip first.

Search your full route on [Google Flights](#) or [Skyscanner](#) for your dates. Note the cheapest total with bags. That's the number to beat.

02 Find a good connecting city.

See where those itineraries connect, plus nearby hubs and budget-airline bases.

03 Price each flight on its own.

Search one-way to the hub, then the hub to your destination. Check airline sites too: some budget airlines don't show up in every search.

04 Add up the real total.

Bags on every flight, transport, food, a hotel if you stay overnight, and any entry fees at the hub.

05 Compare, then decide.

Book separately only if the savings are still worth it after page 2's checks. If it's close, one ticket is usually the simpler choice.

What to check before you book.

Separate tickets can save real money, but you take on a few jobs the airline would normally handle. None of these are reasons to skip the trick. They're the things to price in and plan for.

01

Missed connections

On separate tickets, the second airline usually isn't responsible if your first flight is late. Miss it and you may be treated as a no-show and need a new ticket. Leave a real buffer, and check whether your travel insurance covers missed connections on separate bookings.

03

Visas and immigration

To recheck bags, you may have to pass immigration at the connecting airport, so you may need to meet that country's entry rules too. Check the official government source for your passport (for U.S. citizens, travel.state.gov) before booking.

02

Bags and rechecking

Expect to collect your bags and check them in again. Each airline has its own allowance and weight limits, and budget airlines often charge per flight. Price bags on every ticket.

04

Connection time and overnights

Allow time to land, clear immigration, collect bags and check in again before the counter closes. If the timing means a night at the hub, add the hotel and transport, or turn it into a short stopover on purpose.

COMPARE THE TOTAL, NOT THE FARE

	ONE TICKET	SEPARATE TICKETS
Flights	\$	\$ + \$
Checked bags	\$	\$ + \$
Transport, food, hotel at the hub	—	\$
Entry or visa fees at the hub	—	\$
Your total	\$	\$

Fill this in for your own route. A cheaper fare can disappear once you add a second bag fee and a night at the airport. A cheaper *total* is the only number that counts.

BEFORE YOU BOOK / CHECKLIST

- ☐ I know the one-ticket price for my dates.
- ☐ Names match my passport on both bookings.
- ☐ My total includes bags on every flight.
- ☐ I have a plan if the first flight is late.
- ☐ There's time to recheck bags between flights.
- ☐ The savings are still worth it.
- ☐ I meet the connecting country's entry rules.

Prices, baggage rules and entry requirements change, so confirm them with the airline and official sources before you book. Separate tickets won't be cheaper every time, but they're always worth checking. More free tools: callmebyzach.com/free-resources.