

Attention travelers! Airlines are looking to improve their financial positions so recently some travelers have been charged additional fees by the airlines for violating their tariff rules or conditions of sale. The fee is usually the difference between their full-priced fare and the discount price paid, which can be significant. Each airline has slightly different definitions so we have included a couple for your review. Ask your travel agent to confirm with the airline if you are unsure whether your purchase violates any rules, because you are ultimately responsible for these additional fees.

Back to back ticketing (also known as "back ticketing") is the practice of purchasing two or more discounted tickets with overlapping travel dates in order to circumvent minimum stay requirements. (United Airlines)

Back-to-back ("Throw Away") ticketing enables a traveler to use one segment from each of two round-trip discount tickets to avoid paying a higher fare for either one round-trip ticket or two separate one-way tickets. (American Express)

Hidden city ("Point Beyond") ticketing enables a traveler to purchase a ticket to a "false" final destination that has a stop-over in his/her actual desired final destination where the ticket to the "false" final destination is available at a lower fare than a ticket to the actual desired final destination. The traveler de-boards at the stopover destination and never uses the second portion of the flight. (American Express)

Hidden city ticketing (also known as "cross border ticketing" and "beyond ticketing") is the booking and ticket issuance of travel documents containing segments not intended for use. This is done in an attempt to manipulate the pricing structure. By using coupons out of order, the traveler violates the conditions of contract and voids the entire ticket. (United Airlines)

Churning is any repeated booking or canceling of the same itinerary in the same class or different classes of service across one or more passenger name records or CRSS' including, without limitation, to circumvent or extend ticket time limits, hold inventory or meet CRS productivity requirements. (American Express)

Double booking enables a traveler to book two different flights on the same day, from the same airport, within short time periods of each other so that the traveler can decide, on his/her actual day of travel, which flight better fits into his/her schedule. This practice deliberately holds inventory that won't be used. Usually this occurs with flights on the same airline but can also be done on two different airlines. (American Express)