



Daily Telegraph
Wednesday 10/8/2011
Page: 27
Section: Business News
Region: Sydney
Circulation: 341,262
Type: News Item
Size: 56.25 sq.cms.
Published: MTWTFS-

Brief: WTF_MENT
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Cheapest flights may have catch

Karen Collier

JETSETTERS are saving hundreds of dollars surfing the net for the cheapest flights. But some travellers are getting caught in a web of excessive fees on top of airline surcharges, a review warns.

A consumer road test has found that for domestic trips, comparison sites are often best used to

check costs, but not necessarily to buy, because of steep booking, cancellation and flight change fees. However, for overseas flights, sites offered savings of hundreds of dollars, or up to 25 per cent, even when booking.

The Choice research reveals passengers dealing with some sites are being slugged up to \$50 to book online, up to \$110 to

change flights, and up to \$500 to cancel. It rated jetabroad.com.au, zuji.com.au and wotflight.com (to/from New Zealand only) as top picks in a snapshot survey of economy return flights to the UK, US and across the Tasman.

Spokeswoman Ingrid Just said travellers could save hundreds by expanding searches beyond best-known flight comparison sites.