

HOW TO AVOID FLIGHT DELAYS

You know the best time to book a flight but when is the best time to fly?

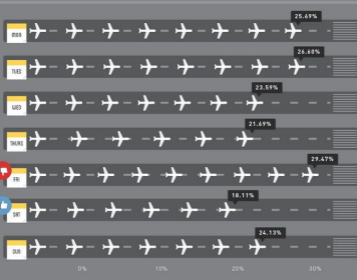
CHANCE OF DELAY AS THE DAY PROGRESSES



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|---------|-----------|
| LONDON | DEPARTING |
| CHICAGO | BOARDING |
| ROME | DELAYED |
| TOKYO | DELAYED |
| PARIS | DELAYED |

An example of this is when a flight has been delayed because the crew is waiting for a plane to arrive from another destination.

PERCENTAGE OF FLIGHTS THAT WERE DELAYED



Day of the week | Best day to fly | Worst day to fly | Total # of flights



FRIDAY has more flights on average than any other day of the week. With more flights happening, there are more opportunities for delays to be "picked up".

So increased flight volume here means an increased likelihood of delays!

SATURDAY has less flights than any other day of the week and therefore a reduction in the likelihood of delays.

BEST AND WORST AIRPORTS TO FLY TO AVOID DELAYS

Best Airports

- Portland International Airport (PDX) - Portland, OR
- Seattle/Tacoma International Airport (SEA) - Seattle, WA
- Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) - Charlotte, NC



Worst Airports

- Chicago O'Hare International (ORD) - Chicago, IL
- Dallas/Fort Worth International (DFW) - Dallas, TX
- George Bush Intercontinental (IAH) - Houston, TX

The worst airports tend to act as hubs for major carriers.



Chicago O'Hare is United Airlines's hub

Dallas/Fort Worth is American Airlines's hub

George Bush Intercontinental is also a hub for United Airlines

These airlines use what is called the hub and spoke model as a way to save money by centralizing operations. Most of the flights they send through a hub is on the way to somewhere else. This means these flights are likely to "pick up" delays as they pass through one of these major hubs. The more connecting flights and overscheduling at a hub airport the more delays that airport will be likely to have!

GATE 5 FLIGHT 2

CHICAGO BOARDING

Conclusion

If you've got the chance, choose an airport that does not act as a hub for a major airline or an airline that doesn't use an airport as a hub, early on a Saturday morning! You'll drastically reduce your chance of suffering through a delay.

SOURCES

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getairhelp.com