

# 4 Ways to Book a “Round the World” Ticket for Cheaper Than You Thought

There are four main ways to do it, each of which will appeal to a different type of traveler. Cost varies of course, but in general, the more ambitious/flexible you want your trip to be, the more it will cost.

## OPTION #1: THE AIRLINE ALLIANCES

The three big Alliances are [One World](#), [SkyTeam](#) and [Star Alliance](#), each of which includes many different airlines around the world. Each Alliance lets you plot your trip on a similar map-interface before giving you an estimated price

### Downsides

1. Though the base-price for an Star Alliance RTW trip isn't too bad (\$3,000 or so), it jumps up quickly if your trip is at all complicated.
2. Not every city is served by a particular Alliance, you might need sub-trips to get to some destinations, interesting restrictions

### Upsides

1. If you're willing to be flexible and really game the rules, you can put a pretty awesome trip together for not a bad price.
2. since the airlines you're flying are all on the same team, you can absolutely CRUSH the miles game.
3. Additionally, the restrictions can work in your favor sometimes, throwing in fun, free stops you might not have thought of otherwise

### Bottom Line

**Pick this option** if you're able to be a little flexible about your destinations and route, if you're loyal to a particular airline and want to really max out your rewards,

## OPTION #2: TICKET BROKERS

Can get you a surprisingly good deal on your crazy trip while taking care of a lot of the footwork for you.

### Downsides

1. Since these brokers use every trick in the book to get you a great deal while still making a profit, you won't get as many miles, since your 15-flight trip might be on 14 different airlines, none of whom are partner

## UPSIDES

1. The biggest advantages of brokers are the great flexibility and the expert advice. These guys know their travel, and can save you money having you land-trek some portions, and adding in extra stops where it's free
2. they're often cheaper, too - typically ranging from \$3,000-\$7,000 for some very ambitious trips.

## BOTTOM LINE

**Pick this option if** you want a great balance of easy, flexible and affordable. Brokers ranked high in all three categories.

## OPTION #3: DO NONE OF IT YOURSELF (Pre-Planned Packages)

Maybe you haven't really thought about where you want to go, or are just too busy to do much planning. Other companies, like RTW and STA, have already-packaged RTW trips that hit popular destinations and require almost no effort.

## DOWNSIDES

1. You're not going to as much flexibility from a trip that's already planned for you,
2. restrictions abound
3. If your RTW trip only has stops in four countries, and you've already been to two of them, you might be better off taking a cruise.

## UPSIDES

1. Because these trips tend to hit popular destinations with huge airports, they can be the most affordable options out there, and they require little planning for you, the busy traveler

## BOTTOM LINE

**Pick this option if** you're on the ends of the cash spectrum: either you don't mind spending a ton of money, or want to save a ton of it. If you're an itinerant college student, there's no cheaper way to go around the world.

## OPTION #4: DO ALL OF IT YOURSELF (The Super Hack)

**You** want to have extreme control over every piece of your amazing journey. ITA Software's [MATRIX SEARCH](#)\*\*\* is like Kayak on steroids. It can do things that are way too complicated for most travel sites (and most users, I should add), basically by stripping out all the shortcuts and adding a lot more variables.

\*\*\* Note: Tickets cannot be purchased directly from ITA Software. If you find a fare you like, you can give the information from this site to your travel agent or airline when making a booking.

## **DOWNSIDES**

1. Doing it all yourself is going to take far more time and know-how than any of the above options, and not having an expert handy regarding things like Visas and travel conditions could slow down your planning — or your trip.

## **UPSIDES**

1. ***It's not easy***, but with enough time and determination, you could theoretically book an RTW Trip going anywhere, with any specs you like, perhaps for cheaper than any other options.

## **BOTTOM LINE**

**Pick this option if know computers... or know travel... or know you're very determined/picky**. Then again, if you know all these things, you probably already know about Matrix, and don't need us.