

# Last minute travel

## Advantages and Disadvantages of Last Minute Travel

**L**ast-minute travel is generally defined as travel taking place within about 14 days from when you booked.

Many airlines, hotels and travel agents offer major discounts on last minute reservations because it is better for them to earn at least something instead of nothing. Last minute travel deals are therefore one of the best ways to save a lot of money when travelling.

The greatest advantage of last minute travel is of course that it enables many people to visit places they otherwise could not afford.

The second benefit enjoyed by last minute travellers is surprise and adventure. Vacationers often find themselves drawn to states and countries they would never have considered.

On the other hand, last minute arrangements go hand in hand with uncertainty and require lots of flexibility and at least some adventurous spirit. In contrast to the traditional way of travelling, tourists often do not know where they are going to end up when making last minute reservations. They can be completely satisfied and have the best vacation ever, but they might also be very disappointed with the deal. Last minute travel can be stressful for some people and may not be the best idea if they are not willing to take any chances when it comes to their vacation.



Another disadvantage of last minute travel is the fact that holiday makers most likely will not be able to find a great deal for more than two people. For that reason, last minute travel may not be the best choice if they prefer to travel with more than one person.

Great last minute offers can be found both during the high season and off-season, but it may be challenging to find a great last minute deal in the most popular destinations during the peak season.

Tourists should be also very careful about last minute deals which, in reality, are not last minute at all. Due to increased popularity of last minute travel, many travel agents advertise their packages as last minute although their customers are paying the full price. It is important to keep in mind that last minute deals that are offered weeks or even months before departure are not last minute.

Last minute travel is very popular but it may not be the best choice if vacationers are considering making a last minute reservation for financial benefits alone. Travelling should be fun, not stressful, so, if customers are not sure whether they are the "type" for last minute travel, the travel agent should perhaps consider suggesting other ways to reduce the costs for travelling.



1 Read this last minute offer and choose the right answer.

### England & Scotland (Winter)

#### Itinerary

##### **London to Liverpool**

Start your tour by learning about the Royal Family's place of residence (Buckingham Palace), the horror tales of the Tower of London and the magnificent Westminster Abbey, where Prince William and Catherine Middleton were married in 2011. Head out of the big city today, we're off to Liverpool!

##### **Liverpool to York**

This morning explore this cool water-side city, on a Beatles Magical Mystery Tour. Then, back on the coach, take in the wild countryside of the Peak District as we head to York. You'll see the impressive York Minster, the Shambles and Clifford's Tower.

##### **York to Edinburgh**

Today, we take a trip to the foot of the Pennine Mountains to view Hadrian's Wall. Tonight, there's a chance to experience a hearty Scottish meal, complete with haggis and a traditional bagpiper.

##### **Edinburgh**

With a free day, explore the scene-stealing Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Mile and Holyrood Palace. For a relaxing afternoon, spend some time in Edinburgh's famous Botanical Gardens.



1. This tour will give you... .
  - a. an idea of Scottish history
  - b. a general idea of English and Scottish main locations and culture
  - c. a general idea of English pubs
2. The tour... .
  - a. starts and finishes in England
  - b. starts in England and finishes in Scotland
  - c. starts in Scotland and finishes in England
3. You can enjoy... .
  - a. an English guided tour of Edinburgh
  - b. Edinburgh by yourself
  - c. Edinburgh with your new friends



2 As a tour operator you have organised the winter tour to England and Scotland, but there are still some places available. Write a circular letter to travel agencies to promote the tour and think of an appropriate and attractive ad to promote the tour to tourists.



3 **PAIR WORK** One rings the travel agency and asks for a last minute deal. The other one suggests these alternatives. Take turns.

- a. 15 day tour of Vietnam, starts next week, some sightseeing and some sea time, \$ 2,200 pp, deluxe accommodation, all inclusive
- b. 7 nights, Greece, full board, transfers included, 4 stars hotel, \$ 1,050 pp, excursions are extra, departure in 5 days



4 Translate.

1. Can you please tell me if you have any last minute deals at the moment?
2. Do you have any last minute flight tickets to go to the US?
3. What is included in this trip in terms of accommodation and meals?
4. This last minute trip is an absolute bargain – it's all inclusive, at a special price of \$ 890.