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## Passengers have 'no idea of hidden charges'

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Passengers have to contend with "a complete minefield" of hidden charges when they prepare to sort out their travel abroad, according to aerospace information company Ascend.

Ascend's chief economist Peter Morris believes that because airlines have suffered their own price hikes in the last year, it has had a knock on effect on passengers.

However he states that the problem is that it is difficult for companies to pass costs on because the industry is so competitive so they find hidden ways to add on charges.

These charges come in many forms including charging for a coffee on board, using a credit card, for an internet booking or a check-in charge.

He added that a recent offer from British Airways allowed a passenger to travel from London to New York cost £249, but the flight only cost £30, with the rest being taxation and charges.

He concluded that "the thing that matters for the customer, despite the smokescreen over additional charges for this or that, is the final price that someone is going to pay".

A Which? Holiday report from January 2008 found that budget flights could cost up to £28 more than the advertised price. © Copyright

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