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Consumer Reports Money Adviser

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## **ASK THE ADVISER. HIGH FEES FOR FLYING.**

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Q I recently ordered two tickets to London at Continental.com. They were \$964; the taxes and fees came to \$323.80—a tax rate of 33.6 percent. Continental told me that included the currency conversion. Is there something special about traveling to London or is this a Continental aberration?

K.T., Perrineville, N.J.

A Continental didn't charge you any unusual fees. "The taxes and fees that were assessed are the standard U.S. and U.K. government taxes and fees that apply," says Joakim Karlsson, a professor of aviation management at Daniel Webster College in Nashua, N.H. According to Karlsson, the U.K. has some of the highest aviation taxes in the European Union. "The U.K. tax is complicated, as the amount depends on both distance and the class of travel," he says. The cheaper a ticket is, the higher the tax rate will appear because most of the fees are fixed dollar amounts that don't vary with the price of a ticket.

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