6 ways to build resilience in your travel program

3-minute read

When travel rates and conditions change rapidly, it can be hard to know exactly how to manage travel. But there are ways to safeguard your travel program, so it stays resilient long-term.

Take some tips from Amex GBT Consulting.

1. Know your numbers

Stay on top of projected price rises on everything from hotels to airfare to jet fuel. Also consider how high-risk destinations impact travel to other parts of the globe that are far less risky. And share your insights with budget owners.

2. Communicate price updates to travelers

The more travelers know about pricing, the easier it is for you to stay on budget. Be sure to communicate expected rate rises and reinforce the importance of booking within your corporate travel program. That way you're better equipped to manage their safety and your travel costs.

3. Promote smart booking habits

By booking flights early, travelers can secure the lowest fares and by ticketing immediately, they can lock in current surcharge rates. It's always better to book a hotel when they book their flight because you get full cost visibility of their trip. Make sure travelers take advantage of negotiated hotel amenities like complimentary breakfast, Wi-Fi, and shuttles.

4. Encourage premium economy for shorter flights

While some roles and situations warrant Business Class, in many cases it makes sense to book Premium Economy, particularly for short flights under six hours. Premium Economy balances cost and comfort, averaging 35 to 40% of Business Class airfares.

GLOBAL BUSINESS TRAVEL

Our Preferred Extras hotels and access to Booking.com help you expand trip options without compromising savings.

5. Broaden your trip options

More choice available to travelers means they have alternative options in the event of travel disruptions, hotel rate increases, or flight cancelations. Our Preferred Extras hotels and access to Booking.com help broaden your mix of hotel options at competitive rates.

6. Focus on an airline's base fares

If you have a preferred airline partner that you work with, see if their airfare increases can be reflected in base fares rather than surcharges. Base fares show the true cost upfront vs. surcharges – hidden fees. With clear base fare data, you can identify cost trends, make smarter choices in airline partners, and build a more resilient travel program.

For more action-based tips, read Business travel bulletin: The Middle East conflict with in-depth insights from Amex GBT Consulting.