Flights

- Mass monitoring round trip flight prices using Google Flights

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The most useful feature in Google Flights is this table called **Date grid** that shows you all the prices in a 7x7 grid - 7 days of outbound flights matched with 7 days of return flights. The priced shown are the cheapest round trip for that date pair. With this, I can monitor 49 round trip prices at once.

Thu Jul 27	Fri Jul 28	Sat Jul 29	Sun Jul 30	Mon Jul 31	Tue Aug 1	Wed Aug 2	
€3,994	€4,058	€4,168	€3,912	€3,994	€3,994	€3,460	Sat Aug 12
€4,473	€4,678	€4,507	€4,019	€4,665	€4,019	€4,473	Sun Aug 13
€3,950	€4,248	€4,593	€3,950	€4,229	€3,950	€3,950	Mon Aug 14
€3,950	€4,230	€4,340	€3,950	€4,166	€3,950	€3,632	Tue Aug 15
€3,950	€4,248	€4,338	€3,950	€4,229	€3,950	€3,950	Wed Aug 16
€4,166	€4,230	€4,340	€4,084	€4,166	€4,166	€3,632	Thu Aug 17
€4,391	€4,421	€4,391	€4,537	€4,391	€4,391	€4,685	Fri Aug 18

Assuming you have a target date range for your travel, you can then set your flights dates like this in Google Flights to control the Date grid boundaries.

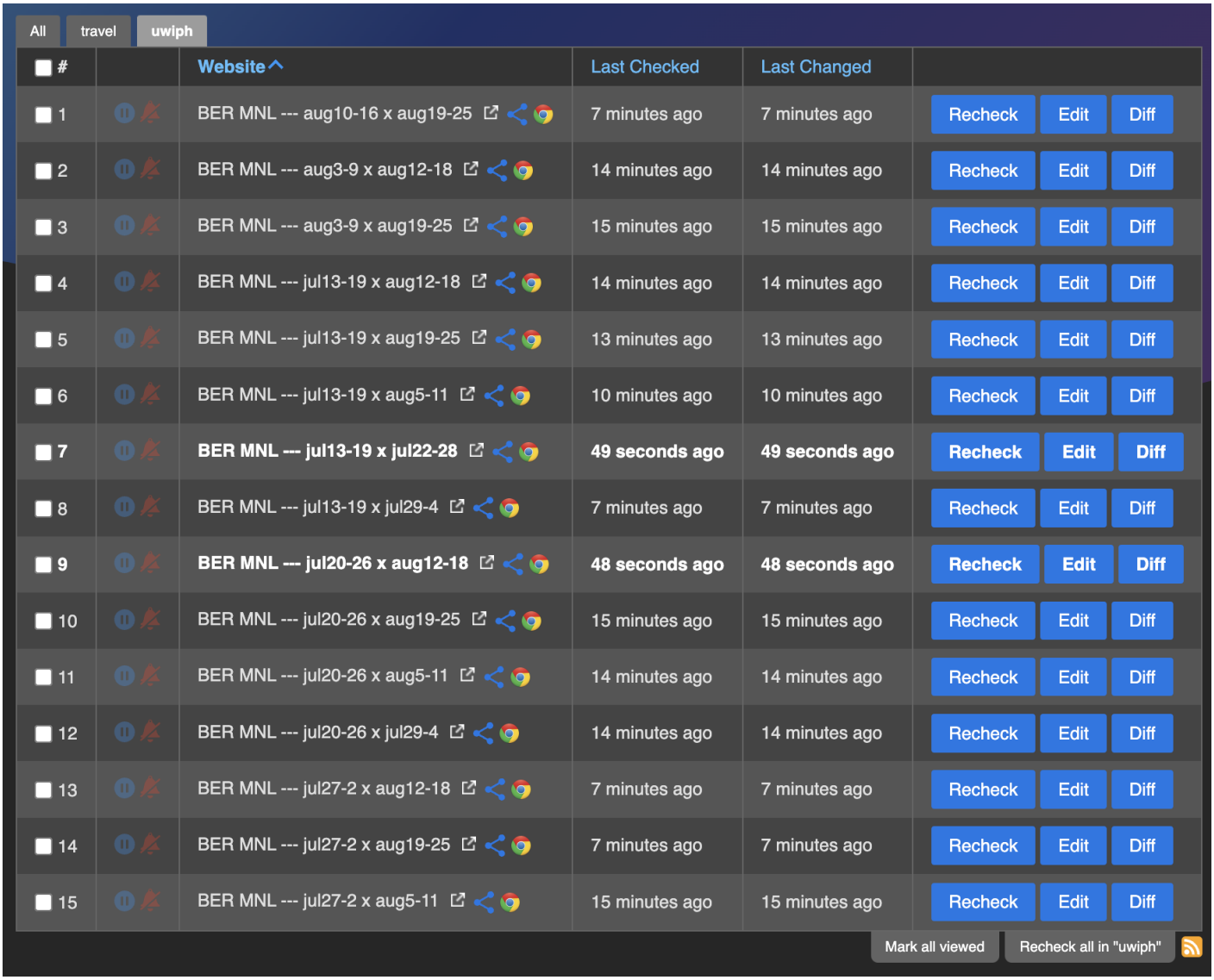
Outbound flight: Earliest date plus 3 days, e.g. July 27 + 3 days = July 30

Return flight: Latest date minus 3 days, e.g. August 18 - 3 days = August 15

Now to monitor this and notify me when there are changes, I use this tool https://changedetection.io/ I self-host this for free but you can subscribe to their service for $9 a

month.

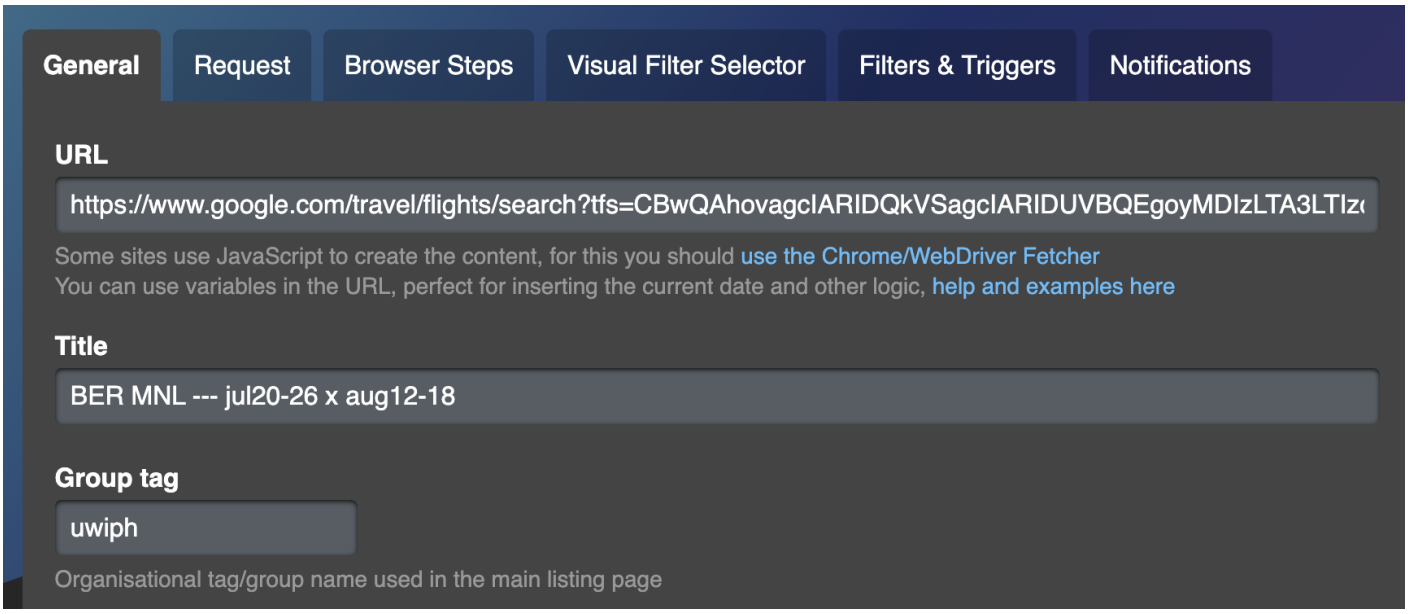
This is how it looks like in ChangeDetection.io:



For my planned travel, I have target ranges of dates for both outbound and return, and I divide them into 7 day segments. I create unique URLs in Google flights manually for each of these target dates. Example is

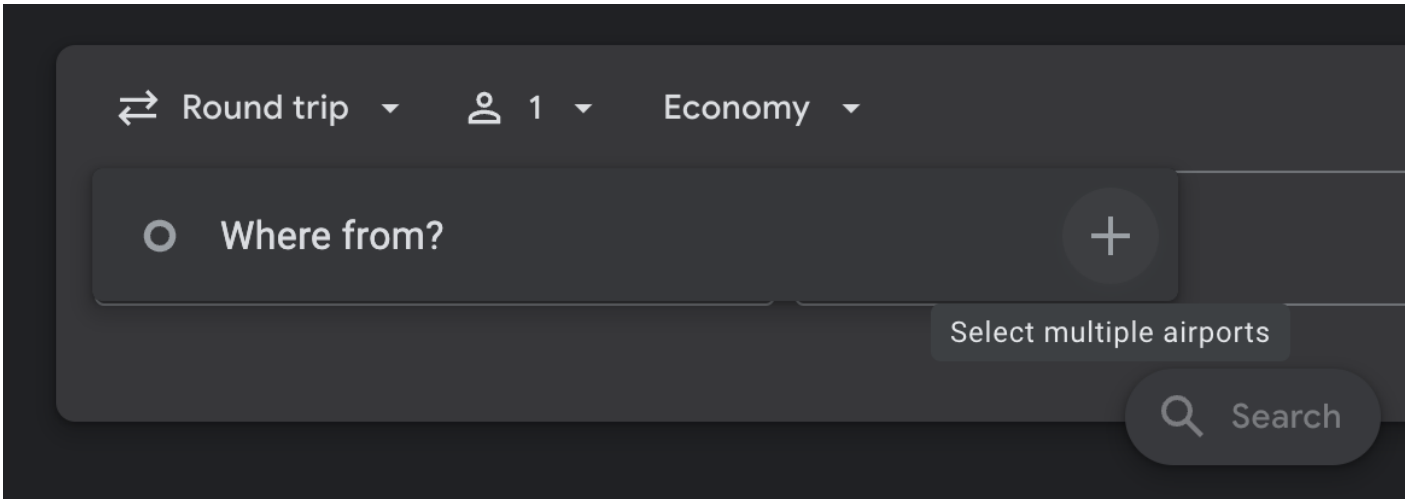
https://www.google.com/travel/flights/search?tfs=CBwQAhovagcIARIDQkVSagcIARIDUVBQEgoyMDIzLTA3LTIzcg0IAxIJL20vMDE5NXBkKAIaL2oNCAMSCS9tLzAxOTVwZBIKMjAyMy0wOC0xNXIHCAESA0JFUnIHCAESA1FQUCgCcAGCAQsI_____AUABQAFAAkACSAGYAQE&curr=EUR

Use this URL https://changedetection.io/share/YyFkaFF8brca when creating a new change detection watch and just update the URL in the edit screen to match your preferences.



There's a section "Trigger/wait for text" where you can input a regex that can detect if your target price has been reached. Mine is set at /€[1-2],[0-9][0-9][0-9]/ which means notify me when round trip tickets are between €1,xxx to €2,xxx.

Another great thing about Google Flights is that it supports searching for flights from multiple airports to multiple airports. Example: I don't mind flying from Hamburg and Frankfurt too in addition to Berlin as they're both directly accessible by train. Same with going to Philippines, I don't mind if we land in MNL or CRK. Google Flights supports this, you just have to click the "+" button in there.



After you've setup where to send the notifications, you can save the monitor and that's it.