

Already Have a Ticket to Asia? Great. Need a Ticket? Great. Discover FCF's Two-Class Upgrade to First Class for \$156 Round-Trip

August 2025

Anyone can score — all you need to know is the secret routes and the best possible premium ticketing strategy.

Getting a deal to Asia nowadays is a big pain in the bu**!

Business Class typically runs \$6,000 to \$10,000+ round-trip. First Class, \$20,000 to \$30,000. Business Class mileage redemptions for less than 200,000 miles each way are rare.

But don't despair. Deals can be had with the right strategy.

THE SAME DEAL WORKS FOR TWO DIFFERENT TRAVELERS

Traveler #1: You'd like to go to Asia - *and refuse to fly in less than Business Class* - and don't take no for an answer. You're willing to fly on short notice.

Spontaneous, you are.

Traveler #2: You've already bitten the bullet, overpaid, and are looking for relief, perhaps even a better class of service altogether.

Creamed, you got.

I've written a lot about the [Iterative Upgrade Mindset](#) lately because travelers either avoid taking trips because they can't be done both comfortably and affordably, or they're just getting creamed by dynamic pricing.

Think of my Iterative Upgrade Strategy like Kaizen, that Japanese philosophy of continuous improvement that Toyota made famous. You know, the one where you make small, incremental tweaks over time instead of trying to nail everything perfectly on the first shot.

In the travel world, this means treating your flight booking as an ongoing project on long-haul trips when comfort (and cost) really matter - not as a one-and-done transaction. Because let's face it: What are the odds you're going to find the perfect deal on your exact route, date, airline, and class of service all in one magical search when you're ready to book?

THE AIRLINES CREATED THE GAME - WE'RE JUST PLAYING IT

Here's the beautiful part: This approach turns the airlines' own game against them. See, airlines are stuck between a rock and a hard place. They've got unfilled seats that become worthless the moment that plane takes off - like unsold produce going bad at the grocery store. But they can't exactly advertise fire-sale prices without infuriating everyone who paid full freight 11 months ago.

And they certainly can't train us to wait for deals, right? (Oops, too late.)

So what do they do? They get sneaky about it.

Today we're going to talk about American Airlines' recent award availability trends (**no, you don't need any AA miles to care!**): how they release mileage award tickets close-in on SOME long-haul routes and how you can leverage this for bragging-rights upgrades or massive savings.

This actually works well with its partner, Japan Airlines, too.

Use This Strategy If:

- You're a bags-packed traveler open to a last-minute trip in a week or up to four, **OR**
- You bought a ticket 11 months ago for full price and would like to upgrade the quality or cost of your ticket

AND

- You have miles, **OR**
- You don't have miles

ASIA PREMIUM CLASS AS GOOD AS IT GETS

Check this out. When was the last time you saw **First Class** available for just **80,000** miles and \$5.60 in taxes? Or Business Class for 65,000 miles and \$5.60 in taxes?

*All screenshots from AA.com
Many Flights Operated by Japan Airlines*

American Airlines website showing flight options from Chicago, IL to Tokyo, Japan. The 'First' class is highlighted with a red arrow, showing a one-way fare of 80K miles plus \$5.60 in taxes.

Class	One way
Main	35K + \$5.60
Premium Economy	50K + \$5.60
Business	60K + \$5.60
First	80K + \$5.60 (1 seat left)

Typical First Class Fare One Way: \$15,929.80

Japan Airlines website showing flight options from Chicago to Tokyo. The 'First' class is highlighted with a red arrow, showing a one-way fare of 15,929.80.

Class	From
Business	\$ 5,591.80
First	\$ 15,929.80

NO MILES? NO PROBLEM.

Just take a look at this screenshot from AA.com. ANYONE can easily buy the miles required...

Buy or Gift miles and save up to 40% off	When you buy	You get
Use your eligible AAdvantage® credit card to earn additional miles for every dollar you spend.	3,000 - 9,000	10% off
	10,000 - 29,000	15% off
	30,000 - 89,000	20% off
	90,000 - 150,000	30% off
	151,000 - 200,000	40% off
AAdvantage® members must purchase at least 3,000 AAdvantage® miles or more in a single transaction from the Buy or Gift Miles program to be eligible for a discount. Offers to eligible members may vary and are subject to change by American without notice.		

The airline runs [sales on their miles](#) off and on all the time. Right now you can buy up to 200,000 miles for \$4,515. That comes to 2.3 cents per mile. Take a look:

Total miles
200,000
 Includes 40% discount

Total cost
\$4,515.00
 Includes taxes and discounts

Round to the nearest 1,000 miles
Minimum 2,000 miles
Maximum 200,000 miles

You only need to buy as many miles as you need. The more miles you buy, the bigger the discount.

Need even more miles? Just use my [unlimited buy-miles strategy](#).

WHAT KIND OF AIRLINE TICKET TO ASIA CAN YOU GET BY BUYING AMERICAN MILES FOR 2.3 CENTS EACH?

Flying from the U.S. to/from Japan, my [Buy Miles to Fly in Style Strategy](#) looks like this:

Chicago > Tokyo Sample Strategy Savings

Class	Typical Fare (R/T)	Miles Required (R/T)	Total Cost (One Way / Round-Trip) @ 2.3¢ Per Mile, Including Taxes	Savings + Upgrade Perspective/s
Economy	\$1,103	70000	\$805 / \$1,616	No Deal
Premium Economy	\$3,530	100000	\$1,150 / \$2,306	Save \$900
Business	\$7,020	120000	\$1,380 / \$2,766	Save \$4,254 OR get Business Class for 22% less than Premium Economy (less than free upgrade)

First	\$26,922	160000	\$1,840 / \$3,686	Save \$23,236 on First Class, OR get First Class for less than half the price of Business Class, OR get a 2-Class upgrade from Premium Economy for just \$156 R/T
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At the risk of repeating myself, that's:

1. **Save \$4,254 on Business Class** (\$460 more than Premium Economy - still a bargain for the upgrade), OR
2. **Save \$23,236 on First Class**, OR
3. Get First Class for **less than half the price of Business Class**, OR
4. Get a **two-class upgrade to First Class** from Premium Economy for just \$156 R/T

THE DATA-DRIVEN TRAVELERS ADVANTAGE

Here's what separates Iterative Upgrade travelers from conventional bookers:

- **Conventional Bookers:**
 - Accept initial search results as final
 - Book once and forget
 - Pay premium prices for "security"
 - Miss upgrade opportunities entirely
- **Iterative Upgrade Mindset Travelers:**
 - Treat initial bookings as starting points
 - Monitor systematically for improvements
 - Understand inventory patterns
 - Leverage airlines' fear of empty seats

THE FIVE SECRET ROUTES WITH CLOSE-IN BUSINESS AND FIRST CLASS SEATS TO TOKYO AND BEYOND

Route	Direction	Class of Service	Summary
Dallas - Tokyo	Outbound	Business	Good availability primarily 7-14 days out (often up to 9 seats),

			with occasional 1-2 seats showing 1-5 days before departure.
	Return		Almost nothing
	Return	First	1 seat here and there a week prior to departure
San Francisco - Tokyo	Outbound	Business	High outbound availability, often 9 seats, most consistently in the 1-10 day range, with some reaching out to 14 days.
	Return		Tight with the rare 1-2 seat day scattered in mid-range dates (4-15 days out); for up to 9 seats
Chicago - Tokyo	Outbound	Business	Consistently 9 seats from ~2 to 14 days before departure, sometimes with smaller releases (1-4 seats) sprinkled in.
		First	Scattered 1-seat availability
	Return	Business	Limited, showing scattered 1-2 seat days in the 3-14 day window, with a few 9-seat releases close-in
		First	Scattered 1-seat availability

San Diego - Tokyo	Outbound	Business	Strong close-in availability, with multiple 9-seat releases from 1-14 days out, particularly concentrated in the first week before departure.
	Return	Business	Mostly singles or pairs in the 6-14 day window, with occasional big 9-seat drops on day 0, day 10, and days 12-13.
Seattle - Tokyo	Outbound	Business	Frequent 9-seat blocks in the 1-10 day range
		First	Scattered 1-seat availability both directions
	Return	Business	Intermittently 1 and 2 seats available

Many Dates With Nine Business Class Seats Available on AA.com
Chicago > Tokyo

Calendar

Sat, Aug 9

ORD to TYO

60K

One way (per person) from

60K miles

+ \$5.60

Nonstop only

Business / First

60K Lowest price this month

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	<div>9</div> <div>60K</div>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOT GOING TO TOKYO?

No problem. Business Class to **Bangkok** is just 10,000 miles more and all on one ticket, and has outstanding availability. Consider [positioning flights](#) if you're not so lucky with onward connections.

Calendar

Wed, Aug 13

ORD to BKK

70K

One way (per person) from

70K miles

+ \$17.20

1 stop or fewer

Business / First

70K Lowest price this month

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Apply changes

DON'T LIVE IN DALLAS, CHICAGO, SAN DIEGO, SAN FRANCISCO, OR SEATTLE?

No problem. Business Class from **Boise** is just 10,000 miles more and all on one ticket. Consider [positioning flights](#) if you're not so lucky with the domestic add on flight.

Boise Business Class Example

Calendar

Thu, Aug 7

BOI to TYO

60K

One way (per person) from

60K miles

+ \$5.60

1 stop or fewer

Business / First

60K Lowest price this month

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

DON'T LIVE IN A MAJOR CITY AND NOT GOING TO TOKYO?

No problem. Business Class from **Birmingham, Alabama, to Bangkok** is just 10,000 miles more and all on one ticket. Consider [positioning flights](#) if you're not so lucky with all the connecting flights you'd like to have.

See for Yourself on AA.com

Birmingham, AL to Bangkok, Thailand

Monday, August 11, 2025

Depart	Arrive	Duration	Main	Premium Economy	Business
BHM 5:14 AM BHM - DFW = AA 4186 = E75-Embraer 175 Operated by Envoy Air as American Eagle DFW - HND = AA 175 = 788-Boeing 787 HND - BKK = JL 33 = 773-Boeing 777 Operated by Japan Airlines	BKK 5:50 AM ¹² Not available	36h 36m 2 stops		One way 50K + \$1720 1 seat left	One way 70K + \$1720 3 seats left

THE CANCEL FEE EQUATION

But Bennett, you're telling me to change the ticket I bought many months ago for an opportunity that's available a week or four before departure, right? Won't I lose the value of the ticket I already bought and face high fees?

Thanks for asking.

Nowadays, cash tickets (aka published fares) can typically be canceled, and you can apply the full value of those fares to a future ticket for little or no cost on most airlines for up to a year. To confirm, ask airline reservations. Or you can find a link to "fare rules" online on the "manage your reservation" web page if you haven't already read the rules when you purchased the ticket.

Mileage tickets can be canceled, changed, or redeposited for **free or at a low fee** these days.

Here are a few examples:

- [American](#): Cancellation and redeposit of miles are free.
- [Delta](#): Changes, cancellations, and redeposits are free.
- [United](#): Changes, cancellations, and redeposits are free.

In other words, with most airlines (be sure to check with yours), it's cheap and easy to change and improve your ticket.

Mix & Match Awards on Class of Service, Dates, and Available Deals

Look at multiple classes of service at multiple dates and find where they align on the travel dates you desire. Go where the deal is, mixing classes of service if you have to, or tweaking your dates to land the big prize deal.

Availability is hit and miss by day and class, so don't hesitate if only Business Class is available one way and First Class is on the other. Fly First Class one way, Business Class the other - with kids in Premium Economy.

Why Be a Last-Minute Iterative Upgrader?

You might be thinking, “What the heck, Bennett, that sounds stressful; just let me buy the darn ticket and be done with it.”

Well, first of all, you need to consider that this ticket you purchased:

1. Cost much more than you likely wanted to pay (in miles or cash), **and/or**
2. Is in a lesser class of service than you want (say Premium Economy or Business), **and/or**
3. May not be on your ideal airline (it has average seats or lacks the amenities you like), **and/or**
4. May not be very convenient (number of stops, routing, airports, connection times, dates, etc.)

If you're not into getting more for less, with a bit of effort, then this isn't for you.

ITERATIVE UPGRADE TACTICS

The Systematic Approach:

1. Book your baseline ticket (Premium Economy, or Economy if you must, or higher if you can) for peace of mind
2. Mark your calendar for the 14-day countdown
3. Begin daily checking at day 14, focusing more as departure draws near
4. Execute your upgrade when availability peaks
5. Cancel your baseline ticket and bank the credit - only AFTER you have a new ticket and ticket numbers verified
6. Repeat the process if you keep finding better options

THE ITERATIVE UPGRADE ADVANTAGE IS YOUR BEST UPGRADE FRIEND

You've already done the grunt work of planning your trip - researched destinations, arranged time off, coordinated with travel companions. So why settle for your first booking when systematic improvement is not only possible but provable?

Our American Miles to Asia deep research validates what the Iterative Upgrade Mindset has always taught: small, systematic improvements compound into extraordinary results. They aren't accidents. They're predictable inventory management decisions by airlines that hate flying with empty premium cabins.

Airlines build their pricing system to extract maximum revenue from travelers.

Why not build your booking system to extract maximum value from the airlines?

Iterative upgraders understand the game differently. We know that “sold out” often means “wait a few days.” We know that premium inventory opens up as departure approaches on secret routes. Most importantly, we

know that systematic checking beats random luck every time.

If you applied this upgrade mindset as a lifestyle, you'd consistently fly better for less while others pay premium prices for the illusion of security. The U.S. > Tokyo data doesn't just prove the theory - it gives you the exact playbook for one of the world's most coveted and expensive premium routes.

See you up front.



Secret Routes to Europe Where \$16,133 First Class Tickets Can Be Had for Just \$2,523 R/T for Spontaneous Travelers and Last-Minute Upgraders

August 2025

The bad news and good news about Lufthansa First Class – for travelers with and without miles & points

In this business, like any other, it's easy to get spoiled. You're scoring big one day, and then things change – like they always do – and the opportunities vanish like a thief in the night.

THE BAD NEWS FIRST

Such has been the case with Lufthansa First Class recently. First Class tickets that once cost just [\\$2,960](#) [were practically falling from the sky](#) – the same tickets that otherwise retail for as much as \$16,133 each.

But the airline recently switched to dynamic pricing, and now First Class redemptions have nearly doubled:

Miles & More 15,500 M MB

EWR ----- **FRA** Depart Passenger
New York Frankfurt Thu, 21 Aug 1

18:00
EWR
Terminal B
Duration 7h 30m
Operated by Lufthansa

0 stops

+1 day
07:30
FRA
Terminal 1
Flight details

Business	First
from \$2,293 Miles + USD 1,053.50*	from 163,889 Miles + USD 1,153.50*

- **Old pricing:** 115,000 miles + \$200 in taxes each way
- **New pricing:** 163,889 miles + \$1,153.50 in taxes (New York/Newark to Frankfurt)
- **From LAX:** Add another 20,000 miles on top

Given that Lufthansa miles cost about 1.38¢ when on sale, that puts First Class round-trips at \$6,830. While this still saves you 56% through the airline's Bundle&Go strategy (buying miles and immediately redeeming them), this deal now works for far fewer travelers.

The great availability that made the Bundle&Go deal so attractive? That ship has sailed.

So, what now?

PLAN B: THE PARTNER PROGRAM STRATEGY (THE GOOD NEWS)

The loss of one of the best deals in premium air travel reminded me of the way we used to book Lufthansa First Class – and it still works brilliantly.

Lufthansa allows its partners' loyalty program members to book First Class seats starting 14 days before departure. **Availability is hit or miss, but if you're determined enough, you can score.**

Your Best Booking Options to Get \$16,133 First Class Tickets Close-In Using Miles OR Points

Air Canada Aeroplan

- 90,000 to 100,000 miles + \$28.50 in taxes each way (at the lowest pricing)
- Miles can be purchased during frequent sales

AIR CANADA SFO → FRA | Jul 28 | 1 A | [Modify](#) English | CAS | MATTHEW 425,000 ps

Departing flight

San Francisco (SFO) - Frankfurt (FRA) | Monday July 28, 2025

Fares displayed are per person, one way, and include all taxes, fees and charges. Fare features listed apply to flights operated by Air Canada, Air Canada Express and Air Canada Rouge. Policies and rules may differ for flights operated by other carriers.

Filter by cabin **First Class**

< Sat Jul 26 Sun Jul 27 100K + CA \$78 **Mon Jul 28 100K + CA \$78** Tue Jul 29 Wed Jul 30 >

[Stops](#) [Include: LUFTHANSA](#) [Connection airports](#) [eUpgrade](#) [More options](#) Sort by: **Recommended**

Flight results: 1 of 52 flights found (filtered)

Economy Class		Premium Economy	Business Class	First Class
14:40 Non-stop 10hr45m + 1 10:25 San Francisco Frankfurt Operated by Lufthansa Preview seats Details	—	—	—	5 seats left 100K + CA \$78

Avianca LifeMiles

- 100,000 to 108,000 miles + \$57 in taxes each way (at the lowest pricing)
- Miles can be purchased during frequent sales

lifemiles

San Francisco SFO → Frankfurt FRA

One-way, Economy [Change](#)

Stops Time Sort by

14:40 SFO **10:25** FRA
 LH 455 Non Stop, 10h 45m Operated by Lufthansa Airlines [Details](#)

REGULAR MILEAGE Lifemiles+ world

From LM 120,000 + US\$ 28.50 [Select](#) **Save 10%** From LM 108,000 + US\$ 28.50 [Get to 10% discount](#)

Economy	Business	First class
—	—	LM 120,000

United MileagePlus

- 140,000 to 165,000 miles + \$5.60 each way (at the lowest pricing)
- Note: Buying miles is a much better deal via Air Canada

United MileagePlus English - US \$ Q A

From To Dates Travelers Show price in: [Update](#) [Advanced Search](#)

San Francisco, CA, US Frankfurt, DE

[Compare fare types](#) [7-day calendar](#)

NONSTOP	Economy	Premium Economy	Business (lowest)	First (lowest)
2:40 PM Arrives Jul 29 10:25 AM SFO 10h, 45m FRA Operated by Lufthansa LH 455 (Boeing 747-8 Intercontinental) Details Seats	Not available	Not available	Not available	165k miles + \$5.60 First (0)

TRANSFERABLE POINTS OPTIONS

American Express Membership Rewards

- Transfer to Air Canada Aeroplan

- 90,000 to 100,000 points needed each way

Capital One Miles

- Transfer to Air Canada Aeroplan
- 90,000 to 100,000 points needed each way

Chase Ultimate Rewards

- Transfer to Air Canada Aeroplan
- 90,000 to 100,000 points needed each way

NO MILES OR POINTS? NO PROBLEM.

How to Get \$16,133 First Class Tickets to Europe for \$2,523 R/T

Air Canada runs sales every six to 12 weeks, with miles priced around 1.37¢ each. Their website is much easier to navigate than LifeMiles, which also offers more frequent sales, and their customer service is significantly better. Additionally, Air Canada often has better availability of Lufthansa First Class seats.

Let's look at the potential savings using this strategy:

AIR CANADA AEROPLAN STRATEGY

Route	Miles Required R/T	Cost at ~1.37¢/mile + \$57 Taxes	Regular Fare	Savings \$	Savings %
Boston - Munich	180,000	\$2,523	\$16,133	\$13,610	84%
Houston - Frankfurt	216,000	\$3,016	\$14,983	\$11,967	79%
Los Angeles - Frankfurt	216,000	\$3,016	\$14,782	\$11,766	79%
Miami - Frankfurt	200,000	\$2,797	\$15,408	\$12,611	81%
Newark - Frankfurt	180,000	\$2,523	\$15,508	\$12,985	83%
New York - Frankfurt	200,000	\$2,797	\$15,508	\$12,711	81%
New York - Munich	200,000	\$2,797	\$16,008	\$13,211	82%
Washington - Frankfurt	200,000	\$2,797	\$15,283	\$12,486	81%

Route	Miles Required R/T	Cost at ~1.37¢/mile + \$57 Taxes	Regular Fare	Savings \$	Savings %
Washington - Munich	200,000	\$2,797	\$15,183	\$12,386	81%

FIRST CLASS TO EUROPE R/T FOR \$2,654 WITH LIFEMILES

If you're between Air Canada sales, be aware that LifeMiles runs promotions more frequently.

Here's your backup plan:

Route	LifeMiles Required	LifeMiles Cost at ~1.27¢/mile + ~\$57 Tax	Regular Fare	Savings \$	Savings %
Boston - Munich	200,000	\$2,654	\$16,133	\$13,479	83%
Houston - Frankfurt	216,000	\$2,856	\$14,983	\$12,127	80%
Los Angeles - Frankfurt	240,000	\$3,162	\$14,782	\$11,620	78%
Miami - Frankfurt	216,000	\$2,856	\$15,408	\$12,552	81%
New York - Frankfurt	216,000	\$2,856	\$15,508	\$12,652	81%
New York - Munich	216,000	\$2,856	\$16,008	\$13,152	82%
Washington - Frankfurt	216,000	\$2,856	\$15,283	\$12,427	81%
Washington - Munich	216,000	\$2,856	\$15,183	\$12,327	81%

WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM LAST-MINUTE AVAILABILITY?

This strategy works particularly well for three types of travelers:

1. **The Last-Minute [Opportunity Traveler](#)** Those flexible enough to book when space opens up within 14 days of departure.
2. **The [Upgrade Seeker](#)** Already have an award ticket in a lesser class? Cancel and rebook when First Class opens up.

3. The **Mixed-Cabin** Strategist

Can't find round-trip First Class availability? Book Lufthansa First Class for your overnight flight to Europe and return in Business Class during the day.

LUFTHANSA FIRST CLASS AVAILABILITY CHEAT SHEET

Understanding availability patterns is crucial for success. Here's what we found after daily research over the last month. **It will inevitably change.** The most important thing to keep in mind is the patterns.

High Availability Routes (Best Bets)

New York (JFK) - Munich

- Outbound: Within 3 days of departure, solid 2-6 seats available
- Return: Within 3 days of departure, solid 2-6 seats available

New York (JFK) - Frankfurt

- Outbound: Within 4 days of departure, often up to 5 seats
- Return: Within 4 days of departure, often up to 5 seats

Washington - Frankfurt

- Outbound: Within 3 days of departure, frequently up to 5 seats
- Return: Within 3 days of departure, frequently up to 5 seats

Washington - Munich

- Outbound: Within 3 days of departure, often up to 5 seats
- Return: Within 3 days of departure, often up to 5 seats

Moderate Availability Routes

Boston - Munich

- Outbound: 1-3 days prior to departure, typically 2-5 seats
- Return: 1-3 days prior to departure, typically 2-5 seats

Newark - Frankfurt

- Outbound: Within 2 days, good 1-3 seat availability
- Return: Within 2 days, good 1-3 seat availability

Los Angeles - Frankfurt

- Outbound: Within 3 days of departure, sporadic 1-3 seats
- Return: Within 3 days of departure, sporadic 1-3 seats

San Francisco - Frankfurt

- Outbound: Within 3 days, often up to 4 seats
- Return: Limited availability

Challenging Routes

Chicago - Frankfurt

- Outbound: Within 3 days of departure, sporadic 2-7 seats
- Return: Almost no availability

Houston - Frankfurt

- Outbound: Within 3 days of departure, sporadic 2-6 seats
- Return: Very limited

Los Angeles - Munich

- Outbound: Within 3 days of departure, sporadic 1-2 seats
- Return: Scattered single-seat availability

Miami - Frankfurt

- Outbound: Occasionally up to 14 days prior, intermittent 3-seat availability
- Return: Scattered single-seat availability

THE BOTTOM LINE

While Lufthansa's switch to dynamic pricing has eliminated one great deal, savvy travelers still have excellent options. By leveraging partner programs and buying miles during sales, you can **fly Lufthansa First Class for 79%-84% off retail prices.**

The key to success? Flexibility, persistence, and understanding the availability patterns. Check availability regularly within the 14-day window, and be ready to book immediately when space opens up.

At \$2,523 to \$3,162 round-trip for an experience that normally costs \$14,782 to \$16,133, this remains one of the best luxury travel values available – if you know how to work the system.

See you up front.



Unlock St. Regis Suite Life Without the Suite Price at Eight Properties

August 2025

Save up to 75% by using the upgrade strategy that changes everything

I have a confession. I stay in St. Regis suites for less than most people pay for regular rooms. And no, I don't have a large trust fund, and I definitely **don't haggle at the front desk**.

What I do have is access to the same negotiated rates you're about to discover. Rates so good, they'll make you rethink everything you thought you knew about luxury hotel pricing.

You already know how good the special rates are for members of the American Bar Association (ABA) - **the program ANYONE can [join for \\$195](#)** per year - if you've read FCF for very long. We've reported most recently on the special [rates up to 51% off and free upgrade at 11 Four Seasons](#), and rates up to [59% off and free upgrades at eight Hilton hotels](#).

Let's take a look at what we found when diving deep into ABA's St. Regis opportunities...

FREE SUITE UPGRADES

You know the feeling. The one you have when you walk past a suite with the door open when housekeeping is cleaning up (and you try hard not to peek inside) on your way to your regular room? That twinge of "maybe someday"?

Well, someday is today.

The Washington Wonder: At The St. Regis Washington, D.C., something magical happens. The Metropolitan **Suite** - we're talking **77% larger than normal rooms** - costs **\$678** with the ABA membership. Meanwhile, Tourist Tom is paying **\$1,172 for a basic room**.

Normal Rate Search Result

The screenshot shows the hotel's website interface. At the top, the hotel name 'The St. Regis Washington, D.C.' is displayed. Below it, the 'STAY DATES (2 NIGHTS)' are set to 'Mon, Oct 20 → Wed, Oct 22'. The 'ROOMS & GUESTS' section shows '1 Room, 1 Guest'. The 'SPECIAL RATES' section is set to 'Lowest Regular Rate'. The 'Select a Room and Rate' section shows 'Showing 11 Results'. A room card for 'Superior, Interior View, Guest room, 1 King' is highlighted. The room details show 'Rates from 1,172 USD Avg/Night' and 'Includes 40 USD Destination Fee'. A '+ View Rates' button is visible.

ABA Member Rate Search Result

The screenshot shows the hotel's website interface. At the top, the hotel name 'The St. Regis Washington, D.C.' is displayed. Below it, the 'STAY DATES (2 NIGHTS)' are set to 'Mon, Oct 20 → Wed, Oct 22'. The 'ROOMS & GUESTS' section shows '1 Room, 1 Guest'. The 'SPECIAL RATES' section is set to 'Corp/Promo Code - ABA'. The 'Select a Room and Rate' section shows 'Showing 11 Results'. A room card for 'Metropolitan Suite, Suite, 1 King' is highlighted. The room details show 'Rates from 678 USD Avg/Night' and 'Includes 40 USD Destination Fee'. A '+ View Rates' button is visible.

Let that sink in. You're literally **saving \$494 by staying in a suite instead of a regular room**.

It's not just a free upgrade; it's a "they're paying YOU to upgrade" situation.

Confirmed at time of booking.

The Toronto Triple Play: Up north at The St. Regis Toronto, the math gets even more interesting. Their Superior Suite runs \$550 with the ABA rate. And the regular room rate for non-members? \$860.

That's a \$310 reward for choosing more space, better views, and suite-level service.

Or, just get a normal room for \$450, and let **the ABA rate save you 48% in Toronto.**

The Houston Hustle: Everything's bigger in Texas, including the savings. The Astor St. Regis Suite (1,000 glorious square feet) costs \$536 with the ABA rate. Compare that to the \$773 regular folks pay for a standard Deluxe Guest Room.

You're getting double the space for \$237 less.

Or, just get a normal room for \$386, and let **the ABA rate save you 50% in Houston.**

**THE EIGHT ST. REGIS LOCATIONS WE FOUND WITH SPECIAL ABA RATES
- UP TO 58% OFF**

Location	Normal / Room Type	Sample Dates	Typical Rate	ABA Rate	Savings \$	Savings %
The St. Regis Atlanta	Superior Guest Room	10/24/25	\$783	\$442	\$341	0.44
The St. Regis Chicago	Superior Guest Room	45785	\$1,014	\$515	\$499	0.49
The St. Regis Houston	Deluxe Guest Room	8/16/25	\$773	\$356	\$417	0.5
The St. Regis New York	Butler Service Guest Room	8/28/25	\$1,395	\$650	\$745	0.53
The St. Regis Rome	Deluxe Guest Room	8/21/25	\$1,204	\$640	\$564	0.47
The St. Regis San Francisco	Deluxe Guest Room	45724	\$884	\$585	\$299	0.34
The St. Regis Toronto	Superior King Bed	46000	\$860	\$450	\$410	0.48

The St. Regis Washington, D.C.	Superior Interior View	10/13/25	\$1,380	\$578	\$802	0.58
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The beauty of this program isn't just in the individual wins - it's in the mindset shift. Once you realize you can stay in St. Regis suites for the price of many lackluster hotels, your entire approach to travel changes.

SUITE SAVINGS AT SEVEN ST. REGIS - UP TO 75% OFF

Location	Room Type	Sample Dates	NormalRate	ABA Rate	Savings \$	Savings %
The St. Regis Atlanta	St. Regis Suite	10/24/25	\$1,665	\$899	\$766	0.46
The St. Regis Houston	Astor St. Regis Suite	8/16/25	\$1,072	\$536	\$536	0.5
The St. Regis New York	Astor - Butler Service Suite	8/28/25	\$2,806	\$1,395	\$1,411	0.5
The St. Regis Rome	St. Regis Suite	8/21/25	\$2,029	\$1,180	\$849	0.42
The St. Regis San Francisco	Astor - Butler Service Suite	45724	\$1,593	\$995	\$598	0.38
The St. Regis Toronto	Superior Suite	46000	\$958	\$550	\$408	0.43
The St. Regis Washington, D.C.	Metropolitan Suite	10/13/25	\$2,686	\$678	\$2,008	0.75

HOW SMART TRAVELERS HACK THE SUITE LIFE

- Start with a search for suites. At these rates, the suite is often the better value.
- Run the upgrade math. You'll be surprised how often upgrades are under \$150 (or even cheaper than the regular room) for double the space with this approach.
- Book the experience, not just the room. A suite isn't just an upgrade in size, it's an upgrade in how you *feel* when you travel - not claustrophobic!

THE (CHEAP) UPGRADE PERSPECTIVE

Hotel	Normal Price for Normal Room	ABA Price for Suite	Cost to Confirm Suite	Upgrade Perspective
The St. Regis Atlanta	\$783	\$899	\$116	Cheap Upgrade
The St. Regis Chicago	\$1,014	\$1,455	\$441	Cheap Upgrade
The St. Regis Houston	\$773	\$536	-\$237	Cheaper than Free Upgrade
The St. Regis New York	\$1,395	\$1,395	\$0	Free Upgrade
The St. Regis San Francisco	\$884	\$995	\$111	Cheap Upgrade
The St. Regis Washington, D.C.	\$1,172	\$678	-\$494	Cheaper than Free Upgrade
The St. Regis Rome	\$1,204	\$1,180	-\$24	Cheaper than Free Upgrade
The St. Regis Toronto	\$860	\$550	-\$310	Cheaper than Free Upgrade

Best Way to Find the Best Rates

Step 1: Enter the “ABA” Promo Code

After you become [an ABA member](#), begin unlocking ABA rate deals at St. Regis hotels by going to [Marriott.com](#) and starting a hotel search. Under the rate options, select “Corp/Promo Code,” then type in ABA in the “Enter Code” field, as shown in the screenshot below. (When you get to the search results page, make sure that it is still applied.)



The St. Regis Houston

[View Details](#) 1919 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston, Texas 77027-3408 USA

DATES (1 NIGHT)

September 2025

ROOMS & G

1 Room

☐ Lowest Regular Rate

☐ AAA/CAA

☐ Senior Discount

☐ Government & Military

☒ Corp/Promo Code

ENTER CODE

ABA

Points/Awards

< September 2025

T	W
2 \$449	3 \$449

Step 2: Enter “Flexible Search” and for One Night

If you want to know the dates with the lowest price, this is how you do it:

The St. Regis Houston

[View Details](#) 1919 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston, Texas 77027-3408 USA +171384

FLEXIBLE DATES

September 2025


How many nights? 1

2025

2026

\$404 \$485 \$494 \$494 \$485

Step 3: Now You Know the Best Rates



The St. Regis Houston

View Details
1919 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston, Texas 77027-3408 USA
+17138407600
4.3 (922 reviews)

DATES (1 NIGHT)

October 2025

ROOMS & GUESTS

1 Room, 1 Guest

Update Search

SPECIAL RATES

Corp/Promo Code - ABA

☐ Use Points/Awards

Total Room Cost

1 Night Room Total (USD)

<
October 2025
>

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28 \$356 LOW	29 \$356 LOW	30 \$356 LOW	1 \$356 LOW	2 \$356 LOW	3 \$356 LOW	4 \$356 LOW
5 \$356 LOW	6 \$356 LOW	7 \$356 LOW	8 \$356 LOW	9 \$356 LOW	10 \$386	11 \$386
12 \$356 LOW	13 \$356 LOW	14 \$356 LOW	15 \$356 LOW	16 \$356 LOW	17 \$356 LOW	18 \$356 LOW
19 \$356 LOW	20 \$356 LOW	21 \$356 LOW	22 \$356 LOW	23 \$356 LOW	24 \$356 LOW	25 \$356 LOW
26 \$356 LOW	27 \$356 LOW	28 \$386	29 \$356 LOW	30 \$356 LOW	31 \$356 LOW	1 \$356 LOW

You can click the arrow next to the month to surf rates in other months quickly.

There you have it. Now you know how to unlock it.

So the next time someone tells you St. Regis suites are out of reach, just smile. You know better. You know that with the right access, suite life isn't about spending more - it's about spending smarter.

See you there.



August Top 84 Mileage Awards & Special Fares Greatest Hits (Still Available)

August 2025

Cool August 2025 Deals

There are lots of oohs and ahhs this month that can save you a load of miles, points, and dollars. As we always say, however, don't delay, because some will be out-of-date fast!

Sweet Redeems

EUROPE

[American Airlines > Close In > Business Class With Miles > from Dallas to Rome > 4+ Seats](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > American Airlines > Dallas and Many Other Cities to Paris & Beyond > 4+ Travelers](#)

[American Airlines > Business Class With Miles > from Philadelphia to Madrid > 2+ Seats](#)

[American Airlines > Business Class With Miles > from Charlotte to Frankfurt > 4+ Seats](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > American Airlines > Philadelphia and Many Other Cities to Paris & Beyond > 2+ Travelers](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > American > Philadelphia to Amsterdam > 2+ Travelers](#)

[From 81,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Travelers > Iberia > Boston to Spain](#)

[Miles / Points > London > First Class > Close In > 4+ Travelers > from Dallas to London](#)

[Miles / Points > London > First Class > Close In > 4+ Travelers > from Miami to London](#)

[American Airlines > Close In > Business Class With Miles > from Chicago to London > 4+ Seats](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > SWISS > Business Class > New York to Paris > 2026 Travel](#)

[Miles / Points > London > First Class > Close In > 2+ Travelers > from Charlotte to London](#)

[American Airlines > Close In> Business Class With Miles > from Chicago to Naples > 2+ Seats](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > Air France > Washington, DC to Paris > 2+ Travelers > 2026 Travel](#)

[Miles / Points > London > First Class > 4+ Travelers > from New York to London](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > SWISS > Business Class > Boston to Geneva](#)

[American Airlines > Close In> Business Class With Miles > from Philadelphia to Naples > 2+ Seats](#)

[Miles / Points > Close In > Brussels Airlines > Business Class > New York to Brussels > 4+ Seats](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > Air France > New York to Barcelona > 4+ Travelers > 1-stop](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > Close In > Air France > Houston to Sardinia > 4+ Travelers > 1-stop](#)

[American Airlines > Business Class With Miles > from Miami to Barcelona > 4+ Seats](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > Air France > New York to Bordeaux > 4+ Travelers > 1-stop](#)

[Miles > Europe > Close In > Singapore First Class Opportunities from New York to Frankfurt / 2+ Seats](#)

[Miles or \\$ > United > Business Class > Newark to London > 2+ Seats > Close In](#)

[Miles or \\$ > United > Business Class > Washington DC to Venice > 4+ Seats > Close In](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Lufthansa > Business Class > Chicago to Frankfurt](#)

[Miles or \\$ > United > Business Class > Newark to Naples > 4+ Seats > Close In](#)

[LOT Business Class with Miles/Points Easy from New York to Warsaw > 4+ Seats](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > United Airlines > Business Class > Washington, DC to Brussels > Close In](#)

[United > Miles or \\$ > Business Class > Newark to Venice > 4+ Seats](#)

ASIA

[Tokyo: Japan Airlines Discounted Business Class Availability from Dallas and Many Other Cities](#)

[Cash OR Miles > *First Class* > 2026 Travel > All Nippon Airways > San Francisco to Tokyo](#)

[Cash OR Miles > *First Class* > 2026 Travel > All Nippon Airways > Chicago to Tokyo](#)

[Cathay Pacific Discount Business Class > Boston to Hong Kong > 2+ Travelers > 2026 Travel](#)

[Cathay Pacific Discount Business Class > Los Angeles to Hong Kong > 2+ Travelers](#)

Special Published Fares



AFRICA

[Money > Cairo > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,885 to \\$3,265 R/T](#)

[Money > Morocco > Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,862 to \\$3,364 R/T](#)

ASIA

[Money > Japan > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,589 to \\$4,322 R/T](#)

[Money > Manila > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,454 to \\$4,307 R/T](#)

[Money > Seoul > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,243 to \\$4,244 R/T](#)

[Money > Maldives > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,446 to \\$4,327 R/T](#)

[Money > Taiwan > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,673 to \\$4,231 R/T](#)

CARIBBEAN

[Money > Grand Cayman > All Year > Biz Class > \\$644 to \\$1,258 R/T](#)

EUROPE

[Money > Prague > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,876 to \\$3,287 R/T](#)

[Money > Switzerland > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,843 to \\$3,298 R/T](#)

[Money > Baltics > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,876 to \\$3,303 R/T](#)

[Money > Scotland > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,844 to \\$3,311 R/T](#)

[Money > London > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,892 to \\$3,263 R/T](#)

[Money > Rome > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,606 to \\$3,306 R/T](#)

[Money > Manchester UK > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,687 to \\$3,284 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe > All Year > Biz Class with TAP Portugal > \\$2,083 to \\$2,983 R/T](#)

[Money > Florence > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,829 to \\$3,329 R/T](#)

[Money > Barcelona > Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,840 to \\$3,317 R/T](#)

[Money > Greece > Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,852 to 3,329 R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,496 to \\$3,152 R/T](#)

[Money > Milan > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,783 to \\$3,240 R/T](#)

[Money > Stockholm > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,858 to \\$3,210 R/T](#)

[Money > Madrid > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,496 to \\$3,197 R/T](#)

[Money > Venice > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,811 to \\$3,249 R/T](#)

[Money > Dublin > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,851 to \\$3,323 R/T](#)

[Money > Lisbon > All Year > First Class > \\$4,120 to \\$5,573 R/T](#)

[Money > Bologna > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,812 to \\$3,224 R/T](#)

[Money > Copenhagen > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,735 to \\$3,270 R/T](#)

[Money > Budapest > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,796 to \\$3,246 R/T](#)

[Money > Malaga and Valencia > Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,848 to \\$3,216 R/T](#)

[Money > Naples > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,875 to \\$3,235 R/T](#)

[Money > Oslo > Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,891 to \\$3,307 R/T](#)

[Money > Croatia > All Year > Biz Class > from \\$2,858 to \\$3,287 R/T](#)

[Money > Lisbon > Summer/Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,848 to \\$3,245 R/T](#)

HAWAII

[Money > Maui > Summer > Biz Class > \\$1,177 to \\$1,621 R/T](#)



INDIA

[Money > Mumbai > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,372 to \\$3,886 R/T](#)

[Money > New Delhi > Spring/Summer > Biz Class > \\$2,621 to \\$4,009 R/T](#)

MEXICO

[Money > Cancun > All Year > Biz Class > \\$510 to \\$1,034 R/T](#)

[Money > Cozumel > All Year > Biz Class > \\$788 to \\$1,031 R/T](#)

[Money > Puerto Vallarta > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > \\$638 to \\$1,028 R/T](#)

NORTH AMERICA

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > Premium Economy > \\$809 to \\$1,027 USD R/T](#)

[Money > from Dublin to U.S. > All Year > Biz Class > \\$1,956 to \\$2,518 R/T](#)

[Money > Domestic Transcon > All Year > Business Class > \\$796 to \\$1,247 R/T](#)

SOUTH AMERICA

[Money > Buenos Aires > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,264 to \\$3,223 R/T](#)

[Money > Sao Paulo > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,883 to \\$3,294 R/T](#)

SOUTH PACIFIC

[Money > New Zealand and Australia > All Year > Biz Class > \\$5,317 to \\$5,895 R/T](#)



What European Routes Does United Offer Business Class Seats at Its Lowest Miles Price Close-In?

August 2025

United miles players – and Amex and Chase points people – listen up.

Let's get real: If you're a United loyalist, you've felt the sting. United's mileage program, once a playground for smart travelers, has been gutted, devalued so much that what used to cost you a reasonable chunk of miles now feels like a bad joke.

Business Class between the U.S. and Europe? What was once a 50,000-mile sweet spot is now a 150,000 to 200,000-mile punchline. At those prices, the "mileage game" is a waste of time or at a minimum, nothing to go out of your way for.

But there's the occasional exception that keeps the door cracked open: within 30 days of departure, in some instances, United releases Business Class seats at its current lowest saver rates.


If you can travel on short notice – or you’re a gamer and comfortable upgrading last minute – there are still real wins to be had.

Because we’ve focused recently on last-minute deals for spontaneous travelers and [iterative upgraders](#) on **American** to [Asia](#), [Australia](#), and [Europe](#), we wanted to give United flyers the same playbook.

You can dive into those links for the full strategy breakdown. In the meantime, here’s a list of seven under-the-radar routes to Europe that you can book at the airline’s lowest cost – 80,000 to 88,000 each way and 115,000 from the West Coast – using:

- United miles, or
- Amex points (transfer to Air Canada/Aeroplan, a United partner), or
- Chase points (direct transfer to United)

EXAMPLE OF GREAT CLOSE-IN AVAILABILITY: SAN FRANCISCO - LONDON 9 SEATS



English - US\$

Aug 10 - Sep 13, 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		12 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	13 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	14 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	15 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	16 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest
17 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	18 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	19 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	20 200k + USD 5.60	21 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	22 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	23 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest
24 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	25 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	26 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	27 140k + USD 5.60	28 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	29 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	30 140k + USD 5.60
31 115k + USD 5.60 Lowest	1 176.5k + USD 5.60	2 173.8k + USD 5.60	3 171.9k + USD 5.60	4 200k + USD 5.60	5 200k + USD 5.60	6 200k + USD 5.60
7 200k + USD 5.60	8 200k + USD 5.60	9 200k + USD 5.60	10 200k + USD 5.60			

UNITED ROUTES TO EUROPE WITH THE CHEAPEST BUSINESS CLASS SEATS

Route	Direction	Summary
Chicago - London	Outbound	Availability for 9 seats is most frequent at 1-3 days out, with additional clusters around days 9-12, 15-19, and 23-24; smaller seat counts appear sporadically in between.
	Return	Availability for 9 seats is common close-in, 9-11, 13-17, and 21-24 days out, with a few smaller releases scattered across other days.
Denver - London	Outbound	Strong close-in availability; frequent 7-9 seat availability days for the first 10-15 days.

Route	Direction	Summary
	Return	9-seat days are common throughout the first 20+ days.
Los Angeles - London	Outbound	Mostly scattered single-seat availability across the entire 1-30 day window, with occasional 4-seat days appearing around 3, 9, 19, 21, 27 days out. No sustained stretches of high availability.
	Return	Fairly steady single-seat availability throughout 1-30 days, with small clusters of 4-seat days around 0-5, 9, 14, 17, 19, 21, 23, 27, and 29 days out. Availability is more consistent than outbound.
Newark - Berlin	Outbound	Availability for 9 seats is most common close-in and around days 13-15 days out, with occasional appearances beyond 20 days; smaller 2-4 seat releases appear sporadically in between.
	Return	Availability for 9 seats clusters around days 4, 9, 13-17, and 20-24, with occasional smaller releases on other days.
Newark - Geneva	Outbound	Big blocks of 9-seat availability pop up in the first 2-3 days after search and again in the mid-month window, but the rest of the calendar is sparse with only scattered single-day openings.
	Return	9-seat availability is common in the first 10 days out and stays steady through mid-month before tapering off toward the last week.
Newark - London	Outbound	Availability for 9 seats is very strong on most dates from 1-3 days out and again in the mid-month stretch, with some scattered gaps. Later in the month, open dates are fewer and more spread out.
	Return	Availability for 9 seats is consistently high early in the search window, especially within the first 10 days, then stays solid through mid-month before tapering off toward the end.
San Francisco - London	Outbound	Sparse availability with scattered single-seat days between 1-15 days out, and occasional 4-seat days at 2, 5, 11, 14, and 22-23 days out. No meaningful availability beyond 23 days out.
	Return	Single seats appearing almost daily from 1-23 days out, plus occasional 4-seat days at 2, 3, 12, and 15 days out. Availability drops sharply after day 23.
San Francisco - Paris	Outbound	Mostly single seats scattered across the month, with a few isolated 4-seat releases around 1-2 weeks out. No extended stretches of high availability and no 9-seat drops observed.
	Return	Predominantly 1-4 seats available, with several 4-seat releases on scattered days including 2-3 weeks out. Occasional single 9-seat days (12 days out) but no sustained large blocks. Availability is spread throughout the 1-22 day window, tapering off beyond that.

Route	Direction	Summary
Washington - Amsterdam	Outbound	Patchy but decent with occasional 9-seat and 4-seat days, mostly in the first 10 days and again around days 12-14 and 18-23, but with many gaps.
	Return	Sparse, with just a handful of 9-seat or 4-seat days scattered far apart; return space is very limited and inconsistent.
Washington - London	Outbound	Frequent 9-seat and 4-9 seat releases, especially in the first 1-10 days out and again in the 15-27 day window.
	Return	Sparse, with only occasional 1-2 seat days and rare 9-seat blocks; return space is much tighter and inconsistent.

THE TAKEAWAY

If you're playing the United MileagePlus game, **the old rules are dead**. The new game is about targeting specific routes, pouncing when seats are released at the lowest price points, and / or being flexible with your dates.

Availability is constantly changing, and our research may be dated by the time you read it. Therefore, **don't lose sight of the point**: Deals are best when close to departure. The routes may fluctuate, but the pattern remains.

And don't forget: Amex and Chase points players can open up these same deals.

Bottom line: Decent values are still out there, but you have to know where to look.

See you up front.