

Take Your Pick: Get Business Class to Europe for 53,000 Points Round-Trip or Just \$1,567 in Cash

August 2024

How anyone can get a Business Class ticket to Europe for about the price of Premium Economy (or less)

Imagine soaring through the skies, and reclining back in a Business Class seat — all for the price of a cramped, less luxurious Premium Economy seat. This might sound like a dream reserved for the jet-set elite, but with a bit of savvy, you can make it your reality. Just as a shrewd sailor navigates the seas using the stars, you too can navigate the skies by strategically purchasing miles.

Iberia Airlines' mileage program is among FCF's favorites because it offers the cheapest Business Class flights between the U.S. and Europe that points can buy — and it's a **transfer partner with Amex and Chase (and Capital One indirectly; see below)**. Instead of overpaying on another airline, save your money for a special bottle of Rioja, or a suite upgrade, or use Spain as a stepping stone to your European odyssey.

NAVIGATING THE AIR MILES SEAS

Not everyone has a vault filled with miles and points. This means you need to be strategic to stretch your points as far as possible. Luckily, there's a golden opportunity on the horizon. Through September 30, Amex is offering a transfer bonus with Iberia's partner British Airways. It means Iberia Plus members can get a 30% bonus on the transfer through British Airways, by combining your Avios. If you're considering booking anytime soon, this deal is like finding a treasure map, leading you to a cache of discounted Business Class tickets.

AIN'T GOT IBERIA MILES? GO GET 'EM!

- Iberia is an Amex and Chase points-to-miles transfer partner (and via Capital One's British Airways partnership)
- Transfer British Airways Avios to Iberia Avios
 - You must be a member of Iberia Plus for 90 days "Combine my Avios."
 - There is no limit to how many or how often you can transfer Avios.
 - Transfers are usually instant.
 - [Details here on transferring British Airways Avios to Iberia](#)

CHARTING YOUR COURSE: WHERE THE BIRDING IS GOOD

To take advantage of this opportunity, you need to get your ducks in a row. Iberia operates on a flight-distance award chart, which means the number of miles required depends on the length of the flight. For example, with the 30% bonus, you could transfer:

- **53,000 low season / 77,000 high season round-trip:**
(Normally 68,000 / 100,000)
Madrid to/from Boston, Chicago, New York, and Washington, DC
- **66,000 low season / 97,000 high season round-trip:**
(Normally 85,000 / 125,000)
Madrid to/from Dallas and Miami
- **79,000 low season / 116,000 high season round-trip:**
(Normally 102,000 / 150,000)
Madrid to/from Los Angeles and San Francisco

DIVING INTO THE DETAILS: BUSINESS CLASS COSTS

For those lacking an ample stash of miles, the 30% bonus is the equivalent of buying them at 1.92 cents each (normally 2.5 cents), therefore a round-trip Business Class ticket from Boston, Chicago, New York, or Washington, DC, to Madrid costs just \$1,567, including approximately \$242 in taxes.

Considering you can typically pay anywhere from \$1,439-\$1,919 for a Premium Economy ticket and Business Class typically goes for \$3,220 from New York to Madrid that means you're getting R/T Business Class oftentimes for the price of Premium Economy.



MAPPING OUT THE SAVINGS: EXAMPLE ROUTES

To/From Madrid	Normal Business Class Mileage Cost R/T	Mileage Cost When Transferring During 30% Bonus	Cost to Buy Amex Points (at 2.5 Cents Each)	Award taxes	Total Cost Including Award Ticket Taxes	Typical Published Fare	Savings With This Strategy
Boston	68,000	53,000	\$1,325	\$242	\$4,010	\$2,443	61%
Chicago					\$3,730	\$2,163	58%
Dallas					\$4,210	\$2,318	55%
Los Angeles					\$4,520	\$2,303	
Miami					\$3,850	\$1,958	51%
New York					\$3,220	\$1,653	
San Francisco					\$4,750	\$2,533	53%
Washington, DC					\$4,320	\$2,753	64%

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN: AVAILABILITY

Availability varies, so it's essential to check with Iberia before transferring miles. Here's a snapshot of current availability:

- **Boston:** Up to two seats available outbound from January to April and from January to June on the return.
- **Miami:** Up to two seats outbound in January and February and from January to March, May, and June, on the return.

To Madrid From	Outbound			Return		
	4 to 8 Days per Month	9 to 12 Days per Month	13+ Days per Month	4 to 8 Days per Month	9 to 12 Days per Month	13+ Days per Month
Boston	June	Jan., May, June	Jan., Feb. to April		June	Jan. to May, June
Miami	Feb., March, April	Jan., Feb.	Jan.	Jan., May, June	Jan, Feb., May, June	Feb., March

Months in black have at least one seat available; in blue, at least two seats. Remember to use the data as a guide since availability can be volatile...

If you're not in one of Iberia's U.S. hub cities, you can still take advantage by [positioning flights](#) from any of Oneworld's U.S. departure cities.

GOING BEYOND: EXTENDING YOUR JOURNEY

Keen to explore more than just Madrid? You can also get a stopover in Madrid and then continue your journey to other fabulous destinations. For instance:

- **Travel Near Madrid:** 9,000 off-peak miles one-way to cities like Barcelona, Lisbon, and Seville.
- **Travel Far Beyond Madrid:** 15,000 off-peak miles one-way to cities like Amsterdam, Berlin, and Rome.

This strategy opens up a world of possibilities, allowing you to see multiple cities for a fraction of the cost.

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

You can use this Iberia play to launch a spectacular low-cost deal we call [The Leg Stretch Strategy](#). If you're planning to visit Europe and South America in a 12-month window, you'll take to these Iberia one-ways like a duck to water.

This Iberia deal is a rare gem, offering a chance to fly Business Class for the price of Premium Economy. By strategically buying or transferring points and taking advantage of the bonus, you can transform your travel experience. Whether you're visiting Europe or beyond, this strategy is your ticket to a luxurious journey. So, spread your upgrade wings and soar through the skies in style.



August's Top 106 Mileage Awards & Special Fares Greatest Hits (Still Available)

August 2024

Hot Summer Deals Baked Fresh

FCF's team has been working hard in the heat to cook up some delicious deals. Check out August's sizzling fare and mile offerings below, right off the cooker and onto your plate.

Sweet Redemeems

ASIA

[Miles or Cash > 2025 Travel > Singapore and Beyond > from New York and Many Other U.S. Cities > 4+ Seats](#)

[Miles or Cash > 2025 Travel > Singapore and Beyond > from New York and Many Other U.S. Cities > 2+ Seats](#)

EUROPE

[Rare First Class Limited Service Non-Stop to Rome / Cheap With Miles / Points > Close In > 2+ Travelers > American from New York and Many Other Cities](#)

[Miles > Europe > All Year > Scads of Singapore Business Class Opportunities from Houston to Manchester, UK / 4+ Seats](#)

[Miles > Europe > All Year > Scads of Singapore Business Class Opportunities from New York to Frankfurt / 4+ Seats](#)

[115K AA Miles R/T + Low-taxes > 4+ Seats > Biz Class from the East Coast to Amsterdam, Oslo, & Stockholm](#)

[115K AA Miles R/T + Low-taxes > Handful of 4+ Seats > Biz Class from the East Coast to France and Spain](#)

[115K AA Miles R/T + Low-taxes > 4+ Seats > Biz Class from the East Coast to Germany](#)

[Cheap Business Class Seats from Miami to Madrid for 68,000 Amex Points R/T + Buy Deal](#)

[Miles / Points > First Class > Handful of Rare 2 Seat Availability > Emirates > East Coast to Milan](#)

[Use Star Alliance Miles \(or CC Points\) for Business Class from the East Coast to Lisbon / 4+ Seats](#)

[Use Star Alliance Miles for Business Class from the East Coast to Vienna > 4+ Seats](#)

[115K AA Miles R/T + Low-taxes > 4+ Seats > Biz Class from Chicago to Geneva & Basel](#)

[115K AA Miles R/T + Low-taxes > 4+ Seats > Biz Class from Chicago to Berlin, Frankfurt & Stuttgart](#)

[115K AA Miles R/T + Low-taxes > 4+ Seats > Biz Class from Chicago to Budapest, Prague, & Sofia](#)



NORTH AMERICA

[Miles / Points > Biz Class > 4+ Travelers > American > New York to/from Los Angeles and San Francisco](#)

MIDDLE EAST

[Cash OR Miles > Handful of Single Seat Opportunities > 2025 Travel > Middle East > Qatar Airways Business Class From the East Coast](#)

[Miles > First Class > Emirates \(Amex Partner\) Opportunities from Washington, DC to Dubai > Handful of Rare 2 Seat Availability.](#)

[Miles > First Class > Emirates \(Amex Partner\) Opportunities from Chicago to Dubai > Single Seat Availability.](#)

SOUTH PACIFIC

[Cash OR Miles > Auckland > Biz Class > Close In > 2+ Seats > Handful of Opportunities from Los Angeles and Many Other Cities](#)

[Handful of Rare Fiji Business Class Opportunities with Miles and Points from San Francisco & Los Angeles > 2 Seats](#)

Upgrades

ASIA

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Handful of Close In Single Seat Opportunities > from San Francisco to Manila](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Handful of 4 Seat Opportunities > Close In > from San Francisco to Seoul](#)

EUROPE

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Handful of Close In 4 Seat Opportunities > from Houston to London](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade Opportunities > 4 Seats > Close In > from Chicago to London](#)

SOUTH PACIFIC

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade Opportunities > 4 Seats > Close In > from Los Angeles to Sydney & Melbourne](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade Opportunities > 4 Seats > from San Francisco to Sydney & Melbourne](#)



Published Fares

AFRICA

[Money > Morocco > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$2,282 to \\$3,014 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Johannesburg and Cape Town > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,485 to \\$4,067 R/T](#)

[Money > Nairobi > All Year > Biz Class from Canada > \\$2,518 to \\$3,881 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Nairobi > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,229 to \\$4,002 R/T](#)

[Money > Cairo > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,573 to \\$3,209 R/T](#)

ASIA

[Money > Asia > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,232 to \\$4,186 R/T](#)

[Money > Singapore > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$3,304 to \\$3,632 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Hong Kong > All Year > Biz Class from Canada > \\$3,210 to \\$4,160 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Taiwan > All Year > Biz Class > from Vancouver and Calgary from \\$3,209 to \\$4,120 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Bangkok > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$3,565 to \\$4,045 R/T](#)

[Money > Southeast Asia > All Year > Biz Class > from Vancouver from \\$3,205 to \\$3,449 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Bangkok > All Year > Biz Class > from Montreal, Vancouver, and Toronto from \\$3,326 to \\$3,945 USD R/T](#)

CARIBBEAN

[Money > St. Lucia > All Year > Biz Class > \\$850 to \\$1,118 R/T](#)

[Money > Grand Cayman > All Year > Biz Class > \\$867 to \\$1,128 R/T](#)

[Money > Puerto Rico > All Year > Biz Class > \\$614 to \\$792 R/T](#)

[Money > Antigua > All Year > Biz Class > \\$892 to \\$1,145 R/T](#)

[Money > St. Maarten > All Year > Biz Class > \\$797 to \\$1,065 R/T](#)

[Money > The Bahamas > All Year > Biz Class > \\$568 to \\$773 R/T](#)

[Money > Tortola > All Year > Biz Class > \\$971 to \\$1,184 R/T](#)

[Money > St. Thomas > All Year > Biz Class > \\$718 to \\$1,048 R/T](#)

[Money > Barbados > All Year > Biz Class > \\$943 to \\$1,180 R/T](#)

[Money > Saint Kitts > All Year > Biz Class > \\$959 to \\$1,164 R/T](#)

[Money > Aruba > All Year > Biz Class > \\$727 to \\$1,186 R/T](#)



EUROPE

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > First Class > \\$2,629 to \\$3,903 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > Premium Economy > \\$729 to \\$849 R/T](#)

[Money > FROM Europe to U.S. > All Year > Biz Class > \\$1,664 to \\$2,492 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Europe > All Year > Biz Class with Scandinavian - SAS > \\$2,599 to \\$3,006 R/T](#)

[Money > Barcelona > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,649 to \\$3,210 R/T](#)

[Money > Budapest > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,724 to \\$3,047 R/T](#)

[Money > Milan > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,700 to \\$3,217 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe > All Year > Biz Class with TAP Portugal > \\$1,985 to \\$2,758 R/T](#)

[Money > Paris > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$2,152 to \\$2,611 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Prague > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,553 to \\$3,217 R/T](#)

[Money > Copenhagen > Fall > Biz Class > \\$2,730 to \\$3,155 R/T](#)

[Money > Greece > Winter/Spring > First Class > \\$4,164 to \\$5,549 R/T](#)

[Money > London > Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,575 to \\$2,930 R/T](#)

[Money > Edinburgh > Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,498 to \\$3,172 R/T](#)

[Money > Copenhagen > All Year > First Class > \\$3,910 to \\$5,462 R/T](#)

[Money > France > First Class > \\$4,235 to \\$5,488 R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > Biz Class > \\$2,199 to \\$3,149 R/T](#)

[Money > Italy > All Year > First Class > \\$3,958 to \\$5,538 R/T](#)

[Money > Greece > Summer > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$2,154 to \\$2,744 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Spain > All Year > First Class > \\$3,949 to \\$5,649 R/T](#)

[Money > Frankfurt > All Year > Biz Class > from New York, Miami, and Atlanta from \\$2,500 to \\$3,203 R/T](#)

[Money > Nice, Paris, and Milan from New York > All Year > Biz Class with La Compagnie > \\$1,998 to \\$2,000 R/T](#)

[Money > Paris > All Year > Biz Class > \\$1,990 to \\$3,078 R/T](#)

[Money > Stockholm > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,430 to \\$3,210 R/T](#)

[Money > United Kingdom > All Year > First Class > \\$3,998 to \\$5,604 R/T](#)

[Money > Scotland > All Year > First Class > \\$4,256 to \\$5,655 R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$2,120 to \\$2,627 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Lisbon > All Year > First Class > \\$4,170 to \\$5,367 R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > All Year > First Class > \\$4,154 to \\$5,603 R/T](#)

[Money > England > All Year > Biz Class from Canada > \\$2,278 to \\$3,211 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Dublin > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,493 to \\$3,107 R/T](#)

[Money > Madrid > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,699 to \\$3,199 R/T](#)

[Money > Switzerland > All Year > First Class > \\$4,151 to \\$5,448 R/T](#)

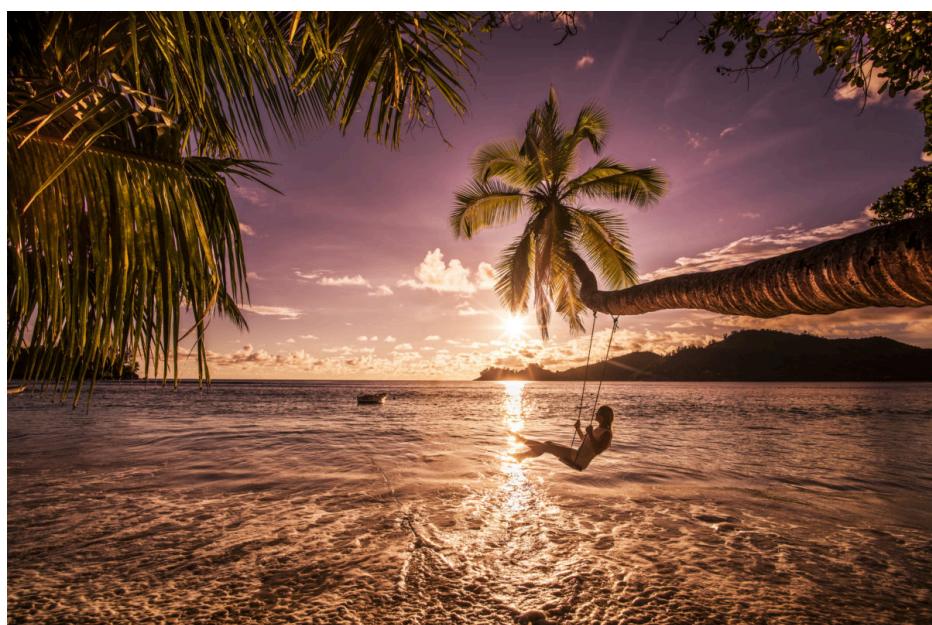
HAWAII

[Money > Kona > Fall > Biz Class > \\$929 to \\$1,400 R/T](#)

[Money > Maui > Fall > Biz Class > \\$740 to \\$1,413 R/T](#)

[Money > Honolulu > Biz Class > \\$895 to \\$1,477 R/T](#)

[Money > Kauai > Fall > Biz Class > \\$840 to \\$1,528 R/T](#)



INDIA

[Money > Mumbai > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > \\$2,948 to \\$3,799 R/T](#)

[Money > Chennai > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,999 to \\$3,792 R/T](#)

[Money > Kolkata > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,993 to \\$3,893 R/T](#)

[Money > New Delhi > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,794 to \\$3,902 R/T](#)

[Money > India > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,067 to \\$3,902 R/T](#)

[Money > India > All Year > Biz Class > from Toronto and Vancouver from \\$2,575 to \\$3,175 USD R/T](#)

MEXICO

[Money > Puerto Vallarta > All Year > Biz Class > \\$661 to \\$920 R/T](#)

[Money > Cozumel > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > \\$729 to \\$896 R/T](#)

[Money > Cancun > All Year > Biz Class > \\$671 to \\$898 R/T](#)

MIDDLE EAST

[Money > Istanbul > Summer > Biz Class > \\$2,651 to \\$3,089 R/T](#)

[Money > Middle East > All Year > Biz Class > from Toronto and Montreal from \\$2,385 to \\$3,262 USD R/T](#)

NORTH AMERICA

[Money > Domestic Transcon > All Year > Biz Class > \\$718 to \\$1,209 R/T](#)

SOUTH AMERICA

[Money > Buenos Aires > All Year > Biz Class > from Miami and New York from \\$2,628 to \\$3,069 R/T - First Class Flyer](#)

[Money > Santiago > All Year > Biz Class > from Toronto and Montreal from \\$2,436 to \\$2,456 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Sao Paulo and Rio De Janeiro > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$2,752 to \\$3,174 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Santiago > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > \\$1,697 to \\$3,198 R/T](#)



SOUTH PACIFIC

[Money > Australia > All Year > Biz Class > \\$5,192 to \\$7,321 R/T](#)

[Money > New Zealand > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > \\$5,501 to \\$6,388 R/T](#)

[Money > Tahiti > All Year > Biz Class > from Los Angeles and Las Vegas from \\$3,424 to \\$4,262 R/T](#)

FCF's Backup Booking Strategy Could Save Your Travel Life

are you
covered?

August 2024

Given the recent flurry of flight cancellations, I've included a special report published years ago. This serves as a friendly reminder about the importance of travel "insurance" and how to handle unexpected disruptions effectively.

Two tickets are better than one to guarantee the best seat on the right flights or to save your vacation altogether.

Let me tell you about a recent airline experience I had and why I think you should book two tickets for your next trip.

I was flying from San Francisco to New York — and me being me — for that length of flight, I wanted the last, non-red-eye flight with a wide-body aircraft that didn't only have seat 1A (not my favorite) available. For that

privilege, I had to part with \$1,398 for a United Business Class one-way fare. Pain point #1.

That was quickly followed by pain point #2 when at 10 o'clock the night before my flight, United sent me an email informing me of an equipment (aircraft) change. BUT, they couldn't tell me what my seat or aircraft would be for the next day's flight.

I paid \$1,398 flippin' dollars for a one-way domestic ticket and they couldn't tell me that?! As I'm sure you know, such flight changes and outright cancellations are rampant these days.

So now I'm thinking, are they going to throw me in someone else's favorite seat like 1A? We all have different seat and aircraft preferences, but I'm an aisle, second from the last row, middle section (no obstructed exit) on a 2-2-2 configuration kind of guy on domestic flights where I plan on getting work done, not a 1A kind of guy. I know I always say, "see you up front," but not THAT up front!

Now, if the ticket was \$600, that's a different story. But for \$1,398 for a one-way domestic flight, I want a nonstop, on a wide-body aircraft, at a convenient time, with a seat that suits me.

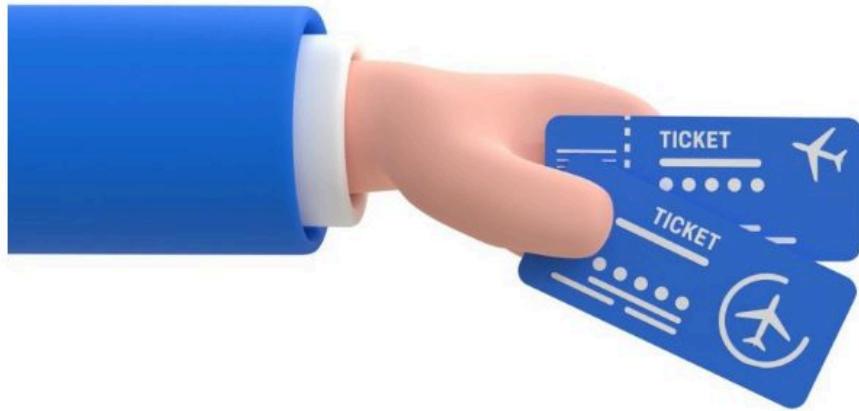
THE AIRLINE THREW ME A CURVE BALL, NOW WHAT?

I try to practice what I preach. I did some quick research and spotted a one-way Delta ticket for \$999 from San Francisco to JFK, not my favorite New York airport, but it was a reasonable hit to take after United couldn't tell me anything about my flight the next day (into Newark). In other words, I considered the less desirable airport instead of the mystery aircraft and seat.

So I bought the Backup Booking Strategy ticket on Delta for \$999 like any self-respecting buyer of a \$1,398 one-way domestic (mystery) ticket would do.

At this point I was on my way to SFO with two tickets, when finally United informed me of my fate: They assigned me a seat I didn't want, 1A! The last premium seat I want. With no option to change! So I canceled the United ticket and flew Delta. With no cancellation fees, I can use the United credit within 12 months. (When an airline has an equipment change, the airline automatically re-books on an alternate aircraft. However, your seats could be very different, perhaps undesirable to you, as mine were in this example, and they could even be on a different type of aircraft. You can easily get downgraded to coach as well, by the way.)

That's my story. Let's break it down a little further.



A TALE OF TWO TICKETS

I think the Backup Booking Strategy is a smart move right now given the turbulent nature of air travel these days with a lot of flights being canceled. Just because an airline chops and changes, doesn't mean you should miss out on that vacation or important business meeting. With the major U.S. airlines still not charging cancellation fees, you won't lose any money if you buy another ticket. But you will have to reschedule your original ticket within 12 months. Of course, if you shelled out for a refundable ticket, you could get a refund. (Delta offered me an upsell to a fully refundable fare for another \$250, but because I can re-use the ticket value in the next 12 months if I didn't use it, I passed. In fact, I re-used a previously unused Delta ticket for this one.

IS FCF'S BACKUP BOOKING STRATEGY SIMPLY A "DOUBLE BOOKING"?

While this may appear to be a double booking, it's not. A double booking is a technical airline industry term that means you have two tickets booked for the same trip, on the same airline. It's usually against airline policy.

FCF's Backup Booking Strategy, on the other hand, is a second ticket for the same trip on a different airline, so you're fine. In other words, while Democrats and Republicans talk to each other about your taxes, Delta doesn't talk to United about your tickets.

IS THIS RIGHT?

I realize that some might consider this strategy unethical, given that you're holding two tickets on two separate airlines for two different flights and potentially depriving an airline of revenue. But since I can't be in both seats at once, the other seat will become available for them to fill, for one.

Moreover, my rationale on the ethics is that the airlines are constantly trying to upsell me to a refundable ticket, which is essentially insurance. But, they can change the aircraft or cancel the flight altogether, often without making you whole. That's lopsided to me.

While aircraft changes are one thing, flight cancellations nowadays are often caused by poor airline operations so I'm just trying to make the best of the situation (pilots are picketing right now for gosh sake). I don't feel bad for the airlines given that when I do cancel the ticket, they still have my money in credit for another flight later. Plus, they can fill it.

BACKUP BOOKING STRATEGY TIPS

- If you are booking two tickets, do so on separate airlines, not within the same alliance. Otherwise you'll have a "double booking," which is not allowed by the airlines, and they might cancel one of them.
- This strategy works best for frequent or semi-frequent travelers – those who know they can easily use the credit within 12 months.
- Consider whether it's worth paying the extra \$250 or so for the airline-offered refundable ticket option if you don't fly much or don't envision using the credit of your unused Backup Booking Strategy ticket.



How to Save Up to 75% at Hilton and Hyatt On Peak Dates Like the Formula 1 in Austin

August 2024

Event-focused opportunities with savings on accommodations up to 75%

Ever been to a Formula 1 race? I've been to three and love the experience. The adrenaline. The speed. The sound. I even love the smell of fuel. The drivers are bona fide superstars across the globe these days, thanks in part to the *Drive to Survive* series on Netflix. It really is an unforgettable experience.

We've written about [special event travel](#) a couple of times [before](#). I'm a big sports fan so I take interest in these happenings. This special report looks at the strategy of buying hotels points to secure hotel deals in Austin for the Grand Prix in October.

People often hesitate to go to big events because hotel costs can be 3X to 7X the normal rates, and because of the misconception that hotels never have availability with points at peak times.

That's what this report is about. Dispelling all that.

MEET MARTIN, FORMULA 1 AFICIONADO

Martin is a dedicated [Formula 1](#) enthusiast, so the United States Grand Prix in Austin is a dream calendar event. [The Circuit of The Americas \(COTA\)](#) offers a thrilling track and a festival-like atmosphere with concerts and various entertainment options. Let's give Martin a stylish stay in Austin, shall we?



Formula 1: prepare to be overtaken with adrenaline

FULL-THROTTLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR AUSTIN'S FORMULA 1

Martin can use the points he's been accumulating for pole position opportunities at four- and five-star Hilton and Hyatt properties, or purchase the points if he doesn't have them.

HILTON

SAMPLE SAVINGS AT THE COLTON HOUSE HOTEL BY HILTON

The Colton House by Hilton typically goes for \$4,124 for three nights, which is \$1,374 per night, including taxes. Using your Hilton points, you can pay 70,000 points per night, [that's just \\$1,050 at a half a cent each if you don't have any points and buy them](#) (anyone can), for a savings of \$3,074 / 75% with the Hilton buy-points purchase strategy.

NO HILTON POINTS, NO PROBLEM

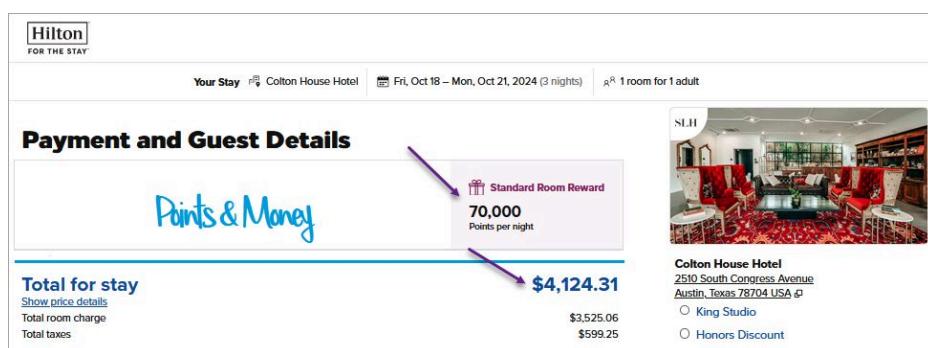
Hilton frequently offers buy points bonuses and discounts that allow you to [purchase up to 80,000 points annually](#), and [up to 480,000 during promotions](#). Hilton's **current targeted offer, which can vary from one member to another**, can lower the point cost to as low as a half a cent each, [through](#)

September 24. During the promotion, the bonus cap has been increased, so members could buy up to a maximum of 480,000 points after the bonus.

If you don't have enough points, you can transfer from Amex (one Amex point = two Hilton Honors points).

For an unlimited amount of points, know that you can pool your points and use [FCF's "how to get around buying points maximum limits strategy."](#) More here on [Hilton strategies](#).

See examples below for the deals with savings of up to 75%.



The screenshot shows a Hilton booking interface. At the top, it says "Your Stay" and "Colton House Hotel" with a date range from "Fri, Oct 18 – Mon, Oct 21, 2024 (3 nights)" and "1 room for 1 adult". Below this, a "Payment and Guest Details" section is titled "Points & Money". It shows a "Standard Room Reward" of "70,000 Points per night". To the right, there's a photo of a room with red velvet chairs and a fireplace. Below the reward, the "Total for stay" is listed as "\$4,124.31". The breakdown shows "Total room charge" as "\$3,525.06" and "Total taxes" as "\$599.25". There are also options for "King Studio" and "Honors Discount".

MORE SAMPLE SAVINGS

At the time of writing, we found a couple of hotels where you can use your Hilton points or [the Hilton buy-points strategy](#) for the Formula 1 race in Austin and pay 70,000-80,000 points per night.

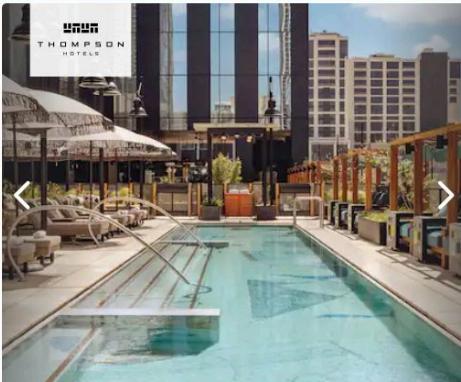
Hilton	Room or Suite Type	Published Rate for 3 Nights, Including Taxes	Points Required for 3 Nights	Cost to Buy Points When on Sale	Savings	
Colton House Hotel	King	\$4,124	210,000	\$1,050	\$3,074	75%
Canopy by Hilton Austin Downtown		\$3,139	240,000	\$1,200	\$1,939	62%
DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Austin	Suite	\$2,632	210,000	\$1,050	\$1,582	60%

HYATT

THOMPSON AUSTIN BY HYATT

Here's what I booked, although it seems accommodations at the Thompson are no longer available for the race weekend on October 18-20. But there's still a 50/50 chance it will become available before October.

The Thompson by Hyatt typically goes for \$5,893 for three nights. That's \$1,964 per night, including taxes. Using the Hyatt points strategy, I paid 83,000 points for the three nights (see below). If you have to buy the Hyatt points, pay just \$1,594 when they go on sale, for a savings of \$4,299 / 73% with [the Hyatt buy-points purchase strategy](#).



Thompson Austin

4.5 (222) | Award Category 6 | 0.1 mi



Rates from:
25,000 Points/Night
\$1,476 Avg/Night
Includes Fees Before Taxes

[HOTEL WEBSITE](#) [VIEW RATES](#)

Price Summary

3 Night Stay	83,000 Points
Fri, Oct 18	29,000 Points
Sat, Oct 19	29,000 Points
Sun, Oct 20	25,000 Points
Total Points†	83,000 Points

Thank you for choosing to stay with Hyatt Hotels & Resorts
Confirmation: 42624340

Thompson Austin
506 San Jacinto Blvd
Austin, Texas, 78701
United States
Tel: +1 737 787 1234

MORE SAMPLE SAVINGS

We found a couple of hotels where you can use your Hyatt points and pay as low as 45,000. If you have to buy the points, pay \$1,440, for a savings of \$2,462-\$4,299 with the Hyatt buy-points purchase strategy.

NO HYATT POINTS, NO PROBLEM

Hyatt frequently offers buy points bonuses or discounts that allow you to [purchase up to 55,000 points annually](#) after 60 days of membership. The regular cost is 2.4 cents each, and the most recent 20% bonus ends October 8 which lowers the cost to 1.92 cents each during this sale. If you don't have enough, you can transfer from Chase, pool your points, [more here](#), or use [FCF's "how to get around buying points maximum limits strategy."](#)

See examples above of the deals with savings of up to 74%.

Hyatt Brand	Room or Suite Type	Published Rate for 3 Nights, Including Taxes	Points Required for 3 Nights	Cost to Buy Points When on Sale	Savings
tommy Austin		\$3,326	45,000	\$864	\$2,462 74%

Hyatt Brand	Room or Suite Type	Published Rate for 3 Nights, Including Taxes	Points Required for 3 Nights	Cost to Buy Points When on Sale	Savings	
Thompson Austin	King	\$5,893	83,000	\$1,594	\$4,299	73%
The Driskill		\$5,184	75,000	\$1,440	\$3,744	72%
Miraval Austin Resort and Spa - Adults Only	Queen	\$6,842	195,000	\$3,744	\$3,098	45%

GETTING THERE

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) is the gateway to Austin. Major U.S. airlines, including American, Delta, and United offer numerous daily flights from key cities across the country.

Martin's journey to the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix in Austin promises to be a thrill ride adventure to the final checkered flag. So copy Martin. Rev your engines, secure your tickets, and wait for the starting lights. You're going to be a winner.



Get the Caribbean for Free (or Less than Free) on Your Next Trip to Miami or New York on American Airlines

August 2024

How to add San Juan, St. Croix, or St. Thomas to your round-trip ticket and pay up to \$411 LESS

Imagine a golden opportunity where your journey to the tropical paradise of the Caribbean starts the moment you step on the plane. It's not just a vacation; it's an adventure with a twist, a tale of how savvy travelers can unlock a dreamy tropical getaway for less. Let's delve into the Stopover Loophole Strategy (SLS), a travel strategy that turns ordinary trips into extraordinary experiences without breaking the bank.

THE STOPOVER LOOPHOLE STRATEGY (SLS) UNVEILED

Imagine you're on a game show, the kind where the host exclaims, "Come on down!" and the audience erupts in wild cheers. Picture yourself standing there, heart racing, as the host asks, "Would you like a free vacation?" Your answer, of course, is a resounding "Yes!" And just like that, you're a winner, not just in theory but in reality, thanks to the SLS.

The SLS takes advantage of airline stopover allowances, transforming layovers into extended vacations. A stopover, in airline lingo, is a planned layover that lasts more than four hours for domestic flights. But here's the twist: These stopovers can stretch into days or even weeks, often at no extra cost. It's like finding a hidden treasure chest in your travel itinerary.

With the SLS, you can:

- 1. Get Paid to Travel:** Add a side trip and reduce your total booking cost. It's like the airline is paying you to take a vacation.
- 2. Book Free Side Trips:** Enjoy additional destinations for the same cost as a traditional round-trip.
- 3. Save on Extended Travel:** Even if the cost is slightly higher, it's still significantly cheaper than booking separate round-trips.

IDEAL FOR EVERY TRAVELER

Imagine the joy of setting off from San Francisco, San Diego, Phoenix, Portland, or Seattle, knowing that your trip to New York or Miami comes with a bonus. Whether it's the historic charm of Old San Juan, the verdant landscapes of St. Croix, or the immaculate beaches of St. Thomas, the Caribbean awaits you on a stopover and it's all wrapped up in the savvy packaging of the Stopover Loophole Strategy.

This strategy is perfect for:

- Leisure Travelers:** Those who relish the flexibility of adding a side trip when visiting friends or family in Miami or New York.
- Business Travelers on a Budget:** Professionals who want to sneak in a vacation while on a business trip to Miami or New York

UNLOCKING CARIBBEAN ADVENTURES FOR LESS

Imagine a sidestep so graceful it would make a star running back proud. Instead of a straightforward round-trip from San Diego to Miami on American Airlines costing \$1,350, add in the sun-soaked haven of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the price magically drops to \$939. You save \$411, effectively making the stopover a golden ticket to an additional vacation for free.



THE MAGIC OF MULTIPLE DESTINATIONS

Instead of a typical point-to-point round-trip, the SLS includes a slight detour that actually saves you money. Here are some sample itineraries.

U.S. R/T	Normal Premium Fare R/T	Inbound Side Trip City	New Premium Fare with Side Trip	Savings	
Phoenix-Miami	\$1,241	San Juan	\$861	\$380	31%
		St. Croix	\$957	\$284	23%
		St. Thomas	\$1,105	\$136	11%
Portland-Miami	\$1,280	San Juan	\$927	\$353	28%
		St. Thomas	\$1,009	\$271	21%
		St. Croix	\$1,036	\$244	19%
San Diego-Miami	\$1,350	San Juan	\$939	\$411	30%
		St. Thomas	\$1,001	\$349	26%
		St. Croix	\$1,058	\$292	22%

U.S. R/T	Normal Premium Fare R/T	Inbound Side Trip City	New Premium Fare with Side Trip	Savings	
San Francisco-Miami	\$1,390	San Juan	\$1,082	\$308	22%
		St. Thomas	\$1,146	\$244	18%
		St. Croix	\$1,361	\$29	2%
San Francisco-New York	\$1,910	San Juan	\$1,774	\$136	7%
Seattle-Miami	\$1,300	San Juan	\$945	\$355	27%
		St. Thomas	\$1,014	\$286	22%
		St. Croix	\$1,068	\$232	18%

A TALE OF TRAVEL TRIUMPH

So, the next time you're planning a trip to Miami or New York, think beyond the usual. Envision a journey where your round-trip ticket becomes a gateway to multiple destinations. It's not just about reaching your destination; it's about the adventures you unlock along the way. The Caribbean, with its azure waters and vibrant culture, is no longer a distant dream but a delightful reality, all thanks to the magic of the Stopover Loophole Strategy.

As you bask in the Caribbean sun, remember that you didn't just take a vacation; you crafted an experience. It's a story of how clever planning turned a simple trip into a saga of savings and splendor. So, pack your bags, set your sights on the horizon, and let the adventure begin. The Caribbean is calling, and your journey is just a stopover away.



Save Up to 80%: Unleashing the Potential of Your Trip to Bali, the Maldives and the Seychelles with the Power of Buying Hilton Points

August 2024

A Journey to Luxury for Up to 80% Less

As regular readers know, we're hot on [buy-miles deals](#) in travel. They can turbocharge your buying power in an instant, yet many people don't take advantage of them. Today, we're talking about **buying points for hotel stays (anyone can)**, specifically Hilton. Imagine embarking on a treasure hunt, where instead of gold and jewels, you uncover luxurious stays in the world's most coveted destinations, all at a fraction of the cost. This is the allure of Hilton points.

THE MAGIC OF DYNAMIC AWARD STRUCTURES

Hilton's dynamic award structure is like a constantly shifting landscape, where the cost in dollars and points varies based on several factors, including the property, time of year, and demand. We've seen points needed range from as low as 46,000 to as high as 1,142,000 points per night. And then there's the Qasr Al Sharq suite at the Waldorf Astoria Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, which can set you back 3,923,000 points per night.

EMBRACE THE UPGRADE MINDSET

With FCF's Upgrade Mindset, we urge you to think outside normal rates. Don't be caught in travel default thinking. Instead, keep your mind and options open to opportunity. Better travel and accommodations might be waiting for you, in spades.

THE SECRET TO HILTON SAVINGS

Hilton frequently offers buy points bonuses and discounts that allow you to [purchase up to 80,000 points annually](#). Hilton's **current targeted offer, which can vary from one member to another**, can lower the point cost to as low as a half a cent each, **through September 24**. During the promotion, the bonus cap has been increased, so members could buy **up to** a maximum of 480,000 points after the bonus, depending on the offer you receive.

If you don't have enough points, you can transfer from Amex (one Amex point = two Hilton Honors points).

[For an unlimited amount of points](#), know that you can pool your Hilton points and use [FCF's "how to get around buying points maximum limits strategy."](#)

Let's dive into some examples of how these points can transform your travel experiences.

FIFTH NIGHT FREE!

If you're an elite member with Hilton, and almost anyone can be through [credit cards partnerships](#) like American Express, which gives free Hilton silver membership to every Tom, Dick, and Harry, you can **get a fifth night free** when redeeming Hilton points, driving down the cost even further. Let's take a look at how good this can be.

FIVE-STAR FLING #1: SEYCHELLES

Save up to \$4,738 / 65% at the Waldorf Astoria Seychelles, Platte Island

Imagine yourself on a pristine island, surrounded by turquoise waters and lush greenery. The Waldorf Astoria Seychelles offers a Deluxe King Room for \$1,468 per night. However, with Hilton points, you can bring the price down to just \$650 per night with the 5th night free and buying points, saving an Indian Ocean-sized 65%, or \$4,738. It's like discovering a secret pathway through the jungle to a hidden beach paradise.

Hilton
FOR THE STAY

Your Stay  Waldorf Astoria Seychelles Platte Island  Mon, Aug 26 – Sat, Aug 31, 2024 (5 nights)  1 room for 1 adult

Payment and Guest Details

Points & Money

 Standard Room Reward
130,000 Points per night

Total for stay  **6,720.00€**
6,720 Euro equals
7,339.28 United States Dollar



Waldorf Astoria Seychelles Platte Island
Platte Island, Seychelles 
 King Deluxe Room
 Honors SALE Breakfast Included

FIVE-STAR FLING #2: BALI

Save up to 60% at the Umana Bali, LXR Hotels & Resorts

Perhaps Bali is more your scene. Here, the Umana Bali, LXR Hotels & Resorts offers rooms for \$860 per night. By leveraging Hilton points purchase strategy, you can reduce the cost to just \$425 per night with the 5th night free, saving 60%, or \$2,602.

Hilton
FOR THE STAY

Your Stay  Umana Bali, LXR Hotels & Resorts  Mon, Aug 26 – Sat, Aug 31, 2024 (5 nights)  1 room for 1 adult

Payment and Guest Details

Points & Money

 Standard Room Reward
85,000 Points per night

Total for stay  **Rp 68,933,700.00**
68,933,700 Indonesian Rupiah equals
4,301.88 United States Dollar



Umana Bali, LXR Hotels & Resorts
Jl. Melasti Banjar Kelod, Ungasan
Bali, 80364 Indonesia 
 One Bedroom Tropical Garden Pool Villa
 Honors Discount

FIVE-STAR FLING #3: MALDIVES

Mix it up and get an Indian Ocean-sized Savings of \$18,462 / 77%

For an unforgettable experience, consider a five-night stay at the Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi and five nights at the Conrad Maldives Rangali Island. This combination can deliver an astounding 77% savings, amounting to \$18,462. It's like diving into a treasure chest full of sparkling gems beneath the crystal-clear Maldivian waters.

Destination	Hotel	Room Type	Typical Published Rate for Five Nights, Including Taxes	Typical Points Required for Five Nights (5th Night Free)	Total Cost if You Had to Buy the Points	Savings
Maldives	5 Nights at the Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi	King Reef Villa with Pool	\$15,286	600,000	\$3,000	\$12,286 80%
	5 Nights at the Conrad Maldives Rangali Island*	Beach Villa	\$8,576	480,000	\$2,400	\$6,176 72%

*Villa rates exclude seaplane charges. Villas on Rangali Island welcome guests 16 & above.

FIVE NIGHTS AT THE WALDORF ASTORIA MALDIVES ITHAAFUSHI

Payment and Guest Details

Points & Money

Standard Room Reward
150,000 Points per night

Total for stay
\$15,285.86

Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi
Ithaafushi Island, South Male Atoll
Male, 20009 Maldives
King Reef Villa with Pool
Honors Discount

FIVE NIGHTS AT THE CONRAD MALDIVES RANGALI ISLAND

Step 3 of 3
Payment and Guest Details

Points & Money

Standard Room Reward
120,000 Points per night

Total for stay
\$8,576.02

Conrad Maldives Rangali Island
Conrad Maldives
Rangali Island, 20077 Maldives
Beach Villa
Honors Discount

DEALS TO REMEMBER

When you buy Hilton points during promotional periods, you unlock the potential to save up to 80% at many 4- and 5-star top-tier properties throughout Bali, the Maldives, and the Seychelles, to name a few. These deals are the hidden gems in the vast landscape of travel, waiting to be discovered by savvy travelers like you.

Here are more examples.

Destination	Hotel	Room Type	Typical Published Rate for Five Nights, Including Taxes	Typical Points Required for Five Nights (5th Night Free)	Total Cost if You Had to Buy the Points	Savings	
Bali	Umana Bali, LXR Hotels & Resorts	Tropical Garden Pool Villa, One Bedroom	\$4,302	340,000	\$1,700	\$2,602	60%
	Viceroy Bali	Pool Suite	\$4,570	420,000	\$2,100	\$2,470	54%
Seychelles	Waldorf Astoria Seychelles Platte Island	Deluxe King	\$7,338	520,000	\$2,600	\$4,738	65%
Maldives	Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi	King Reef Villa with Pool	\$15,286	600,000	\$3,000	\$12,286	80%
	Milaidhoo Maldives, Adults Only, a SLH Hotel*	Water Pool Villa	\$10,845	520,000	\$2,600	\$8,245	76%
	Conrad Maldives Rangali Island****	Beach Villa	\$8,576	480,000	\$2,400	\$6,176	72%
	Amilla, a SLH Hotel**	Lagoon Water Pool Villa	\$7,250			\$4,850	67%
	Hilton Maldives Amingiri Resort & Spa***	Beach Pool Villa, One Bedroom	\$6,265	440,000	\$2,200	\$4,065	65%
	Baros Maldives, a SLH Hotel*****	Deluxe Beach Villa	\$5,765	480,000	\$2,400	\$3,365	58%
	Huvafen Fushi Maldives, a SLH Hotel**	Lagoon Bungalow with Pool	\$7,205	600,000	\$3,000	\$4,205	

*Return seaplane transfer is included in the price of the room.

**Return seaplane transfer of \$1,021 per adult and \$511 per child, payable upon departure.

***Premium speedboat transfers, resort is only accessible via a premium speedboat transfers with mandatory fees of \$300+ per adult and USD 150++ for children ages 6-11 years. Fees are exclusive of applicable taxes and service charges. Third-party transport arrangements are not permitted.

****Villa rates exclude seaplane charges. Villas on Rangali Island welcome guests 16 & above.

*****Return shared speedboat transfers are included in the price of the room. This adult-only hotel welcomes guests aged 18 and up.

CONCLUSION

So, unwrap your pillow chocolate, put on your fluffy white bathrobe, and settle back for some lucrative reading. The world of Hilton points is vast and full of potential, offering a pathway to luxury that is often overlooked. With a bit of strategy and the right mindset, you can transform your travel experiences from ordinary to extraordinary. Embrace the journey, and let Hilton points be your guide to unparalleled luxury for less.