



# 13 Ways to Win When There's Only One Mileage Seat Available

July 2024

## Is it game over when there's only one mileage seat? No!

You don't need me to tell you that finding mileage award seats is tough in Business and First Class. It's mostly what *you* tell *me*. I get it, it's a challenge for me too, despite the fact that it's what I do for a living. *But*, it's not impossible, even when you want to travel up front with a loved one to share the experience. Let's look at 13 ways to win this *high-stakes* game of musical chairs.



Are you ready to win mileage musical chairs?

## 1. START WITH ONE

Most travelers search for mileage award seats based on the number of people they're flying with. Of course, right? **No!** At FCF, we start by searching for one seat only. When that's spotted, we search for the next seat. That's because when you look for two seats (or more), you won't see the one-seat availability options, which means you'll find much less availability. Or the per-seat cost is much more (we look at a sweet workaround this month, [right here](#)). It's a website design thing I'd love to change, but that's for another day.

Singapore Airlines typically only releases one First Class award seat at a time, but their seats gradually become available right up to departure time. And they're not the only airline to do so. So when you do get that precious award seat, it doesn't mean you won't get another; you just have to play the musical chairs game and wait. Then when the music stops, slam your patootie down on that seat (knowing another may open up, as well)!

## 2. UPGRADE CLOSER TO DEPARTURE

It's a travel truth: [award space tends to open up as the day of departure approaches](#). So that means you need to keep your eyes on the prize to win. You need to get Alexa to remind you to keep checking availability because it's always changing. For example, Etihad usually only opens up award space to partners two or so weeks before departure for First Class, which even holds true for flights to regions such as the South Pacific.


## 3. BIGGER IS BETTER

This is basic math, but the bigger the airplane or cabin, the more chance of getting more than one mileage seat. For example, look at the Los Angeles-Frankfurt route on Lufthansa. Lufthansa offers a nonstop flight on an [A340-600](#) aircraft that has 44 to 56 Business Class seats, and a [B747-8](#) aircraft that has 80 Business Class seats. Those extra 36 seats increase your odds of low-cost mileage award availability quite a bit.



## 4. TAKE AN EARLIER OR LATER FLIGHT

Let's say you're flying from New York to Paris. There's a flight that departs at 4:30 p.m. and another at 6:30 p.m. Is it the end of the world if you and your traveling companion split up, each scoring a mileage seat on separate flights? Not necessarily. "Save me a seat at Café de Flore for breakfast. Order me a croissant with butter and jam!"



4:30 PM – 5:45 AM (+1 day)

New York (JFK)

Paris (CDG)

AIRFRANCE

AF0001

Trip duration:

7h15

Lowest fare

50,000 Miles

+USD 203.30

View flight details

1 seat left

6:30 PM – 7:45 AM (+1 day)

New York (JFK)

Paris (CDG)

AIRFRANCE

AF0005

Trip duration:

7h15

Lowest fare

50,000 Miles

+USD 203.30

View flight details

1 seat left

## 5. TRAVEL A DAY EARLIER OR LATER

Sometimes a little flex can pay off big. Tom has a meeting in London on Wednesday, July 31. Natural instincts say to fly into London the day before. But that would mean missing out on a great opportunity. Namely, a First Class award ticket on July 29 for just 72,000 miles versus a Business Class award on July 30 for 136,500 miles. Look at it this way: You are getting an upgrade and the airline is inviting you to see some London sights before your meeting with not a lot of miles. If at all possible, I'd accept that invitation!

**Business**

One way (per person)

136,500 miles

+ \$5.60

Total (all passengers)

136,500 miles + \$5.60

DEPART






Dallas/Fort Worth, TX to London, United Kingdom

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

9:35 PM → 12:45 PM<sup>+1</sup>

9h 10m Nonstop Business

AA80 77W-Boeing 777

⚠ Overnight flight or connection

**First**

One way (per person)

72,000 miles

+ \$5.60

Total (all passengers)

72,000 miles + \$5.60

DEPART






Dallas/Fort Worth, TX to London, United Kingdom

Monday, July 29, 2024

9:35 PM → 12:45 PM<sup>+1</sup>

9h 10m Nonstop First

AA80 77W-Boeing 777

⚠ Overnight flight or connection

## 6. CHECK FOR UPGRADES

Even if you only score one seat as an [upgrade](#) you're still ahead by earning miles and spending fewer miles. You can grab another seat in Business Class for cash. Hang in there, [you can always upgrade closer to your travel date](#).

## 7. CONCENTRATE ON THE LONG-HAUL SEGMENT

If you're traveling internationally from a smaller U.S. city, concentrate on the long-haul flight. Say you live in Boise and are going to London via Dallas, the important seats are the ones on the long Dallas-to-London leg. Prioritize the flight segments you want to be most comfortable on even if it means flying in economy from Boise to Dallas.

## 8. CONNECT THE DOTS

If you're traveling internationally from a hub city, try looking for flights from a [nearby smaller departure city](#) or to a nearby destination. You can sometimes [find award seats on connecting flights for quite a bit less](#).

## 9. BUY ONE TICKET WITH CASH

If all else fails, get the other seat with cash and you're still 50% ahead.

## 10. GRAB ONE SEAT IN FIRST AND ONE IN BUSINESS

If two people are traveling, grab the one award seat you found in First and then search in Business Class, as it tends to have better availability. Then grab that seat too, which gives you a few choices:

- You can toss a coin to see who gets to sit in First (are you feelin' lucky?)
- This might sound insane, but if you want to sit next to your loved one or business colleague you can offer your First Class seat to the passenger next to them in Business Class as a trade. We're guessing nobody ever said: "Thanks anyway but I'll stay here in Business Class rather than go up to First!"
- Be pragmatic about flying in a different cabin or even a different flight. Maybe you've just spent a romantic week with your partner in Europe. They can do some laptop work while you watch Season One of *House of the Dragon*.

## 11. CONSIDER HORSES FOR COURSES

Book in **First Class** on your night flight out and **Business Class** on your return flight, possibly even on two different airlines. Comfort-wise, [the Horses for Courses strategy pays off](#) because you're prioritizing the overnight flight to your destination versus your return flight where sleep and jet lag don't matter as much.

## 12. WAITLIST AWARD SPACE

It's worth waitlisting if you're not having much luck with other options. We have seen it come through albeit usually one seat at a time, not two together. All Nippon, Cathay Pacific, [Emirates](#), Singapore Airlines, and

United are best for this option. Below is an Emirates screenshot for waitlisted flights.



### 13. BE PROACTIVE: STOP BOOKING BACKWARDS

You've spent weeks planning a specific trip around specific dates, but maybe you haven't considered your options for premium cabin travel. By the time you're ready to book the airline ticket, you won't be able to [find any deals](#) because you've boxed yourself in by the dates of your hotel, tour, or cruise.

FCF gives you a heads-up on multi-seat availability in our [Sweet Redeems alerts](#) with an Availability Calendar. It shows one-, two-, and four-seat availability by route, so you can see what's on offer at a glance. If you want to make award flying as easy as I do, find the best flight deals first, and then plan the rest of your trip around those opportunities.

See you up front.



# July's Top 91 Mileage Awards & Special Fares Greatest Hits (Still Available)

July 2024

## July Summer Sizzlers

Break out the ice-cold lemonade, FCF has found an Olympic-sized pool full of awesome mile and fare opportunities to burgle all across our third rock from the sun. Whether you're looking to soak up the sun, or escape from it, we've got a pin drop destination for you to consider.

## Sweet Redeems

### ASIA

[First Class > Cash OR Miles > Cathay Pacific > Los Angeles and Many Other Cities to Hong Kong & Beyond > 2+ Travelers](#)

## DOMESTIC

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

## EUROPE

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

[\\*First Class\\* With Cash OR Miles > Lufthansa > East Coast and Many Other Cities to Frankfurt & Beyond > 2+ Travelers](#)

[\\*First Class\\* With Cash OR Miles > Lufthansa > West Coast and Many Other Cities to Frankfurt & Beyond > 4+ Travelers](#)

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

[\\*First Class\\* With Cash OR Miles > Lufthansa > East Coast and Many Other Cities to Munich & Beyond > 2+ Travelers](#)

[Miles / Points > Milan & Paris > Biz Class > 4+ Travelers > American from the East Coast](#)

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

[Miles / Points > Frankfurt > First Class > Handful > Single Seat > Singapore Airlines from New York](#)

[Miles or \\$ > 4+ Seats > Business Class > Amsterdam & Brussels from Texas and New York](#)

[Miles or \\$ > Business Class > East Coast to Geneva, 4+ Seats](#)

[Miles or \\$ > Business Class > East Coast to Frankfurt, 4+ Seats](#)

[Miles or \\$ > Business Class > East Coast to London > 4+ Seats](#)

## MIDDLE EAST

[Cash OR Miles > 2025 Travel > Middle East > Handful of Qatar Airways Business Class Seats From the West Coast / 2+ Seats](#)

[Cash OR Miles > 2025 Travel > Middle East > Qatar Airways Business Class From the East Coast / 2+ Seats](#)



[Miles / Points > Scads of Single Seat > Emirates > \\*First Class\\* > East Coast to Dubai](#)

[Cash OR Miles > 2025 Travel > Middle East > Handful of Qatar Airways Business Class Seats from Atlanta and Dallas / 2+ Seats](#)



## Upgrades

### EUROPE

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade Opportunities > 4 Seats > from Newark to Brussels](#)

## Published Fares

### AFRICA

[Money > Nairobi > All Year > Biz Class from Canada > \\$3,067 to \\$3,881 USD R/T](#)

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

[Money > Johannesburg and Cape Town > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$3,484 to \\$4,025 R/T](#)

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

### ASIA

[Money > Hong Kong > Winter/Spring > Biz Class from Canada > \\$3,244 to \\$4,160 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Taiwan > All Year > Biz Class > from Vancouver and Calgary from \\$3,260 to \\$4,120 USD R/T](#)



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

[Money > Southeast Asia > All Year > Biz Class > from Vancouver from \\$3,325 to \\$3,449 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Bangkok > All Year > Biz Class > from Montreal, Vancouver, and Toronto from \\$3,353 to \\$3,945 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Seoul > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$3,487 to \\$4,194 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Osaka and Tokyo > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$3,444 to \\$4,180 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Asia > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,232 to 4,185 R/T](#)



## **CARIBBEAN**

[Money > Antigua > All Year > Biz Class > \\$918 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 > \\$608 to \\$773 R/T](#)

[Money > Tortola > All Year > Biz Class > \\$951 to \\$1,184 R/T](#)

[Money > St. Thomas > All Year > Biz Class > \\$682 to \\$1,048 R/T](#)

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

[Money > Saint Kitts > All Year > Biz Class > \\$911 to \\$1,164 R/T](#)

[Money > St. Lucia > All Year > Biz Class > \\$843 to \\$1,069 R/T](#)

[Money > Aruba > All Year > Biz Class > \\$755 to \\$1,163 R/T](#)

[Money > Cayman Islands > All Year > Biz Class > \\$845 to \\$1,084 R/T](#)

[Money > Puerto Rico > All Year > Biz Class > \\$674 to \\$791 R/T](#)

## **EUROPE**

[Money > Greece > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$2,418 to \\$2,744 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Spain > All Year > First Class > \\$3,848 to \\$5,649 R/T](#)

[Money > Frankfurt > All Year > Biz Class > from New York, Miami, and Atlanta from \\$2,495 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 > \\$1,999 to \\$3,078 R/T](#)

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

[Money > Rome > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,612 to \\$3,163 R/T](#)

[Money > Barcelona > Winter/Summer > Biz Class > from New York, Miami, and Orlando from \\$2,792 to \\$3,126 R/T](#)

[Money > Milan > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,600 to \\$3,148 R/T](#)

[Money > Madrid > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,598 to \\$3,199 R/T](#)

[Money > U.K. > All Year > First Class > \\$4,079 to \\$5,604 R/T](#)

[Money > Greece > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > from New York from \\$2,620 to \\$2,972 R/T](#)

[Money > Scotland > All Year > First Class > \\$4,338 to \\$5,655 R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$2,185 to \\$2,627 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > First Class > \\$3,096 to \\$3,903 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > Premium Economy > \\$667 to \\$849 R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > Summer > First Class > \\$3,903 to \\$5,603 R/T](#)

[Money > England > All Year > Biz Class from Canada > \\$2,444 to \\$3,211 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Dublin > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,707 to \\$3,107 R/T](#)

[Money > Budapest > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > from New York, Dallas, and Chicago from \\$2,623 to \\$3,145 R/T](#)

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

[Money > Lisbon > All Year > First Class > \\$4,321 to \\$5,367 R/T](#)

[Money > Switzerland > Summer > First Class > \\$4,201 to \\$5,448 R/T](#)

[Money > Prague > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,452 to \\$3,199 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe > All Year > Biz Class with TAP Portugal > \\$1,986 to \\$2,760 R/T](#)

[Money > Germany > All Year > First Class > \\$4,275 to \\$5,537 R/T](#)

[Money > Valencia > Winter/Spring > First Class > \\$4,038 to \\$5,152 R/T](#)

[Money > Copenhagen > Fall > Biz Class > \\$2,618 to \\$3,067 R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > All Year > Biz Class > \\$1,999 to \\$3,209 R/T](#)

[Money > Greece > Winter/Spring > First Class > from New York and Seattle from \\$4,063 to \\$5,194 R/T](#)

[Money > London > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,458 to \\$3,165 R/T](#)

[Money > Milan > Winter/Fall > First Class > \\$3,856 to \\$5,537 R/T](#)

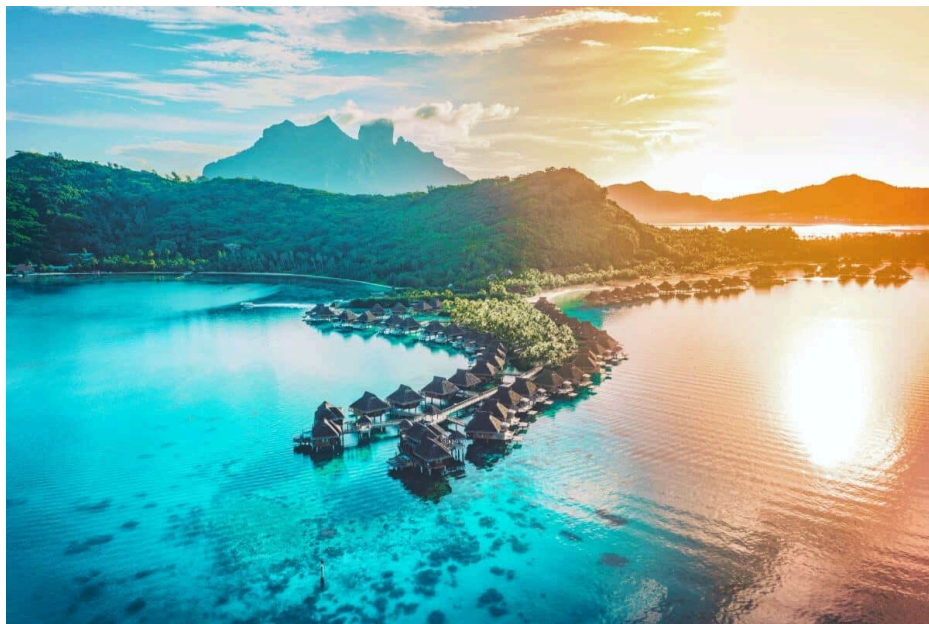
## **HAWAII**

[Money > Maui > Summer > Biz Class > \\$879 to \\$1,413 R/T](#)

[Money > Honolulu > Biz Class > \\$871 to \\$1,477 R/T](#)

[Money > Kauai > All Year > Biz Class > \\$868 to \\$1,528 R/T](#)

[Money > Kona > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > \\$896 to \\$1,440 R/T](#)



## **INDIA**

[Money > New Delhi > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,894 to \\$3,902 R/T](#)

[Money > India > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,026 to \\$3,902 R/T](#)

[Money > India > All Year > Biz Class > from Toronto and Vancouver from \\$2,782 to \\$3,175 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Mumbai > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,235 to \\$3,807 R/T](#)

## **MIDDLE EAST**

[Money > Istanbul > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,696 to \\$3,089 R/T](#)



## **MEXICO**

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

[Money > Cabo San Lucas > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$661 to \\$926 R/T](#)

## **NORTH AMERICA**

[Money > Transcon > All Year > Biz Class > \\$762 to \\$1,217 R/T](#)

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

[Money > Santiago > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > \\$1,847 to \\$3,198 R/T](#)

[Money > Buenos Aires > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > from Miami and New York from \\$2,628 to \\$3,069 R/T](#)



## **SOUTH PACIFIC**

[Money > Australia > All Year > Biz Class > \\$5,153 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, Seattle, and Las Vegas from \\$3,424 to \\$4,262 R/T](#)



July 2024

## How to get Lufthansa's new Business Class Suite for \$2,232 R/T

Lufthansa just served up a trifecta of travel treasures with:

1. New seats and suites
2. Lots of availability using miles
3. A lucrative buy-miles deal that can save up to 67%

And it's as easy as **eins, zwei, drei**. That's 1, 2, 3, if your German is a little rusty.

## NEW SEATS AND SUITES

Let's start where the rubber hits the road, so to speak – seat comfort. Lufthansa just spent a lot of money to make your patootie happy on long-haul flights in every cabin class. They call them Lufthansa Allegris seats. “Allegrì” means “cheerful” in Italian so I’m guessing that’s the connection, borrowed from one of their neighbors.

There are two aircraft with Lufthansa’s new Allegris seats at the moment. The A350-900 is a four cabin (First Class, Business Class, Premium Economy, and Economy), and the B787-900 is a three cabin (Business, Premium Economy, and Economy)

**First Class** on the A350-900 will feature three Above the Clouds First Class Suites and an Above the Clouds First Class Suite *Plus* for guests traveling together, for up to four First Class seats in total. There’s a double suite inside and two single suites by the window on each side. At 39 square feet, they’re right up there with the largest in the world.

And they’re luxurious, too. You get a personal wardrobe, a big dining table, a suite-wide TV screen, heated and cooled seats with “shoulder sink-in” so you can comfortably sink right into the seat. That’s something that side sleepers will rejoice over (statistics say that’s 74% of you). There’s also lots of tech an arm’s reach away including a tablet control unit, wireless charging station, and noise-canceling headphones. Note that the installation of seats in the **First Class cabin has been delayed and will not be installed until the fourth quarter of 2024.**



Lufthansa's A350-900 New Allegris First Class Suite *Plus*

**Business Class** on the A350-900 features 38 seats including eight suites with beds up to 7 feet 2 inches long, while the B787-900 has 28 suites. Privacy is prioritized with chest-high walls, sliding doors, and extended personal space in the front rows. Catch up on your shows by binging with a monitor up to 27 inches in size. And enjoy ample storage space, too.

You can also connect two suites for guests traveling together, or select from four additional seat options such as an extra-long bed, extra space and work area, a classic Business Class seat, or an exclusive seat directly

by the window with a high degree of privacy. Every seat is accessible from the aisle.

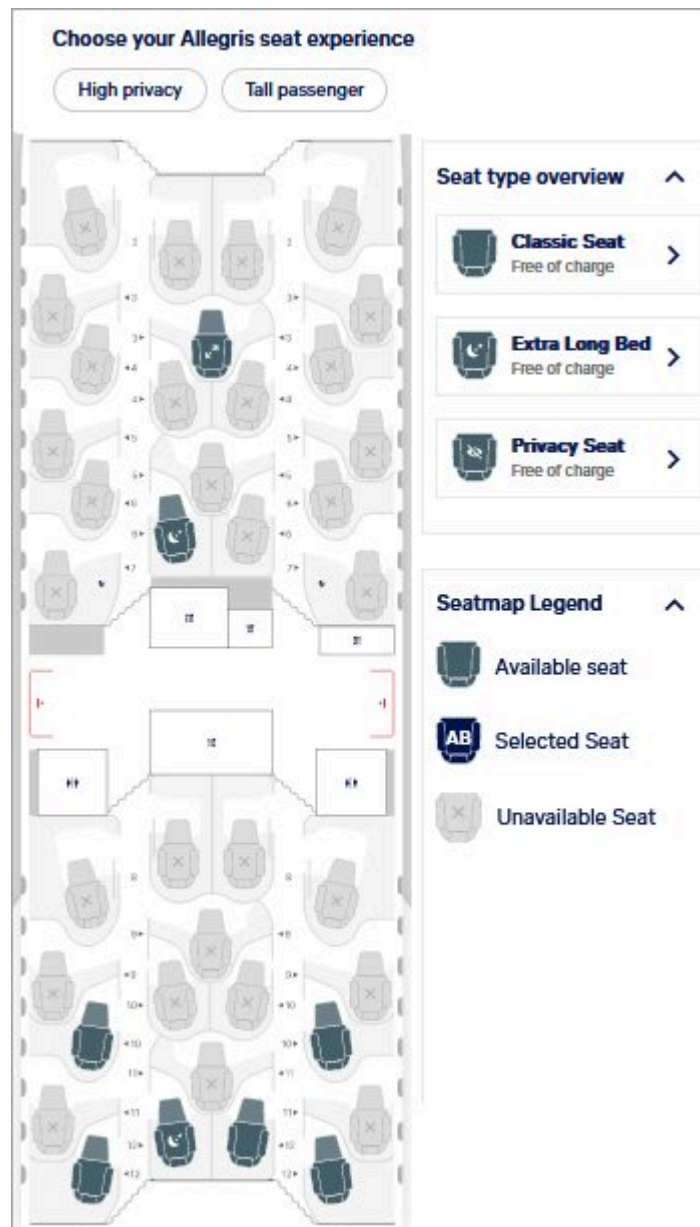


Lufthansa's A350-900 New Allegris Business Class Seat

Business Class Allegris seats are also heated and cooled, feature shoulder sink-in, wireless charging module, a personal in-suite minibar, a wardrobe, and Bluetooth connectivity for your devices.

During the introductory phase (lasting several months), limited aircraft will be equipped with the new travel classes. During this period, Business Class passengers can choose their desired seat from five different seat options free of charge.





**Premium Economy** the A350-900 has 26 modern seats in hard-shell design with more free space, while the B787-900 has 28 seats. There's a whopping two feet more seat pitch than the current layout, wireless charging for mobile devices in the personal center armrest, and noise-canceling headphones for that loud talker behind you.



Lufthansa's A350-900 New Allegris Premium Economy Seat

Lufthansa's A350-900 has the new seats and is currently operating on their Toronto- (flights 495/494) and Vancouver- (flights 477/476) Munich (both through the end of July) routes across every cabin except First Class, which has been delayed until the fourth quarter of 2024. With each additional A350, more destinations will be added, starting with Chicago on July 28 on flight 435/434.

The Toronto- and Vancouver-Munich destinations will change from August 2024, to include, San Francisco and Shanghai will then be served from Munich.

18:40

YVR

Terminal M

0 stops

+1 day

13:25

MUC

Terminal 2

Duration 9h 45m

Operated by Lufthansa

Allegris: New seat concept

20:25

YYZ

Terminal 1

0 stops

+1 day

10:15

MUC

Terminal 2

Duration 7h 50m

Operated by Lufthansa

Allegris: New seat concept

21:25

ORD

Terminal 1

0 stops

+1 day

12:55

MUC

Terminal 2

Duration 8h 30m

Operated by Lufthansa

Allegris: New seat concept

How to find the new Allegris seats on the A350-900: Within Lufthansa's fleet, the aircraft with new seats is a four-cabin, versus the existing three-cabin A350-900s.



## RECOMMENDS THE BUSINESS FLEX PLUS OPTION; MORE ON THAT [HERE](#).

The round-trip cost of a **Business Flex Plus** ticket between Chicago, Toronto or Vancouver and Munich is 156,000 miles (78,000 each way). So the cost of buying those miles during this sale (plus about \$200 in taxes) comes to a total cost of \$2,232 or about \$3,167 when not on sale, which is still 45%-54% less than regular published fares.

Considering that published Business Class round-trip fares for Chicago-Munich typically go for \$5,990, Toronto-Munich goes for \$5,746, and Vancouver-Munich for \$6,826, **your savings are between \$3,514 and \$4,594** (61%-67%). *Fantastisch!*



Suite opportunities on Lufthansa have lifted off

### AVAILABILITY

Now's the time to experience these new seats. There's a handful of award opportunities available now for up to four people in both Business Class and Premium Economy between Toronto- and Vancouver-Munich through the end of July.

Please note that availability and aircraft are subject to change. Keep an eye out for availability on upcoming routes with these new seats in [FCF's Newsroom](#).

### BONUS

Although it is not the new seat just yet, First Class is still a great option when miles are on sale as we've talked about [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

### LUFTHANSA'S FIRST CLASS SEAT AVAILABILITY

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From/To	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
Chicago-Frankfurt	July, Oct., Nov., July*	Nov., Dec., April to June	Dec., Jan. to March, April, June	Nov., April to June	Dec., May, March	Dec., Jan., Feb., April, May, June
Denver-Frankfurt			Nov. to March			Nov. to March
New York-Frankfurt	Oct., June	Nov., Dec.	Nov., Dec., Jan. to March	July, Aug., May	Dec., April	Nov., Jan. to March
Los Angeles-Frankfurt	Dec., Feb.	Jan.		Dec., Jan.	Feb.	Jan.
San Francisco-Frankfurt	July, Nov., Dec., Jan., March	Jan., Feb., March	Feb.	Nov., Dec., Jan., March	Jan., Feb., March	Feb.
Washington, DC-Frankfurt	July, Sept., Oct., June	Sept.	Aug.	July, Aug., Sept.	Aug., May	May, June
Boston-Munich	July, Aug.		July, April to June	July, Aug., Sept., Oct., July	July	April to June
Chicago-Munich	Aug.	Aug.		Sept.		Aug.
Los Angeles-Munich	July, Dec., March, April, June			March, April, June		
New York-Munich	July, Aug., May, June	July, April, June		June, July, May	July, April, May, June	July
Washington, DC-Munich	July to Sept., July*	July*	April to June, Aug.	July, Sept., July*	Aug., July*	April to June, Aug.

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

1-2-3, oh that's how elementary it's gonna be C'mon, let's fall in love, it's easy (it's so easy) Like takin' candy (like takin' candy) from a baby

1-2-3 by Len Barry, 1965 (went to number 2!)



# U-Turn, U-Save. FCF's Guide to First & Business Class Fares

July 2024

## **Save up to 62% on First and Business Class fares — and how to easily find them.**

By now FCF readers know all about flash fares and how fast they can disappear. We haven't seen the best of them in a while. Recently, fares haven't been quite as low and they have been hanging around a bit longer than usual, so we refer to them as [tactical fares](#). But you still have to jump on them before they're gone.

Case in point: the [\\$3,489 United Business Class fares to the South Pacific](#) we alerted you about in April that were available for only a week or two and then disappeared. And just last week, we were in the middle of putting together an article for some deliciously low [\\$3,394 First Class fares](#) that also didn't stick around for long. So we scrapped that piece.

That prompted us to dig deeper using Google Flights and find that there are still some low First and Business Class fares available using our handy-dandy U-Turn strategy. So we'll show you how to find these fares.



U are going the right way

## 1- FLIP THE SCRIPT AND SAVE

We wrote recently about our lucrative [U-Turn strategy in Business Class](#), [FCF's U-Turn Strategy Can Net First Class for Less than Biz](#), and [FCF's Three U-Turn Strategies That Can Net First Class to Asia for Nearly the Cost of Biz](#).

The U-Turn strategy profits from the knowledge that Europe-U.S.-Europe round-trip flights cost WAY less than those for U.S.-Europe-U.S. The idea is that if you make a “U-Turn” and start your trip *in Europe*, you end up saving a lot. In this report, we’re looking at the U-Turn strategy in First and Business Class.

Of course, you need to get to Europe to start the strategy, and you’ll end up in Europe at the end of the round-trip. So you’ll also need to book trips to Europe and back to the U.S. That will turn some people off.

But as we’ll demonstrate with the “keep it going” strategy, you can launch more “U-Turn” trips from Europe, saving more with each one you do.


## 2 – STRATEGY TO FIND THE LOWEST FARES

If you searched for fares on Google Flights, you would see that British Airways offers a lower fare than American Airlines for round-trip from Europe to the U.S. For example, for a round-trip U-Turn from Dublin to

San Francisco in First Class, British Airways charges USD \$2,851, while American charges USD \$3,710 for the same trip. If you booked directly on American, you would not know about the lower fare offered by British Airways for the same flights on the same dates. This is a perfect example of why FCF suggests [not being tied to one loyalty program](#).

## SAMPLE FIRST CLASS U-TURN STRATEGY FARE

British Airways in First Class  
Dublin to San Francisco round-trip for USD \$2,851



FLIGHT DETAILS

Dublin (Dublin) To San Francisco (San Francisco International)

15 hours 40 minutes - 1 connection

10:50 DUB — 12:25 LHR

Tue 14 Jan

Terminal 2

Tue 14 Jan

Terminal 5

Business

3 x 32kg checked bags included

Operated By: British Airways

15:10 LHR — 18:30 SFO

Tue 14 Jan

Terminal 5

Tue 14 Jan

Terminal 1

First

3 x 32kg checked bags included

Operated By: British Airways

FLIGHT DETAILS

San Francisco (San Francisco International) To Dublin (Dublin)

14 hours 25 minutes - 1 connection

16:35 SFO — 11:00 LHR

Tue 21 Jan

Terminal 1

+1d

Wed 22 Jan

Terminal 5

First

3 x 32kg checked bags included

Operated By: British Airways

13:35 LHR — 15:00 DUB

Wed 22 Jan

Terminal 5

Wed 22 Jan

Terminal 2

Business

3 x 32kg checked bags included

Operated By: British Airways

Your total price

€2,656.07

American in First Class Dublin to San Francisco round-trip for USD \$3,710 for the same flights



Price

**TOTAL**  
**3,456.07 EUR**  
Total price (including taxes and fees)  
1 adult  
2,632.00 EUR  
taxes and fees  
824.07 EUR  
Taxes and fees  
824.07 EUR  
1 Adult

✈ Itinerary

✈ Dublin - San Francisco  
Tuesday 14 January 2025  

10:50  
Dublin  
Dublin International (DUB)

12:25  
London  
Heathrow (LHR)

Business

STOP 02h45m Heathrow (LHR)

15:10  
London  
Heathrow (LHR)

18:30 San Francisco  
San Francisco Intl (SFO)

First

✈ San Francisco - Dublin  
Tuesday 21 January 2025  

16:35 San Francisco  
San Francisco Intl (SFO)

11:00 <sup>+1 day</sup> London  
Heathrow (LHR)

First

STOP 02h35m Heathrow (LHR)

13:35  
London  
Heathrow (LHR)

15:00  
Dublin  
Dublin International (DUB)

Business

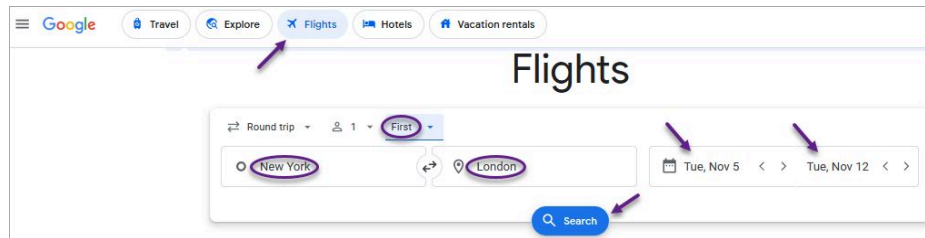
### 3 – HOW TO FIND LOW FIRST AND BUSINESS CLASS U-TURN FARES FROM EUROPE TO THE U.S.: FCF’S 10-STEP GUIDE

How to search for fares on [Google Flights](#).

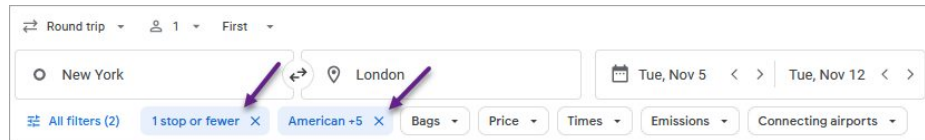
1. Select “Flights.”
2. Select Class.
3. Input your departure city.
4. Use a placeholder destination (any will do as it will be changed on the next screen).
5. Choose random dates (any will do as it will be changed on the next screen).

Click “Search”

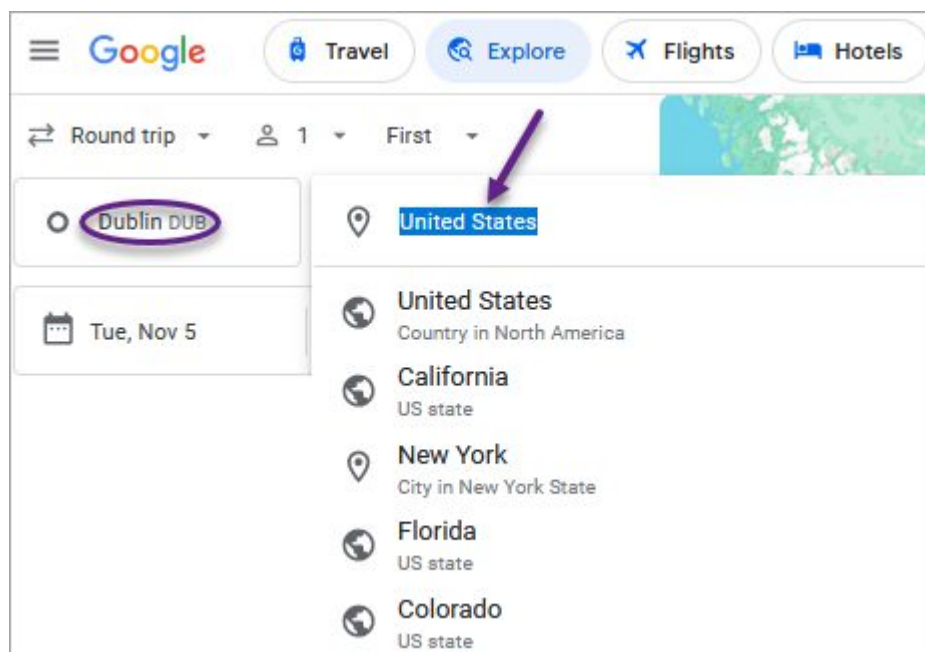
Page 4 of 9



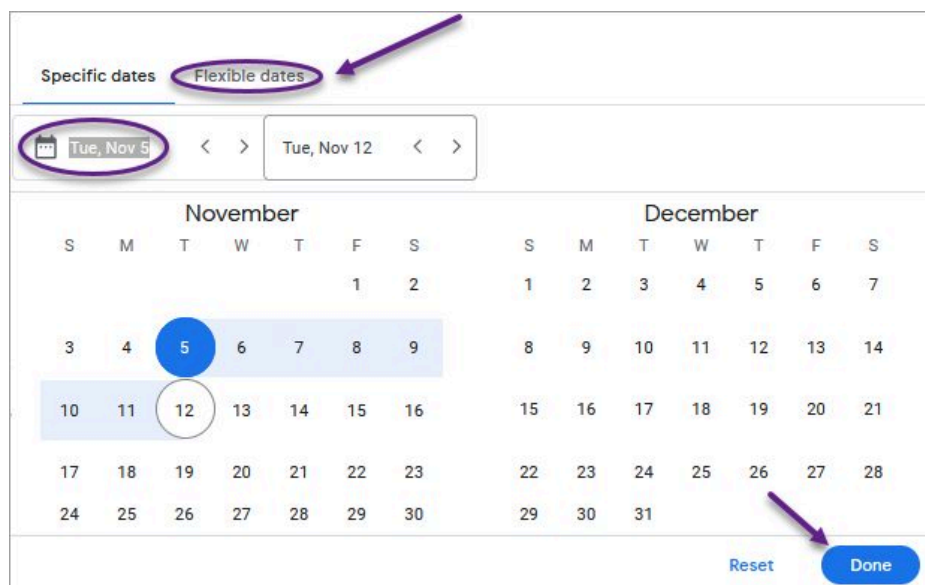
## 6. Apply filters



- Change the placeholder departure city to Dublin and the placeholder destination from London to the United States by typing in "United States." You can also look for a specific country by simply typing it in. For instance, if you want to see fares for South America, type in "South America."



- Select "departure date" and the option for "Flexible dates" will become available for you to select.



9. Select your date preferences. Either “All” for six months or a specific month to see the lowest fares within this time frame.

Specific datesFlexible dates

1-week trip in the next 6 months

✓ All

June

July

August

September

October

November

Weekend

✓ 1 week

2 weeks

Reset

Done

10. View your results:

Google Flights results for Dublin, Ireland. The map shows various US cities with their corresponding fares. San Francisco is highlighted with a red circle, showing a fare of \$2,761. Other cities shown include Los Angeles (\$3,712), Boston (\$3,253), and New York (\$3,048).

If Dublin is not your choice, change it to Nice. If Nice is not your choice, change it to any destination you choose.

Google Flights results for Nice, France. The map shows various US cities with their corresponding fares. San Francisco is highlighted with a red circle, showing a fare of \$4,220. Other cities shown include Los Angeles (\$4,230), Boston (\$3,983), and New York (\$3,072).

## MORE SAMPLE U-TURN FARES

First Class U-Turn Fares Under \$3,500

Page 6 of 9

Home Airport	Europe Destination	Airline	U.S. to Europe First Class	Europe to U.S.  First Class	Savings	
Miami	Stockholm	American, British Airways	\$6,710	\$3,370	\$3,340	50%
Chicago		British Airways	\$5,433	\$3,416	\$2,017	37%
Boston			\$5,270	\$3,318	\$1,952	
Washington, DC			\$5,390	\$3,480	\$1,910	35%
New York			\$4,653	\$3,270	\$1,383	30%
New York			Berlin	\$4,780	\$3,421	\$1,359
New York	Bordeaux	American, British Airways	\$4,898	\$3,239	\$1,659	34%
Miami	Budapest	American, British Airways	\$7,310	\$3,493	\$3,817	52%
Washington, DC			\$5,970	\$3,485	\$2,485	42%
New York		British Airways	\$5,070	\$3,336	\$1,734	34%
Boston			\$5,170	\$3,485	\$1,685	33%
San Francisco			\$6,100	\$2,852	\$3,248	53%
Dallas	American, British Airways	\$7,340	\$3,462	\$3,878		
Washington, DC	Dublin	British Airways	\$7,140	\$3,430	\$3,710	52%
Miami		American, British Airways	\$6,080	\$3,067	\$3,013	50%
New York			\$4,740		\$1,673	35%
Chicago		British Airways	\$4,530		\$1,463	32%
Seattle			\$4,940	\$3,409	\$1,531	31%
Boston			\$4,560	\$3,252	\$1,308	29%
New York		Hamburg	American, British Airways	\$5,210	\$3,365	\$1,845
Miami	Lisbon	\$6,210		\$3,431	\$2,779	45%
New York		British Airways	\$4,520	\$3,078	\$1,442	32%
Boston			\$4,570	\$3,185	\$1,385	30%
Miami	Madrid	American, British Airways	\$7,550	\$3,492	\$4,058	54%



Home Airport	Europe Destination	Airline	U.S. to Europe First Class	Europe to U.S. First Class	Savings	
New York	Marseille	British Airways	\$4,710	\$3,181	\$1,529	32%
New York	Munich		\$5,540	\$3,383	\$2,157	39%
New York	Nice		\$4,970	\$3,071	\$1,899	38%

### Business Class Fares Under \$2,000

Home Airport	Europe Destination	Airline	U.S. to Europe Biz Class	Europe to U.S. Biz Class	Savings	
Boston	Barcelona	Delta, KLM	\$4,940	\$1,941	\$2,999	61%
Chicago		Delta	\$3,950	\$1,965	\$1,985	50%
Montreal		Air France, United	\$3,050	\$1,920	\$1,130	37%
Toronto		Air Canada, Air France, KLM		\$1,922	\$1,128	
New York		Delta		\$1,989	\$1,061	35%
Washington, DC			\$4,120	\$1,963	\$2,157	52%
San Francisco	Dublin	British Airways	\$3,880	\$1,953	\$1,927	50%
Miami			\$3,550	\$1,878	\$1,672	47%
New York			\$3,150	\$1,671	\$1,479	
Las Vegas			\$3,030	\$1,862	\$1,168	39%
Los Angeles		American, British Airways	\$3,150	\$1,953	\$1,197	38%
Boston		British Airways	\$2,820	\$1,846	\$974	35%
San Francisco				\$1,999	\$3,331	

Home Airport	Europe Destination	Airline	U.S. to Europe Biz Class	Europe to U.S. Biz Class	Savings
Dallas	Madrid	Delta	\$5,330	\$1,999	\$3,301 62%
Chicago			\$3,860	\$1,969	\$1,891 49%
Boston			\$3,730	\$1,945	\$1,785 48%
Orlando			\$3,500	\$1,966	\$1,534 44%
Montreal			\$3,050	\$1,836	\$1,214 40%
New York			\$3,260	\$1,993	\$1,267 39%
Toronto			\$3,047	\$1,986	\$1,061 35%
Boston	Nice	British Airways, Iberia	\$3,250	\$1,817	\$1,433
Boston	Paris	British Airways	\$2,910	\$1,635	\$1,275 44%

## KEEP IT GOING

As mentioned, it's a start-in-Europe play, so you need to get there and back with either a cheap fare or by using your miles. But the savings can more than cover those flights. And once you're in Europe you can keep the strategy humming, saving more with each round-trip. As we sing in the corridors of FCF HQ, "U-turn, you win." Before I add, (beginning with a perfect middle C baritone note):

"C you up front..."

#



# Our Sidestep Hustle Gets You Around High Fares to Asia

July 2024

## How to save big with alternate strategies

Last month we looked at the [Sidestep Hustle](#) to avoid high fares to Europe. This month we look at Asia where this fancy dance step continues to deliver.

The Sidestep Hustle came about when we saw much lower fares from departure and arrival cities that were very close to other cities. For example, Miami is only 192 miles from Orlando, and yet, AND YET, an Orlando-Tokyo R/T Business Class fare costs \$5,256 less than Miami-Tokyo. That's a Boogie Wonderland of savings! Another sidestep is the airline you choose. In our examples further below, you'll see just how much you can save by simply considering another airline.

## AMERICAN AIRLINES MIAMI-TOKYO IN BUSINESS CLASS FOR \$10,318

<b>Flagship® Business</b> Round trip (non-refundable) <b>\$10,318</b> per person Total \$10,317.50 (all passengers) Includes taxes and carrier-imposed fees Price and tax information Bag and optional fees	<b>DEPART</b> Miami, FL to Tokyo, Japan Wednesday, August 21, 2024 7:04 AM → 2:20 PM <sup>+1</sup> 18h 16m 1stop Flagship® Business MIA - LAX = AA1991 = 32Q-Airbus A321neo 
	LAX - HND = AA27 = 788-Boeing 787 
	<b>RETURN</b> Tokyo, Japan to Miami, FL Wednesday, August 28, 2024 6:15 PM → 10:28 PM 17h 13m 1stop Flagship® Business HND - DFW = AA176 = 788-Boeing 787 
	DFW - MIA = AA2206 = 738-Boeing 737 

## AMERICAN AIRLINES ORLANDO-TOKYO IN BUSINESS CLASS FOR \$5,062

<b>Flagship® Business</b> Round trip (non-refundable) <b>\$5,062</b> per person Total \$5,061.50 (all passengers) Includes taxes and carrier-imposed fees Price and tax information Bag and optional fees	<b>DEPART</b> Orlando, FL to Tokyo, Japan Wednesday, August 21, 2024 8:00 AM → 2:20 PM <sup>+1</sup> 17h 20m 1stop Flagship® Business MCO - LAX = AA880 = 321-Airbus A321 
	LAX - HND = AA27 = 788-Boeing 787 
	<b>RETURN</b> Tokyo, Japan to Orlando, FL Wednesday, August 28, 2024 6:15 PM → 11:05 PM 17h 50m 1stop Flagship® Business HND - DFW = AA176 = 788-Boeing 787 
	DFW - MCO = AA2186 = 320-Airbus A320 

## SIDESTEP HUSTLE #1 ALTERNATE U.S. DEPARTURE CITY

The tables below show how much you can save by departing from a U.S. city that's close to another on a flight to an Asian destination when fares are high. We've grouped them by airline alliance. For example, Oneworld fares for travel from Philadelphia to Bangkok cost \$9,985, while from New York they're \$4,959. Those cities



are only 97 miles apart, but departing from New York costs \$5,026 less than from Philadelphia. In other words, for each and **every mile** that it takes to get from Philly to New York, you save \$52. That’s a sparkling disco ball of value per mile.

You can pay \$9,813 for travel from Dallas to Osaka or \$4,587 from Austin. Since those cities are only 190 miles apart, it might be worth considering a “[positioning flight](#).”

ONEWORLD

To	Flying From	High Fare	Instead Fly From	Lower Fare	Savings	
Tokyo	Atlanta	\$8,090	Chatanooga, TN	\$4,726	\$3,364	42%
		\$9,804	Waco	\$4,586	\$5,218	53%
Osaka	Dallas	\$9,813	Austin	\$4,587	\$5,226	53%
	Miami	\$9,819	Orlando	\$5,063	\$4,756	48%
Tokyo		\$9,820		\$5,062	\$4,758	48%
Hong Kong	Philadelphia	\$7,578	New York	\$5,542	\$2,036	27%
Bangkok		\$9,985		\$4,959	\$5,026	50%
Osaka		\$10,693		\$6,706	\$3,987	37%
Tokyo		\$10,818		\$6,642	\$4,176	39%
Taipei	Seattle	\$5,424	Vancouver	\$3,996	\$1,428	26%
Osaka		\$7,814		\$3,931	\$3,883	50%
Denpasar		\$8,380		\$5,436	\$2,944	35%
Beijing		\$12,156		\$5,596	\$6,560	54%

SKYTEAM

To	Flying From	High Fare	Instead Fly From	Lower Fare	Savings	
Taipei	Atlanta	\$9,410	Nashville	\$5,930	\$3,480	37%
Tokyo		\$8,090		\$4,726	\$3,364	42%
		\$8,090	Chattanooga	\$5,770	\$2,320	29%
Seoul	Boston	\$7,253	New York	\$5,318	\$1,935	27%
Tokyo		\$7,163	Pittsburgh	\$5,355	\$1,808	25%
	Chicago	\$7,818	Milwaukee	\$4,754	\$3,064	39%
		\$7,818	Green Bay, WI	\$4,754	\$3,064	
Seoul	Detroit	\$8,363	Toronto	\$4,189	\$4,174	50%
		\$8,363	Chicago	\$6,459	\$1,904	23%
Tokyo		\$6,666	St. Louis	\$4,651	\$2,015	30%
		\$6,666	Lansing, MI	\$4,754	\$1,912	29%
		\$6,666	Milwaukee	\$4,754	\$1,912	
	Philadelphia	\$9,819	New York	\$6,353	\$3,466	35%
Hong Kong	Seattle	\$8,764	Vancouver	\$5,824	\$2,940	34%

## STAR ALLIANCE

To	Flying From	High Fare	Instead Fly From	Lower Fare	Savings	
Tokyo	Atlanta	\$8,090	Nashville	\$4,726	\$3,364	42%
	Baltimore	\$7,908	Harrisburg, PA	\$5,738	\$2,170	27%
	Denver	\$6,930	Aspen	\$5,098	\$1,832	26%
	Detroit	\$6,680	Dayton, OH	\$4,782	\$1,898	28%
Hong Kong	Newark	\$9,142	Philadelphia	\$5,288	\$3,854	

To	Flying From	High Fare	Instead Fly From	Lower Fare	Savings	
Tokyo	Philadelphia	\$9,820	Harrisburg, PA	\$5,738	\$4,082	42%
	Phoenix	\$6,820	Tucson	\$5,098	\$1,722	25%
	Portland	\$6,655	Seattle	\$4,488	\$2,167	33%
Bangkok	Washington, DC	\$7,136	Newark	\$5,297	\$1,839	26%
Hanoi		\$10,197		\$5,332	\$4,865	48%
Hong Kong		\$9,598	Philadelphia	\$5,288	\$4,310	45%
			Harrisburg, PA	\$5,288	\$4,310	
Seoul		\$8,972	Newark	\$5,819	\$3,153	35%
Taipei		\$9,612	Philadelphia	\$5,841	\$3,771	39%
				\$5,693	\$3,919	41%

## SIDESTEP HUSTLE #2 ALTERNATE AIRLINE

Here's another way to do The Hustle. Sometimes you have to look beyond your airline or alliance to get the best fare. Many travelers, especially "elite" travelers, go to their favorite airline websites and end up [missing great flight opportunities](#) as a result. Look at the Miami-Tokyo example below. It's the same route and yet a Sidestep Hustle from American or United to Delta saves you more than \$5,060.

Route	Flying On	High Fare	Instead Fly On	Lower Fare	Savings	
Dallas-Singapore	Korean, Delta	\$6,880	American, JAL	\$4,913	\$1,967	29%
Houston-Seoul	ANA	\$8,799	Delta	\$4,675	\$4,124	47%
Los Angeles-Jakarta	Delta	\$6,657	Singapore	\$4,770	\$1,887	28%
Los Angeles-Manila	Korean	\$6,918	United	\$4,616	\$2,302	33%
Los Angeles-Singapore		\$6,410	Cathay	\$4,950	\$1,460	23%
Miami-Seoul	United	\$8,800	American, Delta	\$5,320	\$3,480	40%
Miami-Tokyo	American, United	\$9,820	Delta	\$4,760	\$5,060	52%

Route	Flying On	High Fare	Instead Fly On	Lower Fare	Savings	
New York-Bangkok	Korean	\$7,089	Singapore	\$5,300	\$1,789	25%
San Francisco-Tokyo	Delta	\$6,820	American, Asiana, JAL	\$4,750	\$2,070	30%
Washington, DC-Tokyo		\$8,150	American, ANA, JAL, United	\$5,430	\$2,720	33%

The Sidestep Hustle is a game-changer for savvy travelers who want to avoid high fares to Asia. The examples we've shared here will get you to Asia at a fraction of the normal cost. So next time you're heading to the East, dance a little Sidestep Hustle to net big savings.





July 2024

## **Get Premium Economy for just a little more than economy**


Sometimes upgrades appear from the unlikelyst of hiding places. In this case, the premium great-way-to-fly carrier, Singapore Airlines.

Singapore operates the A350-900 ULR, or “ultra-long range,” aircraft, which has 67 Business Class and 94 Premium Economy seats. Don’t bother looking for an economy cabin because you won’t find one. This aircraft is available when flying from Los Angeles, New York (JFK and EWR), and San Francisco to Singapore.

If you’re on a budget and flying Premium Economy from San Francisco to Singapore, in particular, Singapore Airlines gives you two low-cost (read: upgrade) options to consider.


## OPTION 1

Fly in Premium Economy on Singapore Airlines' A350-900 three-cabin San Francisco-Singapore flights, SQ31 and SQ32, for \$2,070. Screenshot below.

SFO - SIN ⇄ SIN - SFO - 1 Adult			
<b>Departing</b> <b>05 FEB (WED)</b> <b>SFO 09:40</b> <b>San Francisco</b> San Francisco Intl Terminal Intl  <b>Singapore Airlines SQ 31</b> . Airbus A350-900 Premium Economy (L)  <b>Total travel time : 17hrs 25mins</b>	 17hrs 25mins	<b>06 FEB (THU)</b> <b>SIN 19:05</b> <b>Singapore</b> Singapore Changi  <b>Singapore Airlines SQ 32</b> . Airbus A350-900 Premium Economy (L)  <b>Total travel time : 14hrs 30mins</b>	<b>Returning</b> <b>12 FEB (WED)</b> <b>SIN 09:20</b> <b>Singapore</b> Singapore Changi Terminal 3  <b>Singapore Airlines SQ 32</b> . Airbus A350-900 Premium Economy (L)  <b>Total travel time : 14hrs 30mins</b>
<b>12 FEB (WED)</b> <b>SFO 07:50</b> <b>San Francisco</b> San Francisco Intl Terminal Intl		<b>Total fare</b> <b>1 ADULT</b> <b>USD 2,070.50</b> <i>Total fare includes discounts, taxes and surcharges</i>	
		<b>Flights</b> <b>USD</b>	
		Fare 1,950.00	
		Airport/Government taxes 120.50	
		<b>Subtotal</b> <b>2,070.50</b>	

## OPTION 2

Or, fly in Premium Economy on their A350-900 ULR two-cabin San Francisco-Singapore flights, SQ33 and SQ34, for **\$1,656**. United Airlines charges \$2,044 for the same flight in Premium Economy.

SFO - SIN ⇄ SIN - SFO - 1 Adult			
<b>Departing</b> <b>05 FEB (WED)</b> <b>SFO 20:15</b> <b>San Francisco</b> San Francisco Intl Terminal Intl  <b>Singapore Airlines SQ 33</b> . Airbus A350-900 Premium Economy (R)  <b>Total travel time : 17hrs 30mins</b>	 17hrs 30mins	<b>07 FEB (FRI)</b> <b>SIN 05:45</b> <b>Singapore</b> Singapore Changi  <b>Singapore Airlines SQ 34</b> . Airbus A350-900 Premium Economy (R)  <b>Total travel time : 14hrs 40mins</b>	<b>Returning</b> <b>12 FEB (WED)</b> <b>SIN 19:55</b> <b>Singapore</b> Singapore Changi Terminal 3  <b>Singapore Airlines SQ 34</b> . Airbus A350-900 Premium Economy (R)  <b>Total travel time : 14hrs 40mins</b>
		<b>12 FEB (WED)</b> <b>SFO 18:35</b> <b>San Francisco</b> San Francisco Intl Terminal Intl	
		<b>Total fare</b> <b>1 ADULT</b> <b>USD 1,656.50</b> <i>Total fare includes discounts, taxes and surcharges</i>	
		<b>Flights</b> <b>USD</b>	
		Fare 1,536.00	
		Airport/Government taxes 120.50	
		<b>Subtotal</b> <b>1,656.50</b>	

**United in Premium Economy to Singapore for \$2,044**

**DEPART ON: February 5**

[Compare fare types](#) [Show calendar](#)

**NONSTOP**

Arrives Feb 6

**10:40 AM** **8:15 PM**

SFO ..... 17H, 35M ..... SIN

UA 29 (Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner)

[Details](#) [Seats](#) 867 kg CO<sub>2</sub>

**Premium Economy**

United Premium Plus (R)

**RETURN ON: February 12**

[Compare fare types](#) [Show calendar](#)

**NONSTOP**

**10:15 AM** **9:05 AM**

SIN ..... 14H, 50M ..... SFO

UA 2 (Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner)

[Details](#) [Seats](#) 551 kg CO<sub>2</sub>

**Premium Economy**

Roundtrip

**\$2,044**

United Premium Plus (R)

## ABOUT THE SEAT

Singapore Airlines' Premium Economy Class seat offers a pitch of 38 inches with widths ranging from 18.5 to 19.5 inches. You get the full leather-finish treatment plus an eight-inch recline, calf rest, and foot bar. For readers, every seat has a personal "gooseneck" reading light, as well as a cocktail table and storage space for your phone, book, or water bottle. Each seat has a universal AC outlet and twin USB charging ports.

## WHERE TO FIND THE A350-900 ULR

Los Angeles-Singapore flights SQ35 and SQ36 (through Jan. 31, 2025)

New York (JFK)-Singapore flights SQ23 and SQ24

Newark (EWR)-Singapore flights SQ20 and SQ21

San Francisco-Singapore flights SQ33 and SQ34 (from Feb. 1, 2025)

## SAVINGS (AND UPGRADES) BEYOND SINGAPORE

The A350-900 is not available beyond Singapore, but you can still save by flying this aircraft *to* Singapore and then continuing on.

### Cathay Pacific Economy New York to Sydney for \$2,458

## Singapore Airlines Premium Economy New York to Sydney for \$2,776



# Pro Tips for United Mileage Award Seat Searches, Plus Treasure Map to Availability

July 2024

## Perfect for when there's more than one traveler

Most travelers search for availability depending on the number of people flying. It sounds obvious but we don't do that at FCF. We search for one seat, *then* search for a second seat. Why? Because when you search for two seats you won't see the one-seat options available. It's just the way airline search engines work. If you search for two seats you'll find much less availability. Plus, the cost can be much more.

Quick example: we **searched United for just one seat from Newark to London in Business Class and** found one seat for 80,000 miles (lowest miles).

**We then searched for two award seats** and found two for 115,000 miles each. See what United did there? They didn't add the 80,000 and 115,000 mileage award seats together for a total of 195,000 miles for both. Instead, they were charging 230,000 miles for both.

So we **updated our current search** to try and get at least one seat for 80,000 miles, but United offered us the same seat for 115,000 miles.

Undeterred, we tried “**Advanced Search**” and **searched for just one seat**. Again, United offered it for 80,000 miles (the lowest miles), so we bought it.

Then we purchased the second seat for 115,000 miles for a total of 195,000 miles, instead of 230,000 miles. Take that United!

## HERE’S HOW WE DID IT

We searched for one seat, and United offered us a seat for 80,000 miles.

The screenshot shows the United Mileage Plus search interface. The search parameters are: From: EWR (New York/Newark, NJ, US), To: LON (London, GB), Dates: Jul 5, Travelers: 1 Adult. The results show a one-way flight from New York/Newark EWR to London LHR on Jul 5 from 11:00 pm to 11:30 am, nonstop. The fare is 80,000 miles, and the total due is 80,000 miles plus \$5.60 in taxes and fees. The 'Travelers' field and the 'Total due' are circled in red.

Field	Value
From	EWR (New York/Newark, NJ, US)
To	LON (London, GB)
Dates	Jul 5
Travelers	1 Adult
Flight	ONEWAY (1 TRAVELER) New York/Newark EWR to London LHR
Class	Jul 5 - 11:00 pm to 11:30 am - Nonstop
Fare	80,000 miles
Taxes and fees	\$5.60
Total due	80,000 miles + \$5.60

We then searched for two seats, on the same day, and United offered the same flight for 230,000 miles (115,000 miles each).

The screenshot shows the United Mileage Plus search interface with the same parameters as the first screenshot, but with 2 Adults. The results show a one-way flight from New York/Newark EWR to London LHR on Jul 5 from 11:00 pm to 11:30 am, nonstop. The fare is 230,000 miles, and the total due is 230,000 miles plus \$11.20 in taxes and fees. The 'Travelers' field and the 'Total due' are circled in red.

Field	Value
From	EWR (New York/Newark, NJ, US)
To	LON (London, GB)
Dates	Jul 5
Travelers	2 Adults
Flight	ONEWAY (2 TRAVELERS) New York/Newark EWR to London LHR
Class	Jul 5 - 11:00 pm to 11:30 am - Nonstop
Fare	230,000 miles
Taxes and fees	\$11.20
Total due	230,000 miles + \$11.20

We did a menu update and changed it back to one traveler to try and get that same 80,000 miles seat United offered first.

From: EWR (New York/Newark, NJ, US) To: LON (London, GB) Dates: Jul 5 Travelers: 1 Adult Show price in: Miles

Update

Advanced Search

Clear all

Adults (18 - 64): 1

Seniors (65+): 0

Infants (Under 2): 0

Infants on lap: 0

Children (15 - 17): 0

Children (12 - 14): 0

Children (5 - 11): 0

Children (2 - 4): 0

Travel with a pet

It was then priced at 115,000 miles for only one seat. So, even when we updated the menu to change the number of seats back to one, United still offered the single seat for 115,000 miles.

From: EWR (New York/Newark, NJ, US) To: LHR (London, GB) Dates: Jul 5 Travelers: 1 Adult Show price in: Miles

Update

Advanced Search

ONEWAY (1 TRAVELER) [Revise this trip](#)

New York/Newark EWR to London LHR

Jul 5 - 11:00 pm to 11:30 am - Nonstop

Please note this flight involves a date change

Show details 2,408 kg CO<sub>2</sub>

Fare: 115,000 miles

Taxes and fees: \$5.60

Total due: 115,000 miles + \$5.60

However, when we started with a clean slate using “**Advanced Search**” and **searched for one seat...**

From: EWR (New York/Newark, NJ, US) To: LON (London, GB) Dates: Jul 5 Travelers: 1 Adult Show price in: Miles

Update

Advanced Search

...United then again offered us one seat for 80,000 miles.

From: EWR (New York/Newark, NJ, US) To: LON (London, GB) Dates: Jul 5 Travelers: 1 Adult Show price in: Miles

Update

Advanced Search

ONEWAY (1 TRAVELER) [Revise this trip](#)

New York/Newark EWR to London LHR

Jul 5 - 11:00 pm to 11:30 am - Nonstop

Please note this flight involves a date change

Show details 1,205 kg CO<sub>2</sub>

Fare: 80,000 miles

Taxes and fees: \$5.60

Total due: 80,000 miles + \$5.60

So we purchased that one seat for 80,000 miles and then purchased the second seat at 115,000 miles for a total of 195,000 miles instead of the 230,000 miles that was offered when we asked for two seats together.

The screenshot shows the United Mileage Plus search interface. The search parameters are: From: EWR (New York/Newark, NJ, US), To: LHR (London, GB), Dates: Jul 5, Travelers: 1 Adult. The results show a one-way fare of 115,000 miles, with taxes and fees of \$5.60, resulting in a total due of 115,000 miles + \$5.60. The 'Travelers' field and the total due are circled in red.

I'd argue that's a fairly simple workaround – only a few minutes of work – that saved 35,000 miles. You're welcome!

### Sample Savings Using Partner Miles

The round-trip cost of a Business Class ticket using United miles, a Chase transfer partner, between Washington, DC, and Geneva is 160,000 miles (80,000 each way). But Amex transfer partner Air Canada charges a cost of 120,000 miles, All Nippon charges 100,000 miles, and LifeMiles' cost is 126,000 miles, round-trip.

### No Miles? No Problem

**All Nippon** is a points-to-miles transfer partner of Amex. You can buy up to 500,000 annually from Amex Membership Rewards for 2.5 cents each. Check out FCF's [How to buy American Express Membership Rewards points](#), and [Beginner's Guide: how to play the "Buy Miles to Fly In Style."](#)

Given the baseline fare is \$4,980, and you can save by buying 100,000 Amex Rewards Points for about \$2,500. Taxes with All Nippon Airways loyalty program generally cost \$306, for a total of \$2,806. You can use cash to buy points if you don't have enough or any points, and save up to \$2,174, or 44%.

**Air Canada** is currently running a deal whereby miles can be acquired for as low as 1.28¢ each (includes taxes and processing fee), through a new up to 100% bonus buy-miles promo, which runs through July 19, 2024.

You can buy 140,000 Air Canada miles for about \$1,795 when on sale (\$3,641 when not on sale), and include taxes with Air Canada's loyalty program, which generally costs \$80, for a total of \$1,875. Use cash to buy miles if you don't have enough or any miles, and save up to \$3,105, or 62%, compared to the baseline fare of \$4,980.

Below are a few routes with United award availability.

## SWEET REDEEMS SURVEY UNITED BUSINESS CLASS TREASURE MAP

Route	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
Houston-Amsterdam	July, Aug.	Aug.		Aug., Nov., Dec., Feb., March, April	March	
Newark-Brussels	July, Aug., Jan., Feb.			Nov. to Feb., April	Feb.	
Chicago-London		July, Aug.	July	July to Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., March	Dec., Jan., Feb., April	
Newark-Frankfurt	Dec., Feb.	Jan.		Nov., March, April		Dec. to Feb.
Newark-Geneva	July, Aug., Feb.			Aug., Nov., Dec., March	Jan., March, April	Feb.
Newark-London	July, Aug., Nov. to Feb.	July		Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., May	Feb., March, May	Dec., Jan., Feb., April
Washington, DC-Frankfurt	July, Dec., Feb.	July, Aug., Feb.	Aug., Jan.	Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., April	March	Dec., Jan. to March
Washington, DC-Geneva	Nov., Dec., Jan. to March			Aug., Nov., April	Nov., Dec.	Dec., Jan. to March

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