



# How to Snag a \$19,000 First Class Ticket to Australia with Amex, Capital One, & Citi Points

April 2024

**Or take the family in Business Class with points or 48% off with cash**

Ladies and gentlemen, or as we say Down Under, blokes and sheilas, g'day. It's your FCF Aussie correspondent Dazza Dundee (no relation).

Now my mate Bennett tells me that some of you are fair dinkum **busting** to come down here for a holiday, and I can't blame you. Look at me, I've just been for a dip at the lagoon and I'm on my way for a barbie at my mate Speedbump's house. They call him that because people go out of their way to avoid him. A barbie is a BBQ by the way. I thought I'd better mention that.



Settlement Cove Lagoon on the beach on sunny day, Redcliffe, Brisbane, Australia

Anyway, there's plenty of sun and sand to share, and we love you Yanks even if you drive on the wrong side of the road.

Now I know it costs a lot of cabbage to get here, so Bennett has found a way — even if you want to bring your other half and a couple of sprogs! That's right, award availability for up to two seats in First Class and up to four seats in Business Class. That's a dead-set beauty. Crikey — come on down!

## **RIPPER DEAL: 2X FIRST CLASS TICKETS WITH POINTS OR 4X BUSINESS CLASS**

Consider that fares Down Under can run \$19,000+ in First Class and \$9,946+ in Business Class to the South Pacific. Starve the lizards!

Qantas is an Amex partner, so you can buy points at 2.5 cents each and you'd still save up to \$11,103/56%. Mate, I could buy a ute with that.

### **FIRST CLASS SAVINGS**

Route	Amex Partner Cost R/T	Cost of Miles at 2.5 Cents	Total Cost Including Award Ticket Taxes	Typical Published Fare	Savings
Los Angeles-Sydney	325,600	\$8,140	\$8,667	\$19,770	\$11,103 56%

It's a dead-set steal, saving up to 56% in First Class or 48% in Business Class.

### **BUSINESS CLASS SAVINGS**

Route	Amex Partner Cost R/T	Cost of Miles at 2.5 Cents	Total Cost Including Award Ticket Taxes	Typical Published Fare	Savings	
Dallas-Melbourne	253,000	\$6,325.00	\$6,852.00	\$13,302	\$6,450	48%
Los Angeles-Brisbane	216,800	\$5,420.00	\$5,947.00	\$10,235	\$4,288	42%
Los Angeles-Melbourne	216,800	\$5,420.00	\$5,947.00	\$10,232	\$4,285	42%
Los Angeles-Sydney	216,800	\$5,420.00	\$5,947.00	\$9,946	\$3,999	40%
New York-Auckland	253,000	\$6,325.00	\$6,919.00	\$9,727	\$2,808	29%

And the Uluru-sized news flash to share is that we found First Class seats for two on the Los Angeles-Sydney route using 162,800 miles each way (which you can get via points transfers with Amex, Capital One, and Citi).

Oh, and we love kids here at FCF, so we're a great source for finding award seat availability. See our [Sweet Redeme](#)s alert in the FCF newsroom.

And to that point, we found Business Class seats for 4+ travelers on the Los Angeles-Brisbane route using 108,400 Qantas miles each way, and award seats for 2+ travelers from Dallas and Los Angeles to Melbourne and New York to Auckland.

Here's a look at FCF's treasure chest:

## QANTAS FIRST CLASS AWARD AVAILABILITY TRENDS

Qantas First Class	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
Los Angeles - Sydney	Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb., March	Nov.		Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb., March	Nov.	

Months in black have at least one seat available; [in blue](#). Remember to use the data as a guide since availability can be volatile...

## QANTAS BUSINESS CLASS AWARD AVAILABILITY TRENDS

Qantas Business Class	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
Dallas-Melbourne	Aug., Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb., March			Oct., Nov., Jan., March		
Los Angeles-Brisbane	Oct., Jan.	Nov., Dec., Feb.	Oct. to Dec., Feb., March	Jan., Dec.	Feb.	Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb., March
Los Angeles-Melbourne	Nov., Feb., March	Nov., Dec.	Dec.	Oct., Nov., March	Nov.	Oct., Nov.
Los Angeles-Sydney	Oct., Nov., Dec.			Oct., Dec.	Oct., Nov.	
New York-Auckland			Nov.		Nov.	

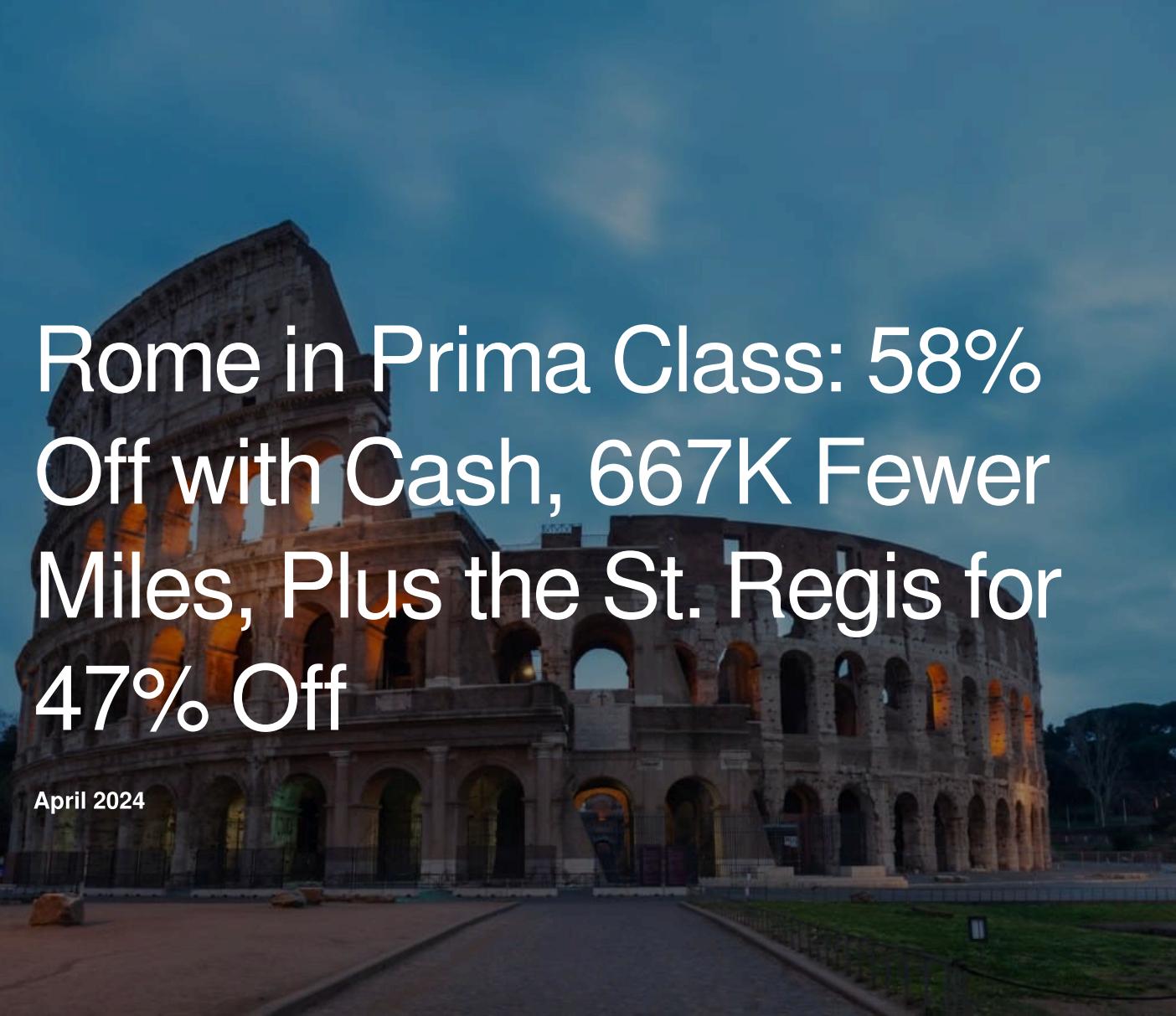
Months in black have at least one seat available; **in blue**, at least two seats; **in green**, at least four seats. Remember to use the data as a guide since availability can be volatile...

BTW...When we checked Qantas partners we did not find any award seat availability in First or Business Class.

Award space always comes and goes, so keep your eye out for the best deals and be ready to chuck your boomerang to clock a deal. If your current itinerary [does not meet all your requirements](#), there's a chance you [booked backwards](#). You can always [upgrade closer to your travel date](#).

Well, it's been bloody great chatting with you, but I've gotta get to Speedbump's place for the barbie. He's cooking chops and snags. I know Australia is expensive to get to, but once you make it here, trust me you'll love it. And now that Bennett's on the case, it's easier to get to than ever.

I'll see you Down Under.



# Rome in Prima Class: 58% Off with Cash, 667K Fewer Miles, Plus the St. Regis for 47% Off

April 2024

Ah, Roma.

The city where old meets new in the most spectacular way. Cobblestone streets, the Coliseum, the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain, chianti with pasta carbonara, Vatican City, and St. Peter's Basilica... I could go on for *eons*.

Located on the banks of the Tiber, Italy's capital is essentially one *grande* museum with so many world-class antiquities and landmarks that the entire historic city center was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. More than 900 churches are overflowing with works by masters such as Bernini, Raphael, Caravaggio, and Michelangelo. And who can resist *la dolce vita*, that carefree celebration of life's beauty and pleasure as only the Italians know how?

An eternal visit begs an unforgettable flight and American Airlines has come to the party with their B-777 offering First Class on their New York-Rome route now through October 19.

We've seen fares mid-week for as low as \$3,679 (screenshot below) for travel in July and August. If you don't grab this low First Class fare you can expect to pay anywhere from \$4,667 to \$8,800.

Compare this to non-stop **Business Class** fares on American, which range from \$2,479 to \$5,404, Delta, which range from \$2,553 to \$6,804, and ITA, which range from \$2,553 to \$4,117.

Or, compare this to one-stop **First Class** fares on British Airways with a stop in London. BA closely matches the fare for travel from July to March at \$3,696. Otherwise, fares range from \$3,984 to \$6,071. Meanwhile, Lufthansa ranges from \$6,567 to \$15,300, and SWISS ranges from \$6,592 to \$15,600. Those are ranges as high as the Alps!

**American Airlines**  PLAN TRAVEL TRAVEL INFORMATION AADVANTAGE\*

**DEPART**

New York, NY to Rome, Italy  
Wednesday, July 17, 2024 to Thursday, July 18, 2024

Flight	Depart	Arrive	Travel time	Class	Seats
236 American Airlines	4:55 PM JFK	7:15 AM FCO	8h 20m	First	<u>1</u>

**RETURN**

Rome, Italy to New York, NY  
Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Flight	Depart	Arrive	Travel time	Class	Seats
245 American Airlines	5:05 PM FCO	8:30 PM JFK	9h 25m	First	<u>1</u>

Your trip total  
**\$3,678.20**

Includes taxes, charges and carrier-imposed fees

Passenger	
Trip JFK / FCO	\$1,625.00
Taxes	\$113.20
Carrier-imposed fees	\$1,940.00
<b>Total (all passengers)</b>	<b>\$3,678.20</b>

## NOT FLYING FROM NEW YORK?

First Class fares from other Oneworld cities are expensive right now. If you're not based in New York, consider [positioning flights](#) when special fares [are not offered on your route](#) and save up to \$9,522.

Fares from other AA hub cities to Rome:

Los Angeles from \$7,248 to \$10,500

Chicago from \$5,098 to \$11,300

Dallas from \$6,821 to \$12,200

Raleigh from \$4,826 to \$13,200

Charlotte from \$5,650 to \$11,300

Miami from \$5,928 to \$8,968

## **GROSSO FARES? HERE'S AN ITALIAN JOB TO LOWER THEM**

When fares are high (\$5,000+) consider using American miles. Award seat costs range from 72,000 to 440,000(!) each way. As we told you last month, you can [save miles by making a connection](#). The same concept rings true here, as you'll see below. Here's a trick on how to score award seats at the lowest prices.

### **A STUPENDA FIND**

If you are flying directly from New York in July (screenshot below), you will see awards every day for 405,500 one way. But have a look at this: if you fly from Columbus to Rome via New York on July 8 — on the same flight — you will pay just 72,000 miles one way. You can find this 72,000-mile award availability using American miles for travel close to departure, randomly throughout the year, or when adding a connection through New York from an AA hub city, as shown with Columbus.

## NEW YORK TO ROME FOR 405,500 MILES

Calendar X

Mon, Jul 1  
**NYC to FCO**  
**405.5K**

One way (per person) from  
**405.5K miles**  
+ \$5.60

Nonstop only ▼ First ▼ **405.5K** Lowest price this month

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>2</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>3</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>4</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>5</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>6</b> <b>405.5K</b>
<b>7</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>8</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>9</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>10</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>11</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>12</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>13</b> <b>405.5K</b>
<b>14</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>15</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>16</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>17</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>18</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>19</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>20</b> <b>405.5K</b>
<b>21</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>22</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>23</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>24</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>25</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>26</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>27</b> <b>405.5K</b>
<b>28</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>29</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>30</b> <b>405.5K</b>	<b>31</b> <b>405.5K</b>			

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## COLUMBUS TO ROME VIA NEW YORK FOR 72,000 MILES

American Airlines 

**First**  
One way (per person)  
**72,000** miles  
+ \$5.60

**Total (all passengers)**  
72,000 miles + \$5.60

Includes taxes and carrier-imposed fees

**PLAN TRAVEL** **TRAVEL INFORMATION** **AADVANTAGE\***

**DEPART**  
Columbus, OH to Rome, Italy  
Monday, July 8, 2024

12:10 PM → 12:45 PM<sup>+1</sup> 18h 35m 1 stop First

CMH - JFK = AA4315 = E75-Embraer 175  


Operated by Republic Airways as American Eagle  
JFK - FCO = AA246 = 77W-Boeing 777

It's real and it's spettacolare

## NO MILES? NO PROBLEM

When you can find low-cost award seats using American miles, you can buy 144,000 miles when they are on sale for approximately 2.4 cents each to net up to 30% savings versus published fares. Or you can buy 170,000 Alaska miles when they're on sale for about 1.74 cents each for up to 40% savings. That's pretty great when you end up in a First Class seat jetting all the way to and from Rome, an 8+-hour flight from New York.

The cost using British Airways and Iberia is 206,000 miles round-trip. British Airways taxes run around \$2,053, while Iberia's taxes are just \$430 round-trip. If you have a ton of Amex points, it's just 159,000 with British Airways' frequent 30%-40% bonus. Combine them with your Iberia Avios miles and you'll save \$1,623 on taxes. If you had to buy the miles from Amex at 2.5 cents each, you'd save about 19% when using Iberia miles. It's still not a great deal when fares are at their lowest, but if you're an inflexible traveler with firm dates, you might just have to grin and bear it.

## FIRST CLASS AWARD SEAT AVAILABILITY TRENDS

A First Class flight to Rome is usually the stuff of mythology. But American Airlines has made it possible in the most *bellissimo* way — in widebody comfort.

Low-cost award seat availability using American miles is plentiful for up to four travelers in July on the outbound, with a handful of days with seats for travel in April, June, and August. We have seen quite a few days with seats for up to four travelers available on the return for close-in travel in April, June, and July, along with a handful of days with seats in May, August, and September. American is notorious for releasing low-cost award space close in, so that might be a good backup plan or a great chance to [upgrade a less attractive existing ticket](#).

Award seat availability is a bit less using partners Alaska, British Airways, and Iberia miles. You can typically find seats for up to two travelers in June, and in April for a few days outbound, and June and July on the return. Though we have seen days with seats for up to four travelers in July outbound.



Benvenuti a Roma

## OH BY THE WAY, YOU'LL WANT TO STAY AT THE ST. REGIS, ROME

We love the [American Bar Association](#) membership discount strategy here at FCF and have reported on it many times including [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). An ABA membership offers great luxury accommodation discounts at top-end hotels such as the Four Seasons, Luxury Collection, Ritz-Carlton, Savoy (Fairmont), St. Regis, and Westin properties, among others. Membership is just \$150 annually, paltry considering how it unlocks fantastic deals. Better still, [you don't have to be a lawyer or judge to join!](#)

*Case in point:* with the membership, you can save 47% at the St. Regis Rome. The screenshot below shows the average price per night is \$1,291 BEFORE the ABA membership discount, and just \$636 per night AFTER the discount is applied.

**\$1,291 PER NIGHT**

  
**ST REGIS**

The St. Regis Rome  
Via Vittorio E. Orlando, 3, Rome, 00185 Italy



**1 King Bed, Superior Guest Room**

Wed, Jul 17, 2024 - Thu, Jul 18, 2024  
1 Room, 2 Adults  
[Member Flexible Rate](#)

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[Summary of Charges](#) **1,205.80**  
EUR Subtotal

**\$682 PER NIGHT**

  
**ST REGIS**

**The St. Regis Rome**  
Via Vittorio E. Orlando, 3, Rome, 00185 Italy



**Superior, Guest room, 1 King**

Wed, Jul 17, 2024 - Thu, Jul 18, 2024  
1 Room, 2 Adults  
[American Bar Assoc. Rate](#)

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Summary of Charges **636.00**  
EUR Subtotal

You heard it here first! I'll see you up front, and then at the Pantheon.

### Five of Rome's Lesser Known Jewels

- The spooky Capuchin Crypt with the remains of over 4,000 Capuchin friars.
- The baroque Church of San Luigi dei Francesi with its Caravaggio paintings.
- Centrale Montmartini – a museum combining industrial architecture with ancient Roman art.
- The fascinating fascist-era Quartiere EUR built during Mussolini's reign.
- The tranquil Protestant Cemetery – the final resting place of poets Keats and Shelley.



# Get Fresh First Class Lufthansa Opportunities at 75% Off – for Up to \*Four Travelers\* – All Year Long

April 2024

**FCF's treasure map shows where to get \$13,753 tickets  
for \$3,404**

**Updated for April 2024**

First Class deals to Europe are harder to find than a pair of long trousers in a lederhosen haystack.

First off, there are only a few airlines that offer a First Class cabin to Europe and it's nearly impossible to find flash fares like you can for Business Class, apart from the odd British Airways deals. Similarly, First Class

mileage awards are often hard to find on the few airlines that offer them, especially if you don't know where to look.

So in December 2022, we clinked our steins when we reported that you could [get First Class tickets for \\$1,722 each way](#) with Lufthansa's new buy-miles program launch thanks to a discount that was good for 60 days.

And then we slapped our knees, feet, and each other when the airline brought the sale back and had four buy miles promos in 2023 offering a range from 20% to 60% bonus miles – from 1.25 cents to 1.52 cents per mile.

In March 2023, we did a deeper dive into how you could use the strategy to [get connections from all over the U.S. to all over Europe](#). And in November we showed you how use FCF's Upgrade Strategy to get Lufthansa [First Class to Europe for Just \\$1,480 Each way](#).



## UND NOW THE SALE IS BACK

So far, this is the second promo of 2024; the most recent one ended on March 31 and had a 30% bonus. But here we are in April already and the sale is back – with a 50% bonus at 1.39 cents a mile through April 30, which results in First Class tickets that go for as much as \$13,753+, for just \$3,404.



Any way you put it:

You can [join Lufthansa's Miles and More program in less than five minutes](#) and [buy miles in another five](#). And that goes for anyone.

[Lufthansa's Bundle&Go](#) deal lets you purchase award miles in three increments of 10,000, 50,000, and 100,000 miles with a juicy 50% bonus coming on top of that right now. If you max out one account, with the bonus, you can get 350,000 miles for \$3,404, or about 1.39 cents a mile. Members can purchase one bundle per transaction, and bonus miles do not count towards the annual limit of 250,000. That's tremendous value given the ways you can redeem the miles. If you need even more miles, remember [FCF's special strategy to get all the miles you want!](#)!

Note that Lufthansa's [fine print](#) indicates it could take up to five days for the miles to post. However, when we did it, they were credited almost instantly, minus one occasion it took about 48 hours.

## REAL OR POLTERGEIST?

The success of this play depends on whether Lufthansa makes their First Class seats available when you search for them online, right? The problem is that there are always routes with deals; it's just that where they are is always changing. (Always keep in mind [positioning flights](#).)

The routes and months below had First Class available at time of publication. So, check with the airline for the most up-to-date information before buying any miles, unless you know you'll be able to use them eventually, like me, and just buy them when on sale so they are at the ready.

## ROUTES WITH UP TO FOUR AWARD SEATS

From Chicago to Frankfurt, you can find more than a handful of days with four seats available for outbound travel from December to March. On the return, more than a handful of days with four seats are available for travel in January and February.

From Los Angeles to Munich, you can find a handful of days with four seats available for travel both outbound and return in April.

## ROUTES TO/FROM FRANKFURT WITH UP TO TWO AWARD SEATS

From Boston to Frankfurt, you can find more than a handful of days with two seats available for both outbound and return travel from November through March.

From Houston to Frankfurt, seats are plentiful, you can find more than a handful of days with two seats available for both outbound and return travel from October through March.

From New York to Frankfurt, you can find more than a handful of days with two seats available for both outbound and return travel in January and a handful of days for both outbound and return travel in December and February.

From Washington, DC to Frankfurt, you can find more than a handful of days with two seats available for outbound travel in January and February. On the return, more than a handful of days with two seats are available for travel in July, August, January, and February.

## ROUTES TO/FROM MUNICH WITH UP TO TWO AWARD SEATS

From Boston to Munich, you can find more than a handful of days with two seats available for travel outbound in July, and in June on the return. There are also a handful of days for both outbound and return travel in April, August, and October.

From Chicago to Munich, there are a handful of days for both outbound and return travel in August and September.

From New York to Munich, you can find more than a handful of days with two seats available for both outbound and return travel in July.

From Washington, DC to Munich, you can find more than a handful of days with two seats available for outbound travel in July and August. On the return, there are more than a handful of days with two seats available for travel in May, June, August, and September.

## FCF'S VISUAL 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
Boston - Frankfurt	Aug., Oct.	July, April	July	April		
Chicago - Frankfurt	April, July, Aug., Nov., April	Nov., Dec., Jan.	Dec., Jan., Feb., March	April, May, June, Nov., Dec., March, April		Dec., Jan., Feb., March
Houston - Frankfurt	July	July, Oct., Dec.	Nov., Dec., Jan. to March	July, Oct.	Nov.	Dec. to March
New York - Frankfurt	July, Dec., Feb., March	Jan.	Jan., Feb.	Nov., Dec., Feb., March, April	Jan., Feb., March	Jan.
Washington, DC - Frankfurt	July to Sept., Oct., Dec., March	March	Jan., Feb.	May, June, Sept., Oct., Dec., March	June, July, Aug., Dec., Feb.	Aug., Jan., Feb.
Boston - Munich	April, Aug., Oct.	July, Aug.	July	April, May, July to Oct., April	June, Aug.	

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
Chicago - Munich	Aug.	Aug.		Aug., Sept.		
Los Angeles - Munich	Dec., Jan., Feb., March, April	Feb.	March	Jan., Feb., April	Feb., March	
New York - Munich	April		July	April, June	July	
Washington, DC - Munich	April, Sept.	July, Aug., Sept.	July	April, July	May, June, July, Aug., Sept.	Aug., Sept.

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...

Not flying to Frankfurt or Munich? Or from Miami or New York? Remember you can [get connections from all over the U.S. to all over Europe all on the same ticket](#).

See you up front.



# April's Top 100 Mileage Awards & Special Fares Greatest Hits (Still Available)

April 2024

## 100 of April's Appetizing Fare and Mile Morsels

Spring has Sprung with some very appealing fare and mile finds to destinations far and wide. You have no excuse but to hit that button and book.

### **Sweet Redeems**

### **ASIA**

[Handful of Close-in Single Seat All Nippon Airways Business Class Opportunities from Chicago to Tokyo](#)

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

## **EUROPE**

[Lufthansa First Class Availability from the East Coast to Frankfurt and Beyond with Miles or \\$](#)

[Air France > Handful of BIZ Class > 4+ Seats > for Less Miles than Coach > from Dallas, Houston, & Raleigh Durham > Easy to Book Now](#)

[KLM > Handful of BIZ Class > Winter Travel > 4+ Seats > for Less Miles than Coach > from Texas > Easy to Book Now](#)

[\\*First Class\\* With Cash OR Miles > Lufthansa > Texas to Frankfurt & Beyond > Two Travelers](#)

[Miles / Points > First Class > Single Seat > Emirates > East Coast to Milan](#)

[\\*First Class\\* With Cash OR Miles > Lufthansa > New York and Many Other Cities to Frankfurt & Beyond > Two Travelers](#)

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

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

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

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

[115K AA Miles R/T & Low-taxes > 4+ seats > Biz Class from Chicago \(and Many Other Cities\) to Switzerland via London](#)

## **MIDDLE EAST**

[Cash OR Miles > Middle East > Qatar Airways Business Class From Seattle > 2+ Seats](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Middle East > Qatar Airways Business Class From Atlanta > 2+ Seats](#)

[Miles > All Year > First Class > Scads of Single Seat Emirates \(Amex Partner\) Opportunities from Chicago to Dubai](#)

[Miles > All Year > First Class > Scads of Single Seat Emirates \(Amex Partner\) Opportunities from Washington, DC to Dubai](#)

## **Mileage Upgrades**

### **ASIA**

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade Opportunities from the West Coast to Beijing > 4+ Seats](#)

### **EUROPE**

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade Opportunities from the East Coast to London > 4+ Seats](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade Opportunities from the East Coast to Switzerland > 4+ seats](#)

[Miles & Cash > Close In United Upgrade Opportunities from Denver to London > 4+ seats](#)

## **Published Fares**

### **AFRICA**

[Money > Nairobi > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,483 to \\$4,056 R/T](#)

### **ASIA**

[Money > Bangkok > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$3,204 to \\$3,981 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Seoul > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$3,472 to \\$4,130 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Asia > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,232 to \\$4,181 R/T](#)

[Money > Taipei > All Year > Biz Class > from Vancouver and Calgary from \\$3,277 to \\$4,183 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Singapore > Winter > Biz Class > from Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal from \\$3,327 to \\$3,766 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Hong Kong > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > from Vancouver, Montreal, and Toronto from \\$3,210 to \\$4,149 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Bangkok > All Year > Biz Class > from Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Francisco from \\$3,565 to \\$3,873 R/T](#)

[Money > Istanbul > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,895 to \\$3,311 R/T](#)

## CARIBBEAN

[Money > Barbados > All Year > Biz Class > \\$954 to \\$1,178 R/T](#)

[Money > Saint Kitts > All Year > Biz Class > \\$821 to \\$1,162 R/T](#)

[Money > St. Thomas > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$746 to \\$1,131 R/T](#)

[Money > St. Lucia > All Year > Biz Class > \\$943 to \\$1,164 R/T](#)

[Money > Aruba > All Year > Biz Class > \\$755 to \\$1,120 R/T](#)

[Money > Antigua > All Year > Biz Class > \\$883 to \\$1,164 R/T](#)

[Money > Bonaire > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > \\$1,005 to \\$1,188 R/T](#)

[Money > Grand Cayman > All Year > Biz Class > \\$797 to \\$1,135 R/T](#)

[Money > Santo Domingo > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > from New York, Washington DC, and Philadelphia from \\$625 to \\$784 R/T](#)

[Money > British Virgin Islands > Summer > Biz Class > \\$978 to \\$1,178 R/T](#)

[Money > Sint Maarten > All Year > Biz Class > \\$792 to \\$1,045 R/T](#)

[Money > Anguilla > Summer/Winter > Biz Class > \\$881 to \\$1,146 R/T](#)

[Money > Puerto Rico > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > \\$663 to \\$791 R/T](#)

## EUROPE

[Money > Budapest > All Year > Biz Class > from New York, Dallas, and Chicago from \\$2,561 to \\$3,082 R/T](#)

[Money > Berlin > Summer/Winter > Biz Class > from Miami, New York, and Orlando from \\$2,718 to \\$3,156](#)

[R/T](#)

[Money > Valencia > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,582 to \\$3,163 R/T](#)

[Money > Belfast > All Year > Biz Class > from New York and Washington DC from \\$2,565 to \\$2,858 R/T](#)

[Money > Greece > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > from New York from \\$2,547 to \\$2,805 R/T](#)

[Money > Dublin > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,555 to \\$3,173 R/T](#)

[Money > Newcastle, UK > All Year > Biz Class > from New York and Washington DC from \\$2,559 to \\$2,853 R/T](#)

[Money > Zurich > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > from Phoenix, New York, and Orlando from \\$2,741 to \\$3,082 R/T](#)

[Money > Florence > Summer/Fall > First Class > \\$4,398 to \\$5,459 R/T](#)

[Money > Geneva > All Year > Biz Class > from Phoenix, New York, and Orlando from \\$2,741 to \\$3,078 R/T](#)

[Money > Palma De Mallorca > All Year > Biz Class > from New York and Chicago from \\$2,681 to \\$3,171 R/T](#)

[Money > Malaga > All Year > First Class > \\$3,873 to \\$5,729 R/T](#)

[Money > Glasgow > All Year > First Class > \\$4,276 to \\$5,727 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe > All Year > Biz Class with TAP > \\$1,978 to \\$2,887 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > Premium Economy > \\$741 to \\$919 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Lisbon > All Year > First Class > \\$4,605 to \\$5,506 R/T](#)

[Money > Copenhagen > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > \\$2,544 to \\$2,995 R/T](#)

[Money > Prague > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,651 to \\$3,123 R/T](#)

[Money > London > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$2,391 to \\$2,766 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,503 to \\$3,116 R/T](#)

[Money > Italy from Canada > Summer/Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,330 to \\$2,689 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Stockholm > All Year > First Class > \\$4,013 to \\$5,714 R/T](#)

[Money > Paris > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,551 to \\$3,172 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe > Fall/Winter > Biz Class from Los Angeles > \\$2,635 to \\$3,197 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > First Class > \\$2,898 to \\$4,180 R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > All Year > First Class > \\$4,193 to \\$5,594 R/T](#)

[Money > Nice > Fall/Winter > First Class > \\$4,665 to \\$5,717 R/T](#)

[Money > France > All Year > Biz Class from Canada > \\$2,192 to \\$2,638 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Edinburgh > All Year > First Class > \\$4,281 to \\$5,737 R/T](#)

[Money > London > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,265 to \\$3,139 R/T](#)

[Money > Belfast > All Year > First Class > \\$3,770 to \\$5,347 R/T](#)

[Money > Scotland > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,321 to \\$3,213 R/T](#)

[Money > Barcelona > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,409 to \\$3,082 R/T](#)

[Money > Rome > Winter > Biz Class > from New York and Orlando from \\$2,477 to \\$3,087 R/T](#)

[Money > Milan > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,465 to \\$3,089 R/T](#)

[Money > Valencia > All Year > First Class > \\$3,873 to \\$5,729 R/T](#)

[Money > Stockholm > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,431 to \\$3,120 R/T](#)

[Money > Milan > All Year > First Class > \\$3,721 to \\$5,648 R/T](#)

[Money > Barcelona > All Year > First Class > \\$3,786 to \\$5,357 R/T](#)

## **HAWAII**

[Money > Kona > Spring > Biz Class > \\$873 to \\$1,508 R/T](#)

[Money > Kauai > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$1,020 to \\$1,545 R/T](#)

[Money > Honolulu > Spring > Biz Class > \\$992 to \\$1,517 R/T](#)

[Money > Maui > Spring > Biz Class > \\$910 to \\$1,557 R/T](#)

## **INDIA**

[Money > Bengaluru > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,342 to \\$3,831 R/T](#)

[Money > India > All Year > Biz Class > from Toronto and Montreal from \\$2,978 to \\$3,635 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Mumbai > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,199 to \\$3,804 R/T](#)

[Money > New Delhi > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,224 to \\$3,902 R/T](#)

## **MEXICO**

[Money > Acapulco > All Year > Biz Class > \\$785 to \\$906 R/T](#)

[Money > Puerto Vallarta > All Year > Biz Class > \\$658 to \\$915 R/T](#)

[Money > Cozumel > All Year > Biz Class > \\$621 to \\$919 R/T](#)

[Money > Cabo San Lucas > All Year > Biz Class > \\$668 to \\$922 R/T](#)

## **NORTH AMERICA**

[Money > Domestic Transcon > All Year > Biz Class > from \\$718 to \\$1,227 R/T](#)

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

[Money > Buenos Aires > All Year > Biz Class > from Miami and New York from \\$2,648 to \\$2,749 R/T](#)

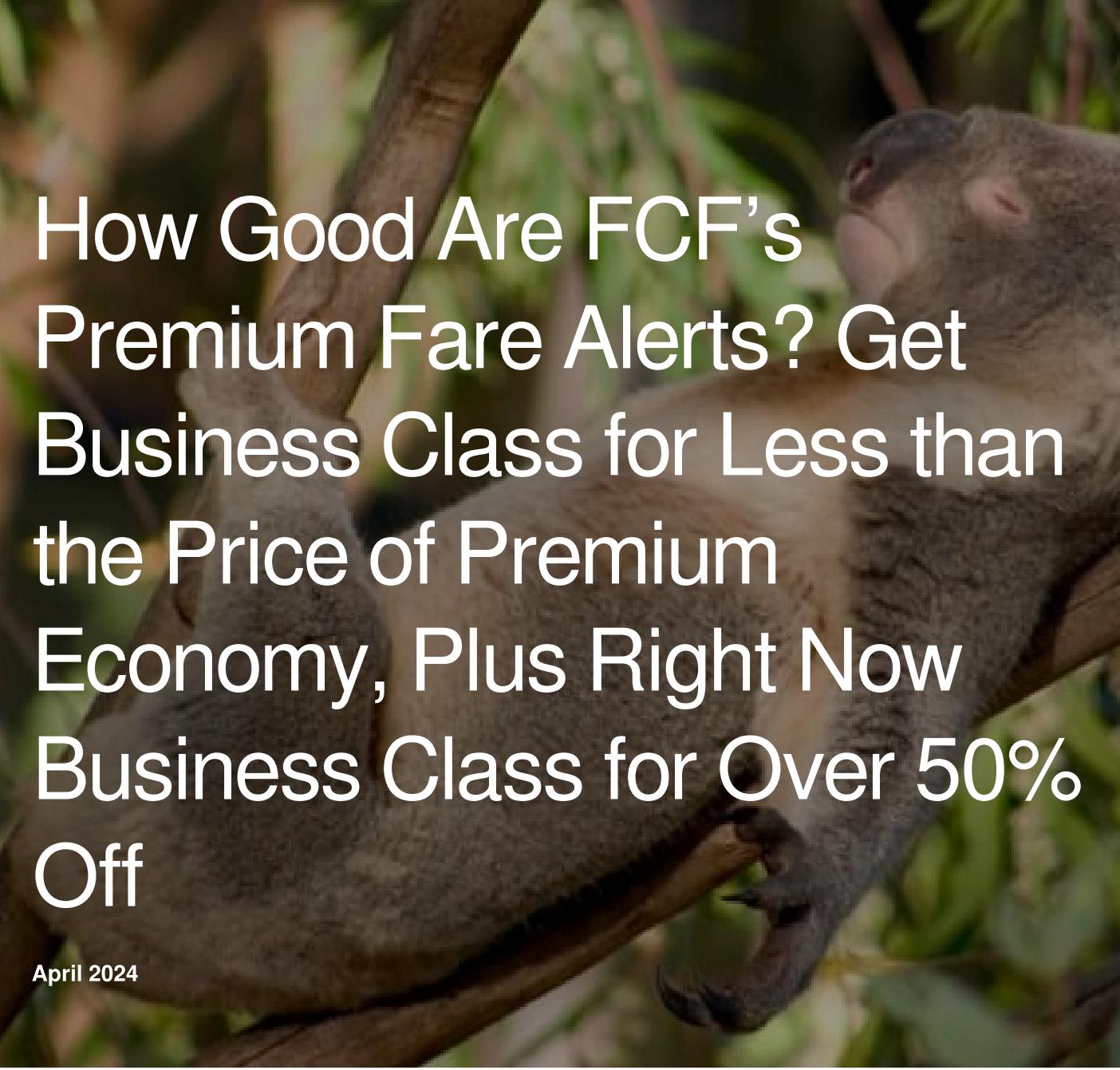
[Money > Sao Paulo > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$2,551 to \\$2,925 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Santiago > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,011 to \\$3,112 R/T](#)

## **SOUTH PACIFIC**

[Delta and United Business Class fares to New Zealand: 20% to 50%+ Off](#)

[Money > Australia > All Year > Biz Class with Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines > 25%+ OFF](#)



# How Good Are FCF's Premium Fare Alerts? Get Business Class for Less than the Price of Premium Economy, Plus Right Now Business Class for Over 50% Off

April 2024

## Nab great Australia fares with FCF's Whack-a-Mole alerts

Good morning students. Last month we told you about fare volatility when flying to Europe and just how close some Business Class prices had [dipped toward Premium Economy ones](#).

This month, the alluring South Pacific caught our gaze (Australia specifically). Typical Business Class fares to that region are pretty high right now, up in the \$6,938 to \$10,600 range, and typical Premium Economy fares range from \$4,202 to \$7,503 on United's Los Angeles-Sydney route, for example. But that's not always the

case, as we just saw. If that part of the world is on your bucket list, you need to be ready to move fast, like the reader below did.

By signing up for FCF's fare alerts on our [Rare Fares page](#), you would have scored these fares that were around for less than 24 hours. As Homer Simpson would say, "Doh!" Luckily, some smart FCF readers spotted 'em and reaped the rewards.

### Here's an email I received from a member who saw the alert and scored!

"Hi Mr. Upgrade,

*Multi-year subscriber here, just thought I'd let you know that the flash fare LAX-Sydney/Brisbane/Melbourne, etc. in today's email is by far the biggest savings you've ever helped me capture.*

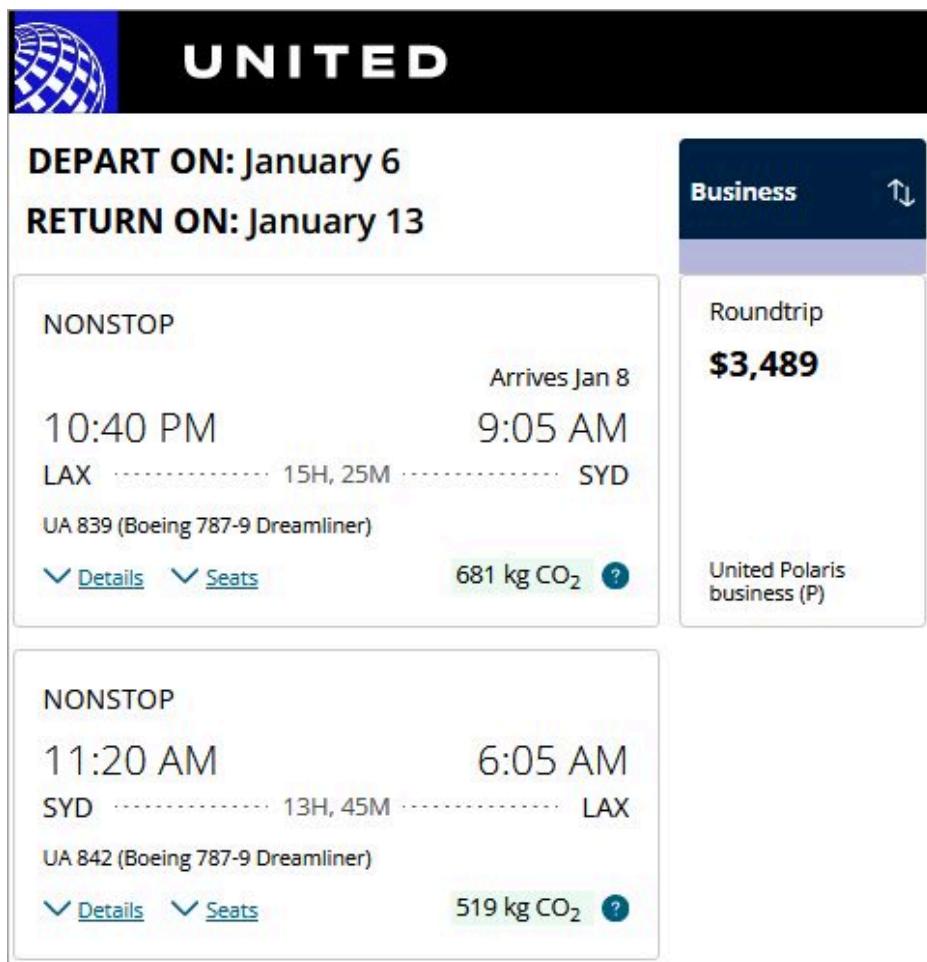
*I fly back and forth to Brisbane almost every month and Business Class fares hover around \$12K. I just booked three flights across the rest of the year LAX-SFO-BNE for \$3,900 each or a savings of about \$7,500 per flight x 3 flights."*

**Just to put that into perspective: for our reader, that's a savings of \$22,500!**

### SAMPLE FLASH FARE ALERT

Sample Best Deals Found	FARE	ORIGIN	DESTINATION	AIRLINES	NEXT STEP
					How to Book Get Deal
	\$3,489	Los Angeles	Sydney		<a href="#">How to Book</a> <a href="#">Get Deal</a>
	\$3,778	Los Angeles	Melbourne		<a href="#">How to Book</a> <a href="#">Get Deal</a>
	\$3,798	Los Angeles	Brisbane		<a href="#">How to Book</a> <a href="#">Get Deal</a>
	\$4,157	Los Angeles	Hobart		<a href="#">How to Book</a> <a href="#">Get Deal</a>
	\$4,159	Los Angeles	Adelaide		<a href="#">How to Book</a> <a href="#">Get Deal</a>
	\$4,166	Los Angeles	Gold Coast		<a href="#">How to Book</a> <a href="#">Get Deal</a>
	\$4,370	Los Angeles	Perth		<a href="#">How to Book</a> <a href="#">Get Deal</a>
	\$4,380	Los Angeles	Darwin		<a href="#">How to Book</a> <a href="#">Get Deal</a>

## BUSINESS CLASS FLASH FARE ON UNITED LOS ANGELES-SYDNEY FOR \$3,489



DEPART ON: January 6  
RETURN ON: January 13

NONSTOP

10:40 PM 9:05 AM

LAX ..... 15H, 25M ..... SYD

UA 839 (Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner)

681 kg CO<sub>2</sub>

NONSTOP

11:20 AM 6:05 AM

SYD ..... 13H, 45M ..... LAX

UA 842 (Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner)

519 kg CO<sub>2</sub>

Business Roundtrip  
\$3,489

United Polaris business (P)

With fares this low, even if the itinerary is not 100% ideal, these prices are hard to pass up. Refer to FCF's [TUM](#) (The Upgrade Mindset) and consider your trade-offs. Or, if you already have a ticket and paid much more, you can always [upgrade](#).

Here's an example of the savings snagged with Flash Fares:

## BUSINESS CLASS TO SYDNEY ON UNITED FOR LESS THAN THE PRICE OF PREMIUM ECONOMY

This example shows a one-class upgrade. Why fly Premium Economy from Los Angeles to Sydney (which goes for \$4,202 to \$7,503), when you could fly in Business Class for \$3,489, or **\$713 less?**

Operating Airline	Sample Route	Class	Cost R/T
United	Los Angeles-Sydney	Premium Economy	Regular published Premium Economy fare \$4,202
		Business	Regular Published R/T Fare from April to January \$3,489

Operating Airline	Sample Route	Class	Cost R/T
	Nonstop		for travel Sunday through Wednesday.
<b>How much better?</b>			One-Class Upgrade
<b>Upgrade Savings Round-Trip?</b>			\$713

Simply put, when you score Business Class fares like these at lower than Premium Economy prices, you get an upgrade without doing anything but buying a ticket. As we say in the hallowed halls of FCF...



### **BUT BENNETT... I MISSED THE DEAL, WHAT NOW?**

Just in case you missed it, because United is notorious for making award seats available close to departure... if you are a bags-packed traveler or looking for a last-minute upgrade, you can get Business Class award seats for 100,000 miles one way. No miles? No problem. You can buy United miles for typically around 1.8 cents each when on sale.

Not everyone [can be that flexible](#). Just because you already booked a flight doesn't mean you shouldn't continue to monitor the deals. You can usually grab the better deal, and use credit for your first booking later. Just make sure to check the rules of your ticket.



You snooze, you lose. Sign up for FCF's fare alerts now.

For more South Pacific options, see this month's [Take the Family](#) special report.

See you up front.



# FCF's U-Turn Strategy Can Net First Class for Less than Biz

April 2024

## Turn around and save big

We've written recently about our highly lucrative [U-Turn strategy in Business Class](#). That's where Europe-U.S.-Europe round-trips cost WAY less than U.S.-Europe-U.S. round-trips. The strategy is that if you make a "U-Turn" and start your journey in Europe, you end up saving a lot. Today we're looking at the **U-Turn strategy in First 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 need to book a trip back to the U.S. As we'll demonstrate, with the "keep it going" strategy, you can launch more "U-Turn" trips from Europe. And, as economists will tell you: the more you make, the more you save.

For example, Oneworld round-trip fares are up to 53% less from Europe versus those from the U.S. Despite the potential negative of starting in Europe, those savings are enough to make you take notice.

Let's go to the chart for the good stuff. Here are straight-up comparisons of First Class round-trips *from* Europe and *from* the U.S. Just look at those price differences — up to 53% for Dallas-Amsterdam! And remember, these are the exact same flights and class of service, just in the opposite direction.

Home Airport	Europe Destination	U.S. to Europe First Class	Europe to U.S. First Class	Savings	
Atlanta	Barcelona	\$5,367	\$3,528	\$1,839	34%
	Madrid	\$5,368	\$3,526	\$1,842	
	Prague	\$5,698	\$3,961	\$1,737	30%
Boston	Frankfurt	\$6,247	\$3,879	\$2,368	38%
	Munich	\$6,234	\$3,974	\$2,260	36%
Chicago	Dublin	\$4,773	\$3,091	\$1,682	35%
	Manchester	\$5,836	\$3,907	\$1,929	33%
Dallas	Amsterdam	\$7,844	\$3,710	\$4,134	53%
	Madrid	\$6,588	\$3,592	\$2,996	45%
Houston	Amsterdam	\$5,724	\$3,931	\$1,793	31%
	Dublin	\$5,627	\$3,932	\$1,695	30%
	Manchester	\$5,836	\$3,970	\$1,866	32%
Los Angeles	Amsterdam	\$6,344	\$4,241	\$2,103	33%
	Dublin	\$7,277	\$3,745	\$3,532	49%
	Madrid	\$7,788	\$4,169	\$3,619	46%
Miami	Amsterdam	\$6,124	\$3,967	\$2,157	35%
	Dublin	\$5,277	\$3,095	\$2,182	41%
	Frankfurt	\$7,847	\$3,978	\$3,869	49%
	Lisbon	\$6,656	\$3,347	\$3,309	50%
	Munich	\$7,634	\$3,974	\$3,660	48%
	Nice	\$6,916	\$3,806	\$3,110	45%
New York	Dublin	\$4,073	\$2,746	\$1,327	33%
	Lisbon	\$4,606	\$3,099	\$1,507	

Home Airport	Europe Destination	U.S. to Europe First Class	Europe to U.S. First Class	Savings	
	Munich	\$6,234	\$3,750	\$2,484	40%
	Nice	\$5,027	\$2,882	\$2,145	43%
	Vienna	\$6,166	\$3,616	\$2,550	41%
Washington, DC	Frankfurt	\$7,347	\$3,987	\$3,360	46%



U turn, U win

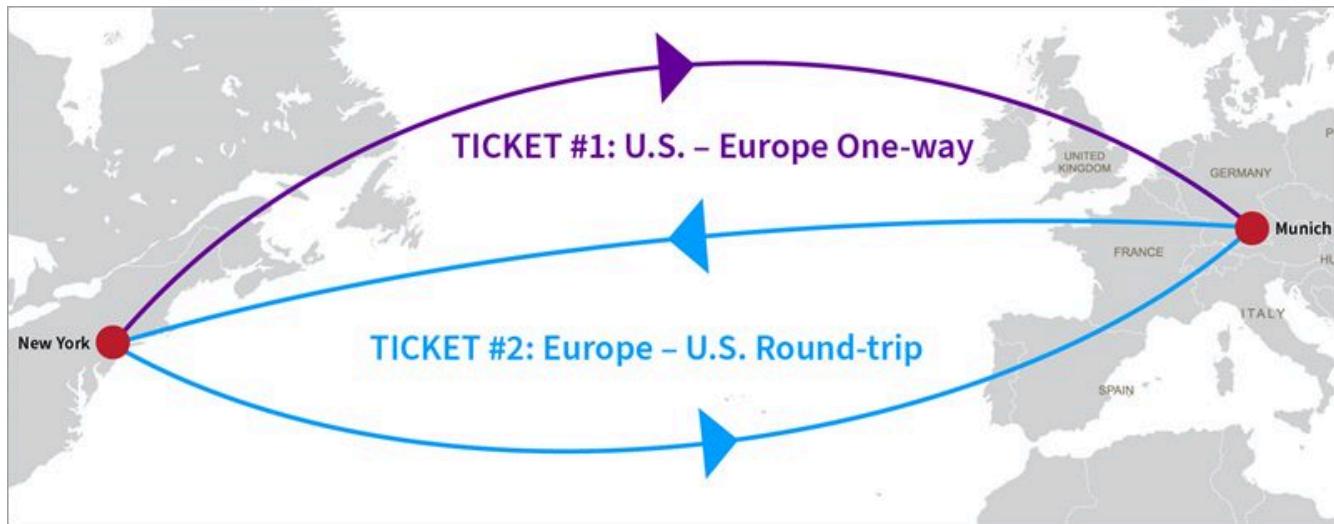
## **U GOTTA BE KIDDING: TWO WAYS TO FLY FIRST CLASS TO EUROPE USING THE U-TURN STRATEGY**

### **FCF'S FIRST CLASS U-TURN STRATEGY #1: THE "KEEP IT GOING" PLAY**

**Start with a one-way ticket to Europe (probably with miles) then book your round-trip fares originating in Europe.**

If you want to avoid high First Class fares originating in the U.S., book a low-fare round-trip from Europe to the U.S. Remember, since your fare starts in Europe, you'll have to get yourself there first. You can do this with a one-way flight, and [paying in miles is often best for one-ways](#). Then you can *keep your trip going* by buying another round-trip ticket from Europe to the U.S. as many times as you like. As mentioned, you'll multiply your savings as a result.

**Here's what it looks like:**



**Real-Life Example Ticket #1: A one-way award ticket using 85,000 American miles one-way to begin the trip in First Class from New York to Munich**

**American Airlines**

**First**  
One way (per person)  
**85,000 miles**  
**+ \$22.70**

Total (all passengers)  
85,000 miles + \$22.70  
Includes taxes and carrier-imposed fees  
Price and tax information

**DEPART**  
New York, NY to Munich, Germany  
Tuesday, April 30, 2024

10:20 PM → 7:40 PM<sup>†</sup> 15h 20m 1 stop First

JFK - LHR = AA104 = 77W-Boeing 777

LHR - MUC = BA954 = 319-Airbus A319

Operated by British Airways

**Ticket #2: \$3,726 USD for travel in First Class from Munich to New York round-trip.**



PLAN TRAVEL

Price

**TOTAL  
3,469.48 EUR**

Total price (including taxes and fees)

1 adult

2,745.00 EUR

taxes and fees

724.48 EUR

Taxes and fees

724.48 EUR

1 Adult

Itinerary

↗ Munich - New York

Tuesday 18 June 2024

Your selection includes several cabins.

07:20 08:30 | Business

Munich London

Munich International Heathrow (LHR)  
(MUC)

STOP 01h35m Heathrow (LHR)

10:05 12:55 New | First

London York

Heathrow (LHR) John F Kennedy Intl  
(JFK)

↗ New York - Munich

Tuesday 25 June 2024

18:10 New 06:20 +1 day | First

York London

John F Kennedy Intl Heathrow (LHR)  
(JFK)

STOP 02h35m Heathrow (LHR)

08:55 11:50 | Business

London Munich

Heathrow (LHR) Munich International  
(MUC)

**Ticket #3:** Keep your journey going with a round-trip from Europe to the U.S. and around we go again!

## WHO IS FCF'S FIRST CLASS U-TURN STRATEGY #1 FOR?

This is great if you're annoyed by high First Class published fares and you're willing to be flexible on the routes and dates that offer deals.

**Travelers who know their dates in advance.** The outbound EU → U.S. flights are most important because you can generally change the return flight (U.S. → EU) on a published fare for little or no cost. Just ensure you

check the fare rules. But if, for example, you're taking your son to college in Europe, spending some time at home in the U.S., and then going back to Europe for vacation, or you know half of your dates in advance, it works well.

## FCF'S FIRST CLASS U-TURN STRATEGY #2: "MIXED CLASS AND ALLIANCE" PLAY

**Bookends With Business Class Mileage-Award/s + Low Published First Class Fare EU→U.S.→EU.**

Here we're bookending the First Class round-trip that starts in Europe with two low-cost Business Class one-way awards.

**Use different classes and airline alliances** because there's no telling how much inter-alliance airlines communicate, and they might consider this a back-to-back ticketing situation, which is generally not allowed. If you need a primer on why not to go all in with one airline, read this report on [Loyalty Free Agency](#).



### WHO IS U-TURN STRATEGY #2 FOR?

**The Sometimes-Flexible Travelers:** Since there aren't many First Class flight options that are attainable using miles, Business Class award seats are likely more plentiful and easier to find. And remember, there's only one way to get a round-trip mileage award ticket to Europe nowadays, and that's if you're flexible. In this case, you can use miles to easily get to and from Europe in Business Class.

That said, your flight originating from Europe in the middle is a published First Class fare so you can be more selective with your dates. In other words, you only need to be flexible on the award ticket portion of your trip.

And just to further the value of this strategy, compare a round-trip booking from the U.S. to Europe in Business Class to a round-trip from Europe to the U.S. in First Class. In all of the examples in the chart, the First Class

cost is *less* than Business Class for essentially the same flights. Yes, that's an upgrade!



Home Airport	Europe Destination	Compare to: U.S. to Europe Biz Class	Europe to U.S. First Class	Free Upgrade + Savings	
Chicago	Dublin	\$3,237	\$3,091	\$146	5%
	Manchester	\$4,337	\$3,907	\$430	10%
Houston	Dublin	\$4,096	\$3,932	\$164	4%
	Manchester	\$4,345	\$3,970	\$375	9%
Miami	Frankfurt	\$4,830	\$3,978	\$852	18%
	Lisbon	\$4,116	\$3,347	\$769	19%
	Munich	\$4,715	\$3,974	\$741	16%
	Nice	\$4,394	\$3,806	\$588	13%
New York	Dublin	\$2,852	\$2,746	\$106	4%
	Lisbon	\$3,369	\$3,099	\$270	8%
	Munich	\$4,565	\$3,750	\$815	18%
	Nice	\$3,444	\$2,882	\$562	16%
	Vienna	\$4,500	\$3,616	\$884	20%



# Air France and KLM's Low-Priced Award Opportunities Get You Premium Economy for the Price of Coach

April 2024

## **No need to feel blue: Air France and KLM save you up to 43% in Premium Economy**

Flying Blue is the joint loyalty program of Air France, KLM, and a few other smaller European carriers. We've just shone our third-degree light onto Flying Blue to uncover some opportunities in Premium Economy.

First, let's take a quick look at the current state of play for fares and awards.

## CURRENT PREMIUM ECONOMY BASELINE FARE TRENDS

Air France and KLM's fares are often highest when they're booked within 14 days and between 30 to 60 days of departure; or when you [don't have the minimum-stay requirement](#). Consider [positioning flights](#) when special fares [are not offered on your route](#).

- **Air France**
  - **Atlanta to Paris:** typical fares range from \$2,859 to \$4,239+.
- **KLM**
  - **Atlanta to Amsterdam:** typical fares range from \$2,462 to \$3,752+.

## CURRENT PREMIUM ECONOMY BASELINE MILEAGE TRENDS

Air France and KLM both have a dynamic award pricing structure and have recently reduced the cost of awards on Air France to Paris and KLM to Amsterdam starting at 35,000 miles each way on many routes from the U.S.

### FOR COMPARISON

American charges between 19,000 and 68,500 miles for Economy and between 47,000 and 145,000 for Premium Economy from New York to Paris, each way.

Delta ranges from 52,000 to 100,000 miles for Economy and 90,000 to 160,000 for Premium Economy, each way.

United is between 40,000 and 70,000 miles for Economy and 88,000 to 120,000 for Premium Economy, each way.

### NO MILES? JUST SAY OUI

Typical everyday mileage costs run about 2.44 cents each. But Flying Blue frequently offers mileage purchase bonuses, and the current one runs through April 25 with a 35% bonus if you buy 100,000 miles (the maximum allowed per year) directly from the airline. That means you can get up to 135,000 miles with the bonus.

On Air France's Atlanta-Paris route, this works out to about 1.81 cents each and a savings of up to \$1,242 / 43% when compared to typical published fares. That's smart buying — [using a strategy we absolutely love](#) here at FCF.

We often talk about buying miles [when published premium fares are high](#), such as when they're \$2,000+ for Premium Economy international tickets. Here's a look at the savings:

Airline	From Atlanta To	R/T Mileage	Cost of Miles at 1.81 Cents	Award Taxes	Total Cost Including Award Ticket Taxes	Typical Published Fare	Savings	
Air France	Paris	70,000	\$1,267	\$350	\$1,617	\$2,859	\$1,242	43%
KLM	Amsterdam					\$2,462	\$845	34%

## TRANSFER PARTNERS

Air France/KLM's Flying Blue loyalty program has many points-to-miles transfer partners including Amex Rewards, Capital One, Chase, and Citi.

You can buy up to 500,000 annually from Amex Membership Rewards for 2.5 cents each and transfer them to Flying Blue. Check out [How to buy American Express Membership Rewards points](#), and FCF's [Beginner's Guide: how to play the "Buy Miles to Fly In Style"](#).

Air France and Amex offer transfer bonuses periodically. Their most recent bonus in September 2023 was 25%. This brings the mileage transfer cost down from 70,000 to just 56,000 miles for a round-trip ticket in Premium Economy.

## MILEAGE AWARD TAXES

Air France/KLM typically charge around \$350 in taxes for Premium Economy awards, round-trip, however this does vary based on the route.

Below are the routes with award availability at the time of publication, but they will certainly change with time.

## CURRENT PREMIUM ECONOMY MILEAGE AVAILABILITY TRENDS

### AIR FRANCE AWARD AVAILABILITY BETWEEN THE U.S. & CANADA AND PARIS

You can find four seat availability for both outbound and return travel from Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Montreal, New York, Ottawa, Raleigh, Toronto, Vancouver, and Washington, DC.

To Paris 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
Atlanta	Dec., Jan.	Sept., March	July., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Feb.	May., June, Sept., Nov., Feb.	Aug., Sept.	
Boston	April, May, June, Aug., Sept., Jan.	June, July, Aug., Dec., Feb.	July, Oct., Nov., Dec., March	May, Aug., Oct., Nov., March	May, Sept., Nov., Dec., Feb.	June, Sept., Jan.
Chicago	Oct., Dec. to Feb.	March	Nov.	Aug., Nov. to March	Sept., Nov.	
Dallas	Apil, July, Aug., Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., March	July, Jan.		June, Aug., Nov., Jan., Feb.		
Houston	July, Sept., Dec.	Aug., Sept., Oct., Jan., March	Aug., Oct., Nov., Feb., March	May, June, Aug., Sept., Oct.	May, Sept., Dec., March	Nov., Jan., Feb.
Los Angeles	Oct., Nov., Dec.	Jan. to March	Jan., Feb.	April, May, Aug., Sept., Nov., Dec., March	Aug., Feb., March	
Miami	July, Oct., Dec.	March	Nov., Jan., Feb.	May, Aug., Dec.	May, Dec., March	Nov., Jan., Feb.
Montreal	July, Aug., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb.	Jan.	Sept.	April, May, June to Dec., March	June, Sept., Dec., Jan., Feb.	Feb.
New York	Aug., Oct., Dec. to Feb.	Aug., Sept., Dec., March	July, Oct., Nov., Dec.	Aug., Oct., Dec. to Feb.	May, Sept., March	May, June, Sept., Nov., March
Ottawa	Nov., Dec., Feb.	Nov., March	Jan.	June, March	Dec., March	Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb.
Raleigh	July, Aug., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., March			Aug., Sept., Jan.		
Toronto	Oct., Nov.	Aug.	July	Dec. to March	Nov., Jan.	
Washington, DC	July, Sept., Nov. to Jan.	Aug., Sept., Feb.	Oct.	May, June, Aug., Sept., Nov., Jan., Feb.	Sept., Nov., Dec., Jan.	

To Paris 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
Vancouver	April, May, July, Oct., Nov. to Jan.	Feb.		April, Oct., Dec., Jan., March	Nov., Feb.	Feb.

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...

## KLM AWARD AVAILABILITY BETWEEN THE U.S. & CANADA AND AMSTERDAM

You can find four seat availability for both outbound and return travel from Chicago, Houston, New York, and Toronto.

To Amsterdam 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
Chicago	July, Aug., Oct. to Dec., March			May, June, Sept., Nov. to Feb.		
Houston	Nov. to March			Nov. to March	Nov.	
Las Vegas	Jan.			April to June, Aug., March		
Los Angeles	July			Aug.		
New York	April, Nov., March		Jan., Feb.	April, June, Nov., Dec.	May	Jan. to March
San Francisco	Jan., Feb.	Jan.		Feb.		
Toronto	April, July, Feb., March	Feb.			Jan., Feb.	Feb.

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...

## NOT FLYING TO PARIS OR AMSTERDAM? GET CONNECTING FLIGHTS WITHIN EUROPE

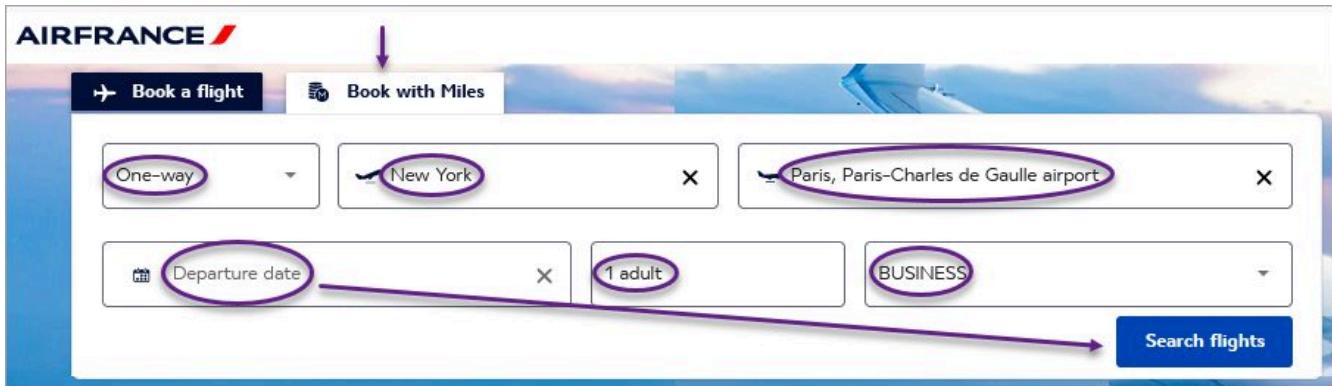
You can fly almost anywhere in Europe on one ticket: Air France and KLM offer awards that allow connections on the flights it operates, as well as its partners. That means you can add on the following destinations as long as they're available beyond Paris or Amsterdam with the airline or its partners: Athens, Barcelona, Berlin, Bordeaux, Brussels, Bucharest, Copenhagen, Dublin, Edinburgh, Frankfurt, London, Malta, Oslo, Porto, Prague, Rome, Split, Stockholm, Venice, Warsaw, and Zurich, to name a few.

When booking a connecting flight, we recommend checking each segment separately first, starting with the most important over-the-water flight. You can add a connection to your nonstop route (depending on availability). But be aware that you'll have to spend more miles to add these connecting flights.

## EASY AWARD SEAT SEARCHES

Air France/KLM have come a long way in terms of functionality. It is now possible to search for award space for many months at a time. The trick is to leave the calendar date blank as you see below and use the calendar as a guide to the lowest fares. Note that this calendar method seems to be a bit glitchy and sometimes the award amounts don't match what's on the calendar.

### How to Search for Availability



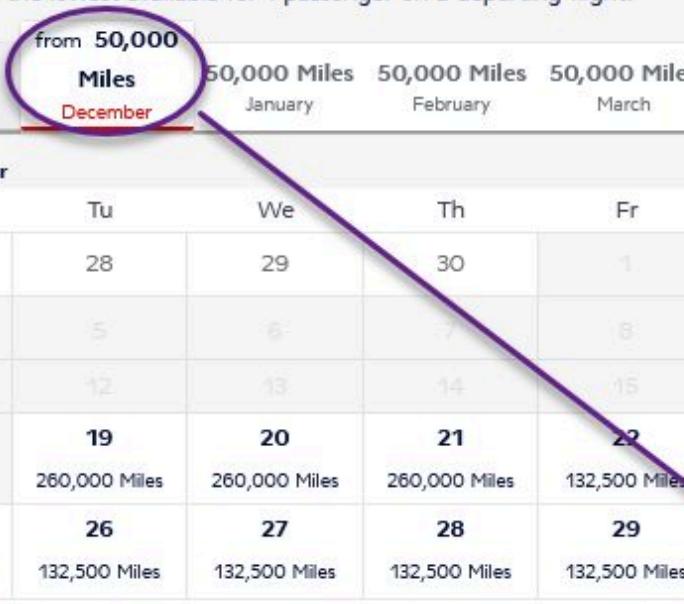
The screenshot shows the Air France website search interface. The search form includes the following fields: 'One-way' (selected), 'New York' (origin), 'Paris, Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport' (destination), 'Departure date' (highlighted with a purple oval), '1 adult' (highlighted with a purple oval), and 'BUSINESS' (highlighted with a purple oval). A purple arrow points from the 'Departure date' field to the 'Search flights' button, which is also highlighted with a purple arrow.

## CALENDAR VIEW BY MONTH

### Departure date

From New York to Paris, BUSINESS

Displayed fares are the lowest available for 1 passenger on a departing flight.



		from 50,000 Miles	50,000 Miles	50,000 Miles	50,000 Miles	
		December	January	February	March	
2023 December						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	260,000 Miles	260,000 Miles	260,000 Miles	132,500 Miles	132,500 Miles	132,500 Miles
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	132,500 Miles	132,500 Miles	132,500 Miles	132,500 Miles	50,000 Miles	50,000 Miles