

# FCF's Delta Detour Upgrade Strategy is Back: Net Yourself Five to 10 Tickets for the Price of One

November 2023

**Collectors of Amex, Citi, and Chase Points can get Business Class for 28,000 miles / 22% LESS than coach**

If you've been following FCF for a while, you know how much we love our Delta Detour Upgrade Strategy. It means using partner Virgin Atlantic miles to book Delta flights for far less than Delta itself charges for the same flights.

However, back in 2021, things sadly [went south](#) for this idea. Delta availability using Virgin Atlantic miles virtually dried up, which effectively killed our favorite FCF Delta loophole.

We've been excited to follow every twist, turn, or insight from this strategy's soap opera ever since FCF's research team discovered it — as you can see by how much we've written about it: [Here](#), and [here](#). That's a lot of here-say!

In January this year, we predicted availability would come back, which went against conventional thinking. A big part of FCF's Upgrade Mindset is to keep an open, hopeful outlook for the future – which has paid off in this case.

If you were paying attention to FCF's favorite Delta strategy, there were a couple of routes with a few seats recently for four travelers from New York to Venice and Reykjavik, which we think will grow later this year to many more routes when flights take off with scads of unsold Business Class seats.

You're welcome!

Happily, at the time of this writing, Delta award availability to Europe using Virgin Atlantic miles had started to return, as shown in the screenshots below, which is great news for [travelers willing to be flexible](#).

Note, however, that award space comes and goes, so keep your eye out for the best deals and be ready to pull the trigger. If the itinerary [does not meet all your requirements](#), you can always [upgrade closer to your travel date](#).

This is the one strategy where you can get Business Class flights to Europe for just 100,000 miles round-trip through Delta's partner Virgin Atlantic (an Amex, Chase, and Citi points-to-miles partner) **on Delta flights** when Delta charges 500,000 to 750,000 miles for the same ones.

That's up to 90% off.

**Said another way, that's between five and 10 tickets for the price of one when you consider mile transfer bonuses.**

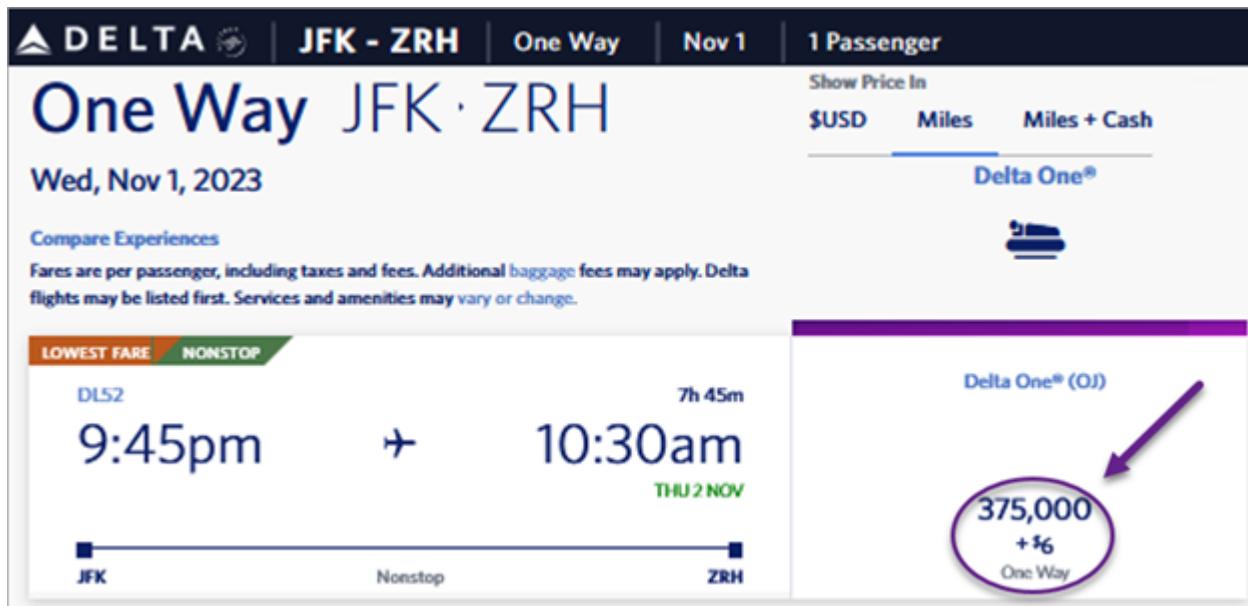
## DELTAS HOT FOR A PARTNER

It seems crazy, doesn't it? Those miles bought through Delta's partner would get better treatment on Delta's own flights than those bought through Delta. It seems like they really took those partnership vows to heart: for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, to love and to cherish... Indeed, Delta is really loving and cherishing Virgin Atlantic right now. Meanwhile, Delta loyalists are worse off, and poorer.

Here's a closer look at what we've been seeing.

When traveling close-in, Delta charges 375,000 for a one-way flight from New York to Zurich. Virgin Atlantic charges 50,000 one-way for the same flight, on the same day.

## TYPICAL DELTA ONE-WAY COST WITHIN 60 DAYS OF TRAVEL



DETA | JFK - ZRH | One Way | Nov 1 | 1 Passenger

One Way JFK → ZRH

Wed, Nov 1, 2023

Compare Experiences

Fares are per passenger, including taxes and fees. Additional baggage fees may apply. Delta flights may be listed first. Services and amenities may vary or change.

LOWEST FARE | NONSTOP

DL52 7h 45m

9:45pm → 10:30am

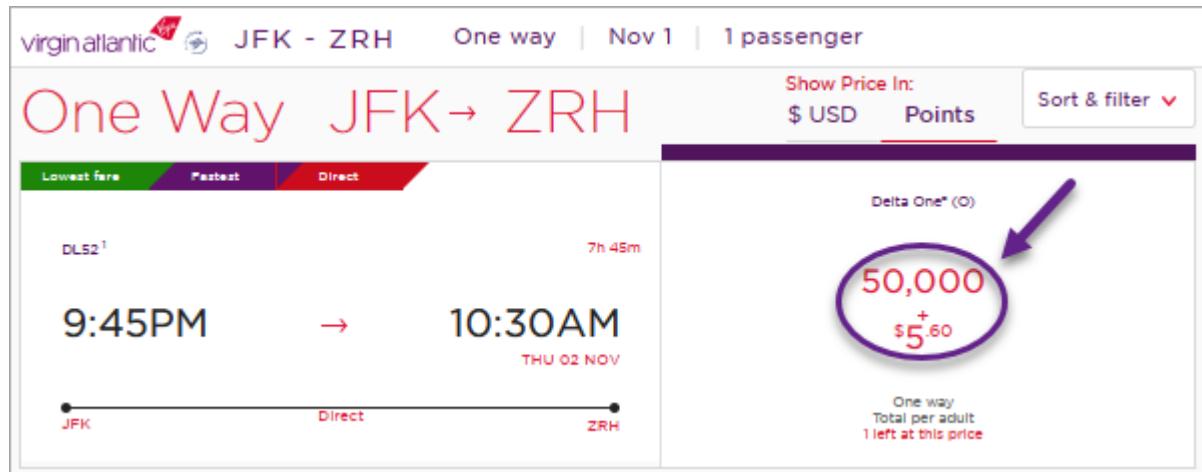
THU 2 NOV

JFK Nonstop ZRH

Delta One® (OJ)

375,000 +\$6 One Way

## VIRGIN ATLANTIC ONE-WAY COST FOR THE SAME DATES



virginatlantic | JFK - ZRH | One way | Nov 1 | 1 passenger

One Way JFK → ZRH

Lowest fare | Fastest | Direct

DL52 7h 45m

9:45PM → 10:30AM

THU 02 NOV

JFK Direct ZRH

Delta One® (OJ)

50,000 +\$5.60

One way Total per adult 1 left at this price

Not only is there a Grand Canyon-sized gulf between those costs, but there's also better availability at the lower price on a handful of routes for up to four travelers. **For a family of four, that translates to saving over 2,400,000 miles on a round-trip.**

When traveling further out, Delta typically charges 250,000 to 270,000 for a one-way flight from New York to Zurich. Virgin Atlantic still charges 50,000 one way on many of the same days during the month of March — still over a million miles saved.

## TYPICAL DELTA ONE-WAY COST BEYOND 60 DAYS OUT

DELTA		JFK - ZRH	One Way	Feb 8	1 Passenger	MODIFY
JAN/FEB/MAR						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
270,000 +\$6 28	270,000 +\$23 29	LOWEST 250,000 +\$6 30	LOWEST 250,000 +\$25 31	Depart 250,000 +\$6 1	270,000 +\$6 2	270,000 +\$6 3
270,000 +\$6 4	270,000 +\$23 5	LOWEST 250,000 +\$6 6	LOWEST 250,000 +\$25 7	LOWEST 250,000 +\$6 8	270,000 +\$6 9	270,000 +\$6 10
270,000 +\$6 11	270,000 +\$23 12	LOWEST 250,000 +\$6 13	LOWEST 250,000 +\$25 14	LOWEST 250,000 +\$6 15	270,000 +\$6 16	270,000 +\$6 17
270,000 +\$6 18	270,000 +\$23 19	LOWEST 250,000 +\$6 20	LOWEST 250,000 +\$25 21	LOWEST 250,000 +\$6 22	270,000 +\$6 23	270,000 +\$6 24
270,000 +\$6 25	270,000 +\$23 26	LOWEST 250,000 +\$6 27	LOWEST 250,000 +\$23 28	LOWEST 250,000 +\$6 29	270,000 +\$6 1	270,000 +\$6 2

## VIRGIN ATLANTIC ONE-WAY COST FOR THE SAME DATES

virgin atlantic		JFK - ZRH	One way	Jan 1	1 passenger	
JAN/FEB/MAR						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Lowest 50,000 +\$6 28	89,500 +\$25 29	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 30	89,500 +\$25 31	Depart 50,000 +\$6 1	89,500 +\$25 2	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 3
Lowest 50,000 +\$6 4	89,500 +\$25 5	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 6	89,500 +\$25 7	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 8	89,500 +\$25 9	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 10
Lowest 50,000 +\$6 11	89,500 +\$25 12	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 13	Not available 14	Not available 15	Not available 16	Not available 17
Lowest 50,000 +\$6 18	89,500 +\$25 19	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 20	89,500 +\$25 21	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 22	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 23	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 24
Lowest 50,000 +\$6 25	89,500 +\$25 26	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 27	89,500 +\$25 28	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 29	1 Not available	Lowest 50,000 +\$6 2

## FCF'S SWEET REDEEMS SURVEY: DELTA FLIGHTS USING VIRGIN MILES TREASURE MAP

Amazing, right? Anything deal-worthy when it comes to Delta is good news because it's so rare. Trust our truffle hounds to keep digging up these treats. Here are the routes we recently found with availability.

## NEW YORK TO / FROM BRUSSELS

Days Available	From: New York	→		To: Brussels
		13+	9 TO 12	
2023				
DEC		----	----	----
2024				
JAN	----			
FEB	----			
MAR		----		

---- 4 Seats    ---- 2 Seats    ---- 1 Seat

From: Brussels	→	To: New York
13+	9 TO 12	4 TO 8
2023		
	----	
2024		
	----	
	----	
	----	

## NEW YORK TO/FROM FRANKFURT

Days Available	From: New York	→		To: Frankfurt
		13+	9 TO 12	
2023				
DEC	----	----	----	----
2024				
JAN	----			
FEB	----			
MAR	----			
APR				

---- 4 Seats    ---- 2 Seats    ---- 1 Seat

From: Frankfurt	→	To: New York
13+	9 TO 12	4 TO 8
2023		
	----	
2024		
	----	
	----	
	----	

## NEW YORK TO/FROM ZURICH

Days Available	From: New York	→		To: Zurich
		13+	9 TO 12	
2023				
DEC				----
2024				
JAN	----		----	
FEB	----			
MAR			----	

---- 4 Seats    ---- 2 Seats    ---- 1 Seat

From: Zurich	→	To: New York
13+	9 TO 12	4 TO 8
2023		
2024		

## OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN USING VIRGIN ATLANTIC MILES ON DELTA FLIGHTS

No Miles? No Problem!

Virgin Atlantic has more credit card point transfer partners (Amex Rewards, Chase, and Citi) than Delta. Delta only has Amex Rewards.

You can buy Amex Membership Reward points for 2.5 cents each and transfer them to Virgin Atlantic. 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"](#).

For even more savings over Delta's 750,000 miles, Virgin Atlantic and Amex Membership Rewards offer transfer bonuses periodically. Their most recent bonus was 30%. This brings the cost down to 77,000 Virgin Atlantic miles round-trip for a net savings of 673,000, or 90%.

Meanwhile, Delta's co-branded credit cards [never offer transfer bonuses](#). What is it about Delta and loyalty?

### **Connecting Flights**

When booking a connecting flight, we usually recommend first checking each segment separately, starting with the most important over-the-water flight. You can add a connection to your nonstop route using Virgin miles on Delta from most U.S. cities (depending on availability). But be aware that you'll have to spend more miles to add these connecting flights. A one-way domestic (non-transcontinental) connection up to 1,000 miles will cost 27,500 more Virgin miles, and a one-way domestic transcontinental connection will cost you 52,500 more Virgin miles.

Now let's apply this to an actual itinerary. Suppose you want to fly to Paris, but you live in Austin. The Atlanta-Paris flight can be as low as 50,000 Virgin miles one way, while Delta often charges 320,000 miles each way. The Austin-to-Atlanta flight will cost 27,500 miles one way for a total of 77,500 miles (Austin-Atlanta-Paris) one way. Anyone can easily grab these points with Amex, Chase, or Citi points-to-miles transfer. Or just get your connecting flight in cash.

### **Mileage Award Taxes**

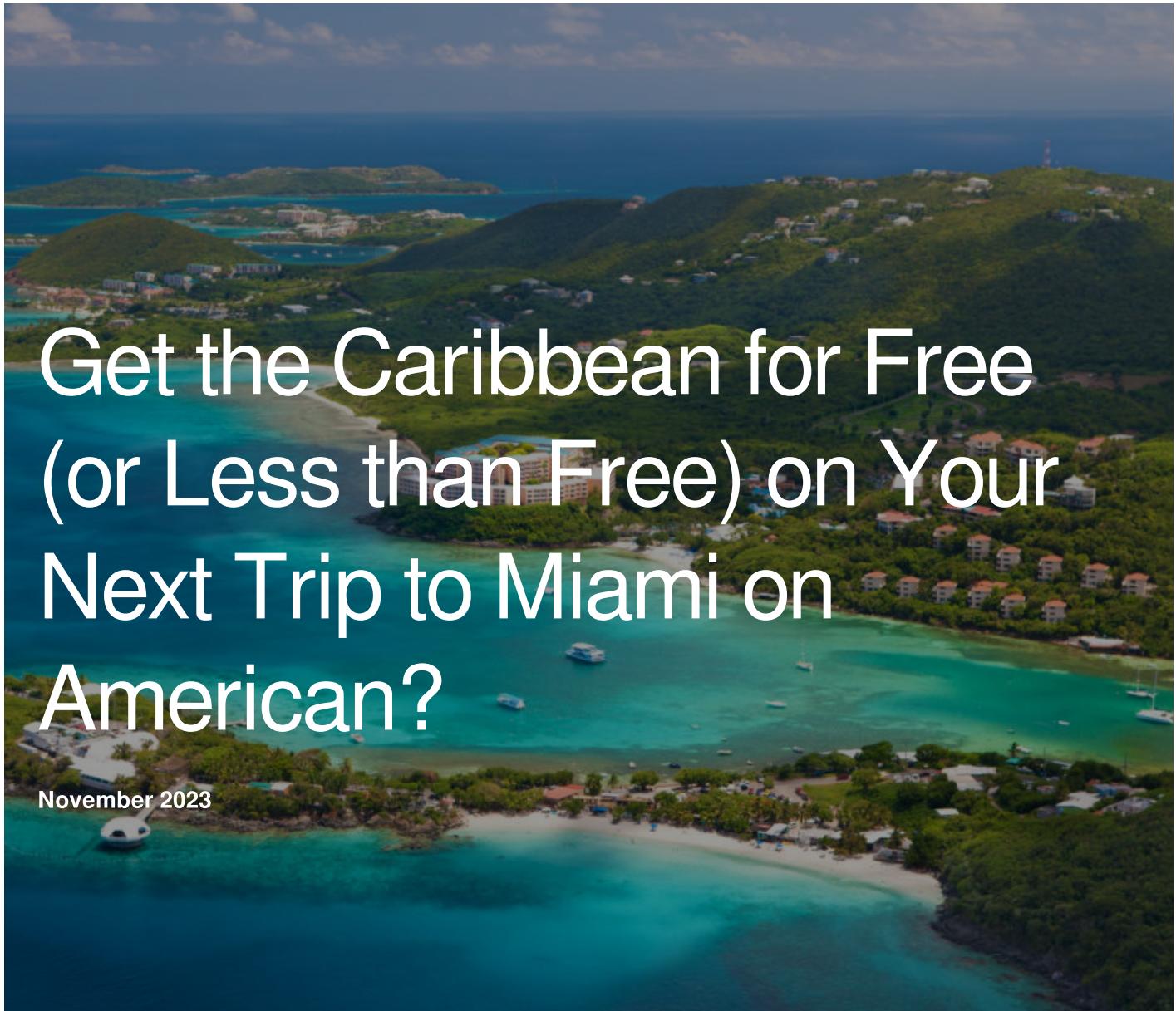
Virgin Atlantic charges the same taxes as Delta for flights to Europe, except when traveling to London. But the three routes we highlighted here are to other destinations, so you can ignore London for now.

### **Last Word**

And there you have it. The good news headline is that the Delta Detour Upgrade Strategy is back. All completely above board, and anybody can do it. Including you.

Dare we say we expect to see more routes coming in the near future?

In the meantime, see you up front.



# Get the Caribbean for Free (or Less than Free) on Your Next Trip to Miami on American?

November 2023

***How to add San Juan, St. Croix, or St. Thomas to your  
round-trip ticket and pay up to \$620 LESS***

Host: Come on down, Natasha from Omaha! You're in the running for a free vacation to the Caribbean.

*(Wild studio audience cheering.)*

BUT, you need to answer this question first:

*(Dramatic music)*

Would you like a free vacation?

*(Thinking music)*

Natasha: Um, yeah...

Host: Correct! Natasha from Omaha! *(Ding, ding, ding!)* You are our winner! Oh, to heck with that... EVERYONE in our audience is a winner! Free vacations for all of you! *(Wild cheering and applause.)*

## THE STOPOVER LOOPHOLE STRATEGY (SLS) PUTS ON A SHOW

Yes, it's a game-changing strategy that we've covered previously to destinations such as [Africa](#), [India](#), and [the Middle East](#).

The Stopover Loophole Strategy takes advantage of airline "stopover allowances." A stopover is a planned stop of more than four hours for domestic flights and 24 hours for international flights.

But here's the thing, these stopovers can be for days — or even weeks — if you want. And they are sometimes allowed for free or a very small fee. "Hello vacation" is what we say to that, here in the venerable halls of FCF.

That's because you can visit an awesome second destination like San Juan, St. Croix, or St. Thomas for no extra cost. **Or, would you believe, take a flight to Miami that costs less because you added a stopover?** Yes, that's "less than free" because you're kind of getting paid to do it. Getting paid to take a vacation? Well, this is the kind of thing that makes life great. This and game shows, of course.

Let's take a short break — to a tropical paradise!

## FREE VACATIONS THAT ALSO SAVE YOU UP TO \$620

A San Francisco-Miami round-trip flight in Business Class often costs around \$1,577 on American Airlines. However, if you **add a stopover to sun-drenched San Juan in the Caribbean, you'd pay \$620 LESS!** Say what? For just \$957, you get two different travel experiences for the price of one. That's a sidestep that would make a star running back proud.

Or how about this: Instead of traveling round-trip from Dallas to Miami in Business Class for \$1,116, you can add a stopover in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands to bring that price down to \$1,081. **That's \$35 cheaper — all for adding another vacation destination.**

*More wild cheering from the audience.*

Ladies and gentlemen, please note that you can stop in Miami in either direction, but the cost may be slightly different. For example, on American Airlines, Phoenix-**St. Croix-Miami-Phoenix** is \$948 (a Phoenix-Miami round-trip is \$1,347), while Phoenix-**Miami-St. Croix-Phoenix** is \$1,050. A little more, but still a bargain.

## HERE'S WHAT'S POSSIBLE WITH THIS STRATEGY:

- You can actually *get paid* to book a side trip to an awesome destination. That is, adding a side trip makes your total booking cost cheaper than the original round-trip booking without the side trip.
- You'll be able to book a side trip for free – for the same cost as a round-trip booking without the side trip.
- You pay a little bit more to book the side trip, but it's still considerably cheaper than booking a round-trip to the side-trip destination by itself.

## THIS STRATEGY IS IDEAL FOR CONTESTANTS SUCH AS:

- Leisure travelers who have the flexibility to add in a side trip when visiting friends or family in Miami.
- Business travelers on a budget who still want to sneak in a vacation while on a business trip in Miami.



The Stopover Loophole Strategy Makes Winners Out of All of Us

## WHERE TO USE FCF'S STOPOVER LOOPHOLE STRATEGY TO GET AMAZING BUSINESS CLASS TRAVEL DEALS WITH AMERICAN AIRLINES

Here are some examples of our Stopover Loophole Strategy in action.

## The SLS Connection Costs From Various U.S. Cities with an Outbound Side-Trip on American

U.S. R/T	Normal Premium Fare R/T	Outbound Side Trip City	New Premium Fare w/Side Trip	Side-Trip Savings*
San Francisco - Miami	\$1,577	San Juan	\$957	\$620 / 39%

U.S. R/T	Normal Premium Fare R/T	Outbound Side Trip City	New Premium Fare w/Side Trip	Side-Trip Savings*
San Francisco - Miami	\$1,577	St. Croix	\$1,163	\$414 / 26%
Phoenix - Miami	\$1,347	St. Croix	\$948	\$399 / 30%
Phoenix - Miami	\$1,347	San Juan	\$968	\$379 / 28%
Los Angeles - Miami	\$1,250	San Juan	\$884	\$366 / 29%
Los Angeles - Miami	\$1,250	St. Croix	\$1,018	\$232 / 19%
Dallas - Miami	\$1,116	San Juan	\$1,050	\$66 / 6%
Portland - Miami	\$884	St. Croix	\$821	\$63 / 7%
Dallas - Miami	\$1,116	St. Croix	\$1,081	\$35 / 3%
Portland - Miami	\$884	San Juan	\$912	-\$28 / -3%
New Orleans - Miami	\$621	San Juan	\$794	-\$173 / -28%
New Orleans - Miami	\$621	St. Croix	\$853	-\$232 / -37%
New York - Miami	\$651	St. Thomas	\$910	-\$259 / -40%

\*Some fares don't save any money but the additional cost to include the side trip is still considerably cheaper than booking a round-trip to the side-trip destination by itself.

## The SLS Connection Costs From Various U.S. Cities with an Inbound Side-Trip on American

U.S. R/T	Normal Premium Fare R/T	Inbound Side Trip City	New Premium Fare w/Side Trip	Side-Trip Savings*
San Francisco - Miami	\$1,577	San Juan	\$957	\$620 / 39%
San Francisco - Miami	\$1,577	St. Croix	\$1,163	\$414 / 26%
Los Angeles - Miami	\$1,250	San Juan	\$885	\$365 / 29%
Phoenix - Miami	\$1,347	St. Croix	\$1,050	\$297 / 22%
Phoenix - Miami	\$1,347	San Juan	\$1,098	\$249 / 18%

U.S. R/T	Normal Premium Fare R/T	Inbound Side Trip City	New Premium Fare w/Side Trip	Side-Trip Savings*
Los Angeles - Miami	\$1,250	St. Croix	\$1,018	\$232 / 19%
Dallas - Miami	\$1,116	San Juan	\$1,024	\$92 / 8%
Dallas - Miami	\$1,116	St. Croix	\$1,053	\$63 / 6%
Portland - Miami	\$884	San Juan	\$912	-\$28 / -3%
New Orleans - Miami	\$621	San Juan	\$796	-\$175 / -28%
New Orleans - Miami	\$621	St. Croix	\$807	-\$186 / -30%
Portland - Miami	\$884	St. Croix	\$1,079	-\$195 / -22%

\*Some fares don't save any money but the additional cost to include the side trip is still considerably cheaper than booking a round-trip to the side-trip destination by itself.

## TAKEN FOR A LOOP

Our Stopover Loophole Strategy has proven to be a game-winner for many FCF readers. It's so counterintuitive — adding a beautiful location and paying less overall. It's the [Upgrade Mindset](#) in action, something I'd love you to consider the next time a vacation calls your name.

See you up front.



# Bucket List Dash: Bags-Packed Travelers, on Your Marks, Get Set...

November 2023

## **Save up to 57% / \$6,911 with miles or cash on Air New Zealand and United**

This report is for [upgrade open-minded](#) and [bags-packed](#) travelers, just the kind of people we love here at FCF.

Business Class fares to the South Pacific can be volcano-hot —and not in a good way. I'm talking prices of \$7,500 to \$17,200, which I know will make you turn your outrigger around and head straight back home.

## AWESOME AUCKLAND

Auckland, with a population of 1.5 million people, is New Zealand's largest city, located on the North Island. It's a hub for fantastic adventuring and interesting activities:

- Visit Hobbiton, the movie set for Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings*
- Cruise Auckland Harbour to see whales, dolphins, and sea birds.
- Marvel at the famous geothermal bubbling mud pools of Rotorua.
- Take a winery and rainforest day tour out of Auckland.
- Get your bearings up in Auckland's majestic Sky Tower (and even bungee jump off it if you dare).
- Admire the beautiful natural wonders and pristine waters at Huka Falls.
- Kayak across to Rangitoto Island.
- Learn Māori history at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.
- Explore rugged coastline beaches.
- Use Auckland as your home base for further NZ adventures, including the spectacularly mountainous South Island.

**And if you're flying coach?** That's a long way to be folded up like an assistant in a magic show.

**Or paying with miles?** In that case, you're typically looking at double or triple mileage-award pricing to get to New Zealand — in the 400,000- to 700,000-mile-price range, round-trip.

If that doesn't spin your mind like a hammock in a hurricane, then I don't know what will.

So, the big question is: Where is the happy middle ground for a dream trip to the South Pacific?

**It could be right here:** We found a trend of [close in upgrade seats on United's Los Angeles-to-Auckland route](#) for up to four travelers.

For example, Los Angeles to Auckland in Business Class on United in November (a good time to go) typically runs from \$7,500 to \$12,100 round-trip. But if you buy a coach ticket for \$1,311, you can upgrade to Business Class for a \$500 co-pay and 30,000 miles each way and net a total savings of between \$5,189 and \$9,800, plus miles.

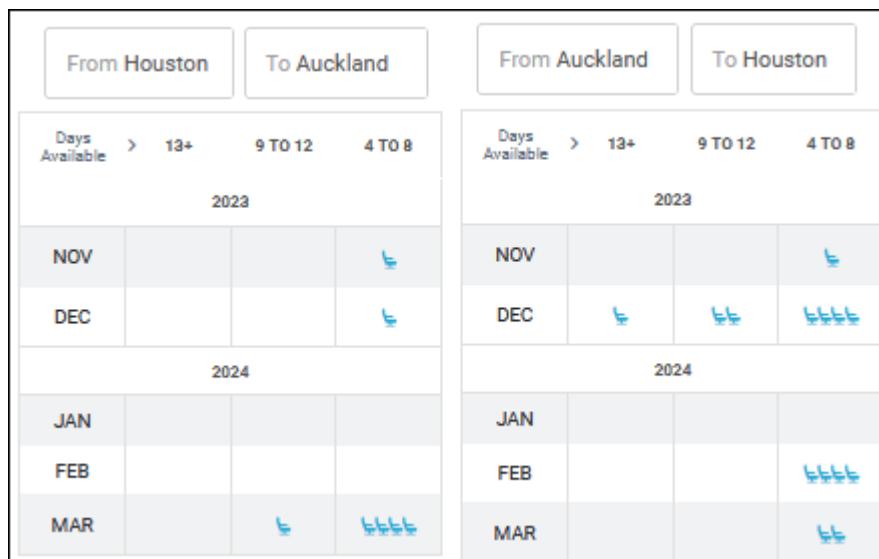
## OR SAVE UP TO 55% / \$5,990 WITH AIR NEW ZEALAND USING YOUR UNITED MILES OR CHASE POINTS (OR BUY THEM IF YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE THEM)

Let's look at a new trend with Air New Zealand's Houston-to-Auckland route using United miles for up to four travelers.

This route can cost from \$10,900 to \$17,200 when traveling close in. With United's most recent [buy miles](#) bonus promo you could buy the miles at 2.2 cents through November 20 with taxes about \$180. So, it would cost you \$4,910 for 220,000 United miles including about \$180 in taxes. If you're short on miles, here's [how to get around the buying miles maximum limits](#).

Award availability chart below.

### FCF'S BUCKET LIST DESTINATION TREASURE MAP AIR NEW ZEALAND FLIGHTS USING UNITED MILES



If you don't live in Houston or Los Angeles, try to get a [free connection](#) to the gateway city or [get a positioning flight](#), if you have to.

Start planning today because **these deals won't last**, as we've repeatedly pointed out. Studies show that even just planning and booking a trip makes us happier people, so who am I to argue with that?! Throw in the fact that it's to the South Pacific and your happiness level goes through the stratosphere.

**Kiwi Translations** Chilly bin: a cooler Togs: swimsuit Knackered: really tired Jumper: sweater or pullover Hokey Pokey: an ice cream brand beloved down there Tramping: hiking Sweet as: great, good. Choice as: see: sweet as. Kia ora: hello



# November's Top 61 Mileage Awards & Special Fares Greatest Hits (Still Available)

November 2023

## **Mr Upgrade's Deals of the Month**

It's the month to give thanks—for a big bunch of November fare and miles deals that our truffle-hounds have sniffed out. Good dogs!

## **Special Published Fares**

### **AFRICA**

[Money > Nairobi > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,249 to \\$3,814 R/T](#)

[Money > Cape Town and Johannesburg > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > from Montreal and Toronto from \\$2,287 to \\$2,725 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Cairo > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,848 to \\$3,208 R/T](#)

[Money > Nairobi > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$2,214 to \\$3,541 USD R/T](#)

## ASIA

[Money > Bangkok > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,562 to \\$4,214 R/T](#)

## CARIBBEAN

[Money > The Bahamas > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > from Miami, Boston, and Washington DC from \\$401 to \\$788 R/T](#)

[Money > St. Croix > All Year > Biz Class > \\$738 to \\$1,095 R/T](#)

[Money > Aruba > All Year > Biz Class > \\$804 to \\$1,188 R/T](#)



## EUROPE

[Money > Florence > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,529 to \\$3,144 R/T](#)

[Money > Naples > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > \\$2,522 to \\$3,141 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > Biz Class > \\$1,639 to \\$2,282 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Zurich > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,507 to \\$3,125 R/T](#)

[Money > Edinburgh > Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,726 to \\$3,217 R/T](#)

[Money > Valencia > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,509 to \\$3,020 R/T](#)

[Money > Geneva > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,502 to \\$3,124 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > Premium Economy > \\$675 to \\$908 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > First Class > \\$2,748 to \\$3,956 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Frankfurt > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,482 to \\$3,154 R/T](#)

[Money > Lisbon > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,506 to \\$3,131 R/T](#)

[Money > Venice > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,496 to \\$3,176 R/T](#)

[Money > Vienna > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,512 to \\$3,052 R/T](#)

[Money > Milan > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,497 to \\$2,994 R/T](#)

[Money > Dublin > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,481 to \\$2,993 R/T](#)

[Money > Barcelona > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,489 to \\$2,999 R/T](#)

[Money > Madrid > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,310 to \\$3,213 R/T](#)

[Money > Madrid > All Year > First Class > \\$4,362 to \\$5,663 R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > All Year > First Class > \\$4,409 to \\$5,360 R/T](#)

[Money > London > All Year > First Class > \\$3,732 to \\$5,686 R/T](#)

[Money > Rome > All Year > First Class > \\$4,143 to \\$4,984 R/T](#)

[Money > Lisbon > All Year > First Class > \\$4,376 to \\$5,677 R/T](#)

[Money > London > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,225 to \\$3,219 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe > All Year > Biz Class with TAP from \\$1,911 to \\$2,477 R/T](#)

[Money > Paris > All Year > First Class > \\$4,206 to \\$5,607 R/T](#)

## **HAWAII**

[Money > Maui > Winter > Biz Class > from Los Angeles and San Francisco from \\$942 to \\$1,182 R/T](#)

[Money > Honolulu > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > \\$939 to \\$1,450 R/T](#)

## **INDIA**

[Money > Mumbai > Spring/Fall > Biz Class > \\$2,781 to \\$3,900 R/T](#)

[Money > New Delhi > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,754 to \\$3,817 R/T](#)



## **MEXICO**

[Money > Cancun > All Year > Biz Class > \\$658 to \\$884 R/T](#)

[Money > Cabo San Lucas > All Year > Biz Class > \\$710 to \\$914 R/T](#)

## **NORTH AMERICA**

[Money > Domestic Transcon > Winter/Spring > Business Class > from \\$767 to \\$1,198 R/T](#)

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

[Money > Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from \\$2,505 to \\$3,065 USD R/T](#)

[Money > Buenos Aires > All Year > Biz Class > from Miami, New York, and Orlando from \\$2,546 to \\$3,172 R/T](#)

[Money > Santiago > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,009 to \\$3,210 R/T](#)

## **SOUTH PACIFIC**

[Money > Tahiti > All Year > Biz Class > from Los Angeles and Las Vegas from \\$3,130 to \\$4,198 R/T](#)

## **Sweet Redeems ASIA**

[Miles or Cash > 2024 Travel > Singapore and Beyond > from New York and Many Other U.S. Cities > Handful of 4+ Seats](#)

[2+ Travelers: Singapore Airlines Business Class Award Seats from Seattle and Many Other U.S. Cities to Singapore and Beyond / 2024 Travel](#)



## **EUROPE**

[\\*First Class\\* > Cash OR Miles > Lufthansa > 4+ Seats > Mid-West and East Coast to Germany & Beyond](#)

[Spain > Business Class > Cash OR Miles > Handful of 2+ Seats > from Texas](#)

[\\*First Class\\* > Cash OR Miles > Lufthansa > Handful of 2+ Seats > California to Germany & Beyond](#)

[KLM > Discount Business Class > 4+ Seats > for Less Miles than Coach > from Montreal to Amsterdam > Easy to Book Now](#)

[Air France > Discount Premium Economy > 4+ Seats > for Less Miles than Coach > from Dallas to Paris > Easy to Book Now](#)

[Singapore Airlines > Handful of Discount Business Class > 4+ Seats > from New York to Frankfurt > December Travel](#)

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

[Air France > Handful of Discount Business Class > 4+ Seats > for Less Miles than Coach > from Raleigh to Paris > Easy to Book Now](#)

[Miles > Europe > All Year > Wide-open Singapore Airlines Business Class from New York to Frankfurt / 4+ Seats](#)

[Miles & Cash > Winter Travel > Handful of United Upgrade Opportunities from Chicago to London > 4+ Seats](#)

## **MIDDLE EAST**

[Miles / Points > Biz Class > 2+ Seats > Qatar from New York to Doha](#)

## **SOUTH PACIFIC**

[Miles & Cash > Winter Travel > Handful of United Upgrade Opportunities from San Francisco to Sydney > 4+ Seats](#)



# Wunderbargain: Lufthansa First Class Upgrade Strategy to Europe Costs Just \$1,480 Each Way

November 2023

## FCF's Favorite Upgrade Strategy

We love First Class (our name is a big hint), and we love buying miles (one of the great flying strategies, in our humble opinion). So, put them together, add a little German flavor in the shape of a Lufthansa flight, and you have the recipe for a European trip in First Class that's amazingly affordable.

### **FIRST CLASS AIN'T DEAD YET**

I'll say it with a heavy heart: First Class is losing altitude. Of the big three U.S. carriers, only American Airlines has a First Class cabin, and that won't be around for much longer.

And apart from British Airways, whose First Class cabin I don't typically rate, it's rare to find deals up front. Other First Class options to Europe right now are on Air France and SWISS, but you'd need to be a top-tier elite to use miles.

That said, I believe First Class will never go away completely. People will always want a high-end experience, and companies like Rolls Royce, Louis Vuitton, and Maserati will be there to provide it. That aforementioned First Class trip to Europe can cost between \$8,000 and \$16,000. The trick is to get it without selling your firstborn. FCF wasn't created for billionaires — they can easily please themselves — it was created for smart people like you who want comfort and well-being at an affordable price.

## BUYING MILES TO FLY WITH GUILE

Like I said, buying miles is a genius play and SO UNDERUSED. It's like buying stock at *way under* the market price.

For example, we recently reported on several mileage purchase promotions where you can buy miles affordably: Air Canada for 1.4 cents per mile, Air France for 1.5 cents, Alaska for 1.8 cents, and Lifemiles for 1.4 cents.

But then came the Germans. Lufthansa has topped them all by selling their miles at the lowest price we've yet seen from them: 1.2 cents each. *A Wunderbargain!*

That makes for a fantastic Lufthansa First Class deal, bringing those \$8,000 to \$16,000 prices down to just \$2,960 round-trip.



Get ready to fly in First with Lufthansa's awesome buy-miles opportunity

## LUFTHANSA'S MILES & MORE NEW BUNDLE&GO OFFER

Lufthansa's Miles & More loyalty program recently introduced the opportunity to buy miles for 1.2 cents each with a 50% bonus, which ran through November 7, **or for 1.3 cents with a 40% bonus, which runs through November 30**. The maximum purchase has been extended through December 31—Up to 500,000 miles (normally 250,000) can be purchased through Bundle&Go in a calendar year. *Whispered so only you can hear:* Smart travelers can always get around these max limits with [FCF's unlimited buy-miles strategy](#).

[Lufthansa's Bundle&Go](#) deal lets you buy award miles in increments, which means members can buy one bundle per transaction and bonus miles do not count towards their annual limit.

You should know:

- You need to have at least 7,000 miles in your Miles&More account to be able to view award availability.
- You have to be signed in to see the current [Lufthansa's Bundle&Go](#) deal.
- Their fine print indicates it could take up to five days for the miles to post. However, when we bought miles through this promo, they were credited almost instantly (maybe we got lucky).

### TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF MILEAGE AWARDS

There are two award types you can book using Lufthansa miles: [First Flex](#) (fewer miles, more cash) and [First Flex Plus](#) (more miles, less cash). Depending on your itinerary, there are benefits to each.

### SAVE UP TO \$7,616+ / 68%+ ~ WITH A COOL WAY TO SAVE AN EXTRA \$636 IN TAXES ~

The round-trip cost for First Class between the U.S. and Europe on Lufthansa is 182,000 miles, or 91,000 each way, so the cost of buying those miles with this deal is \$2,184 round-trip. Taxes on tickets between the U.S. and Europe are about \$1,973, if you book roundtrips, for a total of \$4,157.

**But watch this:** One-way taxes are about \$925 on the outbound *and only \$412* on the return flight. That means you could book two one-ways and **save an additional \$636**. Get booking quick, before the airline reads this!

### SAVE UP TO \$8,177+ / 73%+

The round-trip cost of a **First Flex Plus** ticket between the U.S. and Europe on Lufthansa and two of its Miles & More member airlines is 230,000 miles (115,000 each way). So the cost of buying those miles during this sale, plus taxes of about \$200 on round-trip tickets between the U.S. and Europe, comes to a total cost of \$2,960.

As we said, with published First Class fares to Europe generally hovering between \$8,000 and \$16,000, **your savings can range anywhere from 53% to 73%+**. That's strudel with icing on top.

## EST LONG-HAUL ROUTES TO FIND FIRST CLASS AWARD AVAILABILITY

These are the best routes at the time of publication, but they will certainly change with time:

- For multiple travelers, the best availability from numerous cities is generally to/from Munich.
- Chicago and Washington, DC, have the best availability to/from Frankfurt.
- Boston, Chicago, New York, and Washington, DC, have the best availability to/from Munich.

## SWEET REDEEMS SURVEY LUFTHANSA FIRST CLASS TREASURE MAP

### To / From Frankfurt

To / From Frankfurt	Months / Days Available	Outbound			Return		
		13+	9 TO 12	4 TO 8	13+	9 TO 12	4 TO 8
Chicago	December, January	4 Seats			4 Seats		
	March	2 Seats	4 Seats		2 Seats	4 Seats	
	June						1 Seat
	July, August		1 Seat				1 Seat
	April, October			2 Seats			
	September						1 Seat
Houston	February	1 Seat				1 Seat	
	March	1 Seat	2 Seats				1 Seat
	June					1 Seat	
	July	1 Seat				1 Seat	
New York	January			1 Seat			1 Seat
	July			1 Seat			1 Seat
	August			1 Seat			1 Seat
	September						1 Seat
Washington, DC	December		1 Seat				1 Seat
	January to March	1 Seat				1 Seat	
	May to September	1 Seat				1 Seat	
	October		2 Seats			1 Seat	

4 Seats    2 Seats    1 Seat

### To / From Munich

To / From Munich	Months / Days Available	Outbound			Return		
		13+	9 TO 12	4 TO 8	13+	9 TO 12	4 TO 8
Boston	December to October	4 Seats			4 Seats		
Chicago	June to October	4 Seats			4 Seats		
Los Angeles	August to October						
Miami	January			2 Seats		1 Seat	
	February		1 Seat				1 Seat
	March		1 Seat	2 Seats			
New York	December to March						
Washington, DC	April to September						

4 Seats    2 Seats    1 Seat

*\*Connecting flights may not always offer a First Class cabin*

Not Flying to Germany? *Kein Problem*

## **~ GET CONNECTING FLIGHTS WITHIN EUROPE FROM FRANKFURT OR MUNICH ~**

Fly almost anywhere in Europe on one ticket: Lufthansa offers awards that allow connections on its own and on its partners' flights. That means you can tack on the other destinations as long as they're available beyond Germany with the airline or its partners: Aegean Airlines, Air Dolomiti, Air Malta, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, Croatia Airlines, Discover Airlines, Eurowings, LOT Polish Airlines, Luxair, Olympic Air, Scandinavian Airlines, SWISS, TAP Portugal, Turkish Airlines and more.

### **DON'T LIVE IN A LUFTHANSA U.S. HUB? KEIN PROBLEM**

## **~ GET FREE CONNECTING FLIGHTS TO LUFTHANSA'S HUBS WITHIN THE U.S. ~**

Lufthansa offers awards that allow for partner travel between its U.S. hubs and countless other U.S. cities, so you can get free domestic connecting flights with United.

*Here are sample routes [United](#) flies to Lufthansa's U.S. hubs:*

Chicago To/From: Boston, Dallas, Denver, Ft. Lauderdale, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, Raleigh

Houston To/From: Atlanta, Columbus, Denver, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, Nashville, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, Tulsa

Los Angeles To/From: Boston, Chicago, Denver, Las Vegas, Orlando, Phoenix, San Francisco, Seattle

Newark To/From: Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, Phoenix, San Francisco

San Francisco To/From: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, Phoenix, San Diego, Seattle, Tampa, Toronto

Washington, DC To/From: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, Phoenix, Seattle

*\*Connecting flights may not always offer a First Class cabin*

### ***Lieben Buying Miles!***

"Lieben" is German for "to love," and as we *love* to say, the world is your schnitzel — especially when Lufthansa's buy-miles sale will get you there for a lot less than the published price. So collect those miles,

keep your eyes on FCF's reporting, learn about all the possible departures (50+) and destinations (100+), and get ready to really *fliegen!*