

Four First Class Routes with Cheap Premium Tickets for Spontaneous Flyers & Those Who've Already Bought

June 2023

Not many routes have last-minute availability and they're always changing; here are the secret routes we've seen lately that you can score...

I'm putting it out there that if you've already booked a First or Business Class ticket this summer, you probably paid too much for it. And if you haven't booked yet, it might be because you didn't want to overpay.

Yes, fares are higher in general – unusually high, and so are mileage awards, up around the \$4,000 / 180,000+ miles mark for Business Class more often than not. Yuck.

THERE'S GOLD AT BOTH ENDS OF THE RAINBOW

What if you have **already booked** and I told you that you could cancel that \$3,000 or \$4,000 Business Class ticket and get a First Class one for around the same money?

Or if you're a **spontaneous traveler** and I said you could book a top First Class seat at the lowest prices that exist?

You'd say, "Pull your head in, Bennett, that's crazy." But then you'd look at me again and say, "Er, tell me more."

This is all a result of **lucrative last-minute availability opportunities**, which we covered in detail last month in our report titled "[The Iterative Upgrade Mindset.](#)"

THE BEST DEALS IN THE UNIVERSE ARE FLOATING IN SPACE

People often ask me when the best time to buy an airline ticket is. On Mondays? After midnight when inventory is put back in? During a full moon?

I say the best time to buy airline tickets is when they're the cheapest ever.

And that's often right before a flight takes off because some airlines don't sell all their First Class seats and don't want to depart with empty ones, so they drop the price. The problem is that this doesn't occur all the time.

So let's dive into four great routes with which any "bags-packed" spontaneous traveler can exit their front door or **where last-minute upgraders** can [score free "two-class upgrades."](#)

There are *always* deals to be had, *but* they're always changing. The routes below were available at the time of publication, so you'll have to check the airline for the most up-to-date information. And don't forget about [positioning flights](#) and how you can often [get free connecting flights](#) if you don't see your exact route listed.



**FIRST CLASS
LOS ANGELES - SYDNEY***

AMERICAN AIRLINES**

Summary of Availability	Miles Required R/T	Cost to Buy American Miles When on Sale If You Need Them	Regular Published Fare
Best to find availability for two travelers (and possibly more) outbound within 21 days. Best to find availability on the return on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays between 14 & 50 days out.	180,000 - 260,000	\$3,240-\$4,680	\$23,000

***No American miles?** Amex, Capital One, and Citi members can transfer points to Cathay Pacific to get the ticket for 240,000 round-trip.

****Not flying from Los Angeles and/or to Sydney?** [Learn about getting free connecting flights](#) or buying a [positioning flight](#).

PERSPECTIVE: HOW CAN THIS BE A FREE TWO-CLASS UPGRADE

Often American's One-Way First Class Price When Booking Close In



First
 One way (per person)
90,000 miles
+\$26.10
Total (all passengers)
90,000 miles + \$26.10

DEPART
 Los Angeles, CA to Sydney, Australia
 Wednesday, June 14, 2023
 10:54 PM → 7:05 AM 15h 11m Nonstop First
AA73 77W-Boeing 777


American's One-Way Premium Economy Price When Booking Way In Advance

Calendar

Thu, Jun 8
LAX to SYD
60K

Nonstop only

Premium Economy

17K Lowest price this month

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 250K	2 250K
3 17K	4 185K	5 184.5K	6 218K	7 187.5K	8 250K	9 250K
10 17K	11 178.5K	12 185K	13 210K	14 244.5K	15 250K	16 250K
17 250K	18 250K	19 250K	20 250K	21 250K	22 250K	23 189K
24 222K	25 181.5K	26 235.5K	27 250K	28 250K	29 247.5K	30 185K
31 178.5K						

In other words, change your Premium Economy ticket last minute to First Class, and you'll have what amounts to a free two-class upgrade!

Another perspective on how [Anne got a free two-class upgrade after she paid cash for her first ticket](#).

FIRST CLASS NEW YORK - MUNICH* ON LUFTHANSA**

Summary of Availability	Miles Required R/T	Cost to Buy Lufthansa Miles When on Sale If You Need Them	Regular Published Fare
Often available for one and two passengers two to 10 days prior to departure, and sometimes up to 30 days prior to departure. Within 14 days of departure for partner Air Canada.	182,000-230,000	\$2,766-\$3,496	\$14,500

***Need more miles?** Amex, Capital One, and Chase members can transfer points to Air Canada to potentially get a ticket for 200,000 round-trip, although availability is often less than with Lufthansa direct.

****Not flying from New York and/or to Munich? Learn about getting [free connecting flights](#) or buying a [positioning flight](#).**

New York (NYC) - Munich (MUC)
Sa., 03.06.2023 | First | 4 Adult(s)

Saturday

03.06.2023

From: 91,000M

 Open fare conditions	First Flex	First Flex Plus	
 EWR 20:30  MUC 10:20 +1 day	Duration: 7h50 LH 413 Operated by: Lufthansa Airbus A340-600	Oneway for 91,000Miles + 926.70 USD taxes, fees and airline surcharges	Oneway for 115,000Miles + 10.10 USD Taxes and fees No airline surcharges

FIRST CLASS WASHINGTON, DC - MUNICH* ON LUFTHANSA**

Summary of Availability	Miles Required R/T	Cost to Buy Lufthansa Miles When on Sale If You Need Them	Regular Published Fare
Often available for one and two passengers two to 10 days prior to departure, and sometimes up to 30 days prior to departure. Within 14 days of departure for partner Air Canada.	182,000-230,000	\$2,766-\$3,496	\$13,400

***Need more miles?** Amex, Capital One, and Chase members can transfer points to Air Canada to potentially get a ticket for 200,000 round-trip, although availability is often less than with Lufthansa direct.

****Not flying from Washington, DC, and/or to Munich? Learn about getting [free connecting flights](#) or buying a [positioning flight](#).**

Washington (IAD) - Munich (MUC)
Fr., 02.06.2023 | First | 1 Adult(s)

02.06.2023

From: 91,000M

 Open fare conditions	First Flex	First Flex Plus	
 IAD 22:20  MUC 12:45 +1 day	Duration: 8h25 LH 415 Operated by: Lufthansa Airbus A340-600	Oneway for 91,000Miles + 926.70 USD taxes, fees and airline surcharges	Oneway for 115,000Miles + 10.10 USD Taxes and fees No airline surcharges

FIRST CLASS MIAMI - SÃO PAULO*

ON AMERICAN**

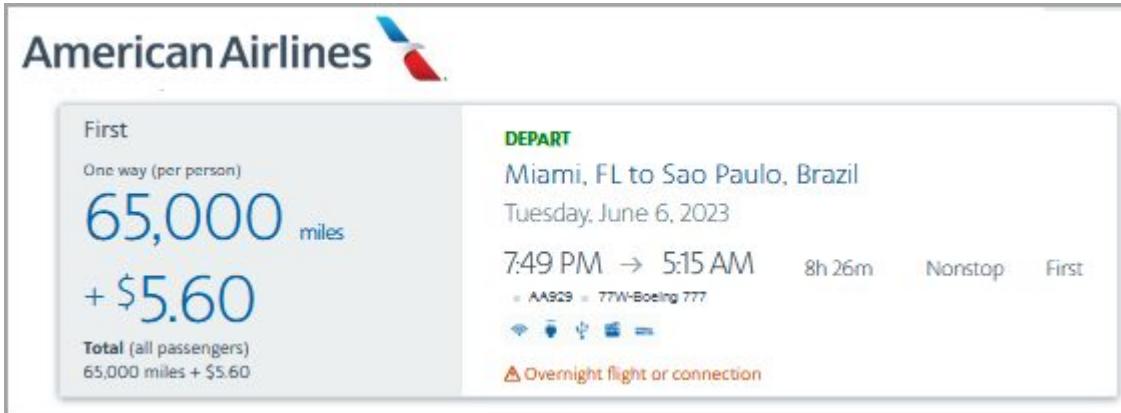
Summary of Availability	Miles Required R/T	Cost to Buy American Miles When on Sale If You Need Them	Regular Published Fare
A handful of days are often available for one and two passengers two to 10 days prior to departure, and sometimes up to 30 days prior to departure.	120,000 - 234,000	\$2,160-\$4,212	\$10,100

***No American miles?** Amex, Capital One, and Citi members can transfer points to Cathay Pacific to get a ticket for 174,000 round-trip.

****Not flying from Miami and/or to São Paulo?** [Learn about getting free connecting flights](#) or buying a [positioning flight](#).

ALMOST FREE TWO-CLASS UPGRADE

Often American's One-Way First Class Price When Booking Close In



A screenshot of an American Airlines flight search result. The search is for a one-way flight from Miami, FL to São Paulo, Brazil, departing on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at 7:49 PM and arriving at 5:15 AM the next day. The flight is nonstop in First Class. The total cost is 65,000 miles plus \$5.60. The flight is operated by AA829, a 77W-Boeing 777. The search interface shows icons for Wi-Fi, power, and a connection, with a note indicating it's an overnight flight or connection.

American's One-Way Premium Economy Price When Booking Way in Advance

Calendar

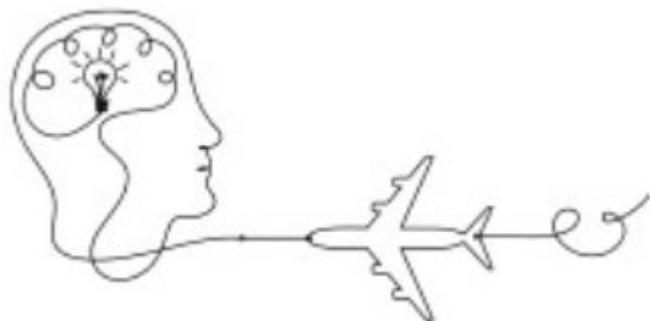
Thu, Jun 8
MIA to GRU
40K

Nonstop only Premium Economy **59.5K Lowest price this month**

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 89K	2 93K	3 92K	4 93K	5 106K	6 115K
7 96K	8 92K	9 107.5K	10 100.5K	11 93K	12 99.5K	13 102.5K
14 103K	15 94.5K	16 92.5K	17 93K	18 93K	19 97.5K	20 111.5K
21 98.5K	22 92.5K	23 93K	24 92K	25 93K	26 95.5K	27 116K
28 99K	29 92.5K	30 59.5K	31 64.5K			

In other words, change your Premium Economy ticket last minute to First Class, and you'll have what amounts to a free two-class upgrade.



See you up front.



The 3-for-1 Mindset: Legendary Events and Your Dream Trip

June 2023

Event-ually is right now... three big sports events are happening in the UK within 7 to 22 days of each other next month

I'm a big sports event guy.

I've been to two Super Bowls, three tennis Grand Slams, The US Open, several NBA Finals, countless World Series games, and many soccer games in Europe. You might find me at the Australian Open in Melbourne or Monza for Italy's Formula One Grand Prix. Only last month, I was in Miami for Formula One.

I'll go anywhere to see them, but Europe is my favorite.

Whatever type of event you're partial to – it doesn't have to be sports – you can build your next trip around a time when there are big events, like I often do. In other words, I don't always do things for one particular reason; I like doing things for many reasons.

My main point is to ask why go to destinations *just for the destination* when you can do a big event along the way? For example, I'll combine all the summer buzz happening in Paris on one trip: the festivals, the museums, and more around Bastille Day (hey, a favorite band is playing there the day before, too!).

It's that combination of **destination plus big events** that can add great value to a trip because it rarely falls into your lap if you're not thinking about it ahead of time.

A 3-FOR-1 OPPORTUNITY TO FAMED SPORTS EVENTS IN ENGLAND

Well, wouldn't you know, it just so happens that there are three big sporting events within two weeks and 220 miles of each other in England next month?

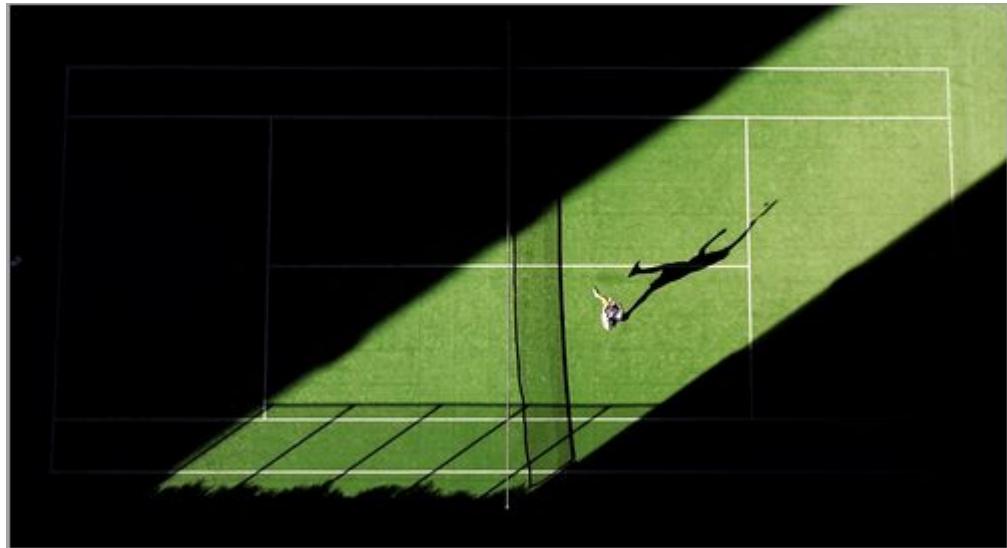
There's Wimbledon (London), the Formula 1 race at Silverstone (near Manchester), and the British Open (near Liverpool). If you plan this trip right, you can *ace/win/birdie* all three on a two-week trip! And why not *hit* wonderful Edinburgh in between or London? Then there's Dublin, Ireland's Cliffs of Moher, and so much *moor*. The opportunities are as endless as Stonehenge's history.

[Wimbledon](#) July 3, 2023 – July 16, 2023

[Formula 1](#) July 7, 2023 – July 9, 2023

[British Open](#) July 16, 2023 – July 23, 2023

And if you're wondering about how difficult or easy it is to get event tickets, it's easy and relatively cheap. I've used StubHub 100+ times and only twice did they change the seats on me. Links to tickets: [Wimbledon](#), [Formula 1](#), and [British Open](#). Pro Tip: Tickets get cheaper closer to the event's date.



AIRLINE TICKETS TO THE REGION?

At the time of publication (and sure to change), here are some samples...

From New York:

Business Class round-trip to London is running as low as \$2,875; First Class starts at \$4,175. Flying into London and returning from Manchester will net you \$2,893 in Business Class and \$5,193 in First Class.

From Los Angeles:

Business Class round-trip to London is running as low as \$3,017. Flying into London and returning from Manchester is \$4,435.

The only mileage seats we found in this time period were on American's for up to four travelers outbound only in First Class and in Business Class for up to four passengers in both directions from New York to London.

Get three notches on your belt in 7 to 22 days!



Get Fresh First Class Lufthansa Opportunities at 69% Off – for Up to *Four Travelers* – All Year Long

June 2023

FCF's treasure map shows where to get \$11,500 tickets for \$3,608

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 in 2023, 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 last December, 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 in March. At that point, we did a deeper dive on how you could use the strategy to [get connections from all over the U.S. to all over Europe](#).



UND NOW THE SALE IS BACK

Valid through June 30, **anyone can** get miles for as low as 1.52 cents, which results in First Class tickets that go for as much as \$11,500+, for just \$3,608.

Any way you put it:



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, with a juicy 30% bonus coming on top of that right now. If you max out one account, with the bonus, you can get 325,000 miles for \$4,930, or about 1.52 cents a mile. Members can purchase one bundle per

transaction, and bonus miles do not count towards the annual limit of 250,000. 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 TO/FROM MUNICH WITH UP TO FOUR AWARD SEATS

From **Miami**, you can find a handful of days with four seats for travel both outbound and return from January through March next year.

From **New York**, you can find a handful of days with four seats for outbound travel from July to October and December. On the return, a handful of days for travel from January through March.

Not flying to 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](#).

ROUTES TO/FROM MUNICH WITH UP TO TWO AWARD SEATS

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

From **Charlotte**, you can find more than a handful of days with two seats available for travel outbound in July, August, and October and from July through October on the return.

From **Chicago**, you can find more than a handful of days with two seats available for outbound travel only in July and August with a handful of days available for travel in October. Just a handful of days are available for travel in August on the return.

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

SINGLE SEAT AVAILABILITY

To Munich from **Los Angeles**, you can find a handful of days with one seat for travel outbound from December through March and in March on the return.

FCF'S VISUAL TREASURE MAP

Months in black below indicate at least one seat available; in blue at least two seats; and in green at least four seats.

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-Munich	July, Aug., Oct.	July	Nov. to March	June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Dec., Feb., March	Oct., Jan.	Aug., Nov. to March
Charlotte-Munich	Aug.	July, Oct.	July, Aug.		July to Oct.	Aug., Sept.
Chicago-Munich	Sept., Oct.	July, Aug.	July, Aug.			
Los Angeles-Munich	Dec., Jan., Feb., March			March		
Miami-Munich	Jan., March	Jan., Feb.	Feb.			
New York-Munich	June, July to Oct., Nov., Dec.	July, Aug., Nov., Dec.	Jan. to March	June., Nov., Feb., March	Dec., Jan.	Nov., Jan. to March
Washington, DC-Munich	June., Sept.	June	July, Aug., Oct.	Sept., Oct.	June, July, Aug.	Aug.



**Fly in Business Class for \$1,347 less than the price of
Premium Economy on Delta**

FCF'S LEG STRETCH STRATEGY CONTINUES

With the way things are trending, I'm forecasting that our June 2123 (not 2023) FCF Upgrade Advisor report will read something like this: Score three planets (Venus, Mars, and Earth) on one ticket for just 2,598EBX (earth bucks).



That's how long-term and out-of-this-world our Leg Stretch Strategy (LSS) is.

Here's what it's all about in a nutshell: You can travel to two other continents (plus two stops in the U.S.) all on one Business Class ticket at a fraction of the price you'd pay if you broke each journey down into normal separate trips. We discovered this many years ago and call it the **Leg Stretch Strategy** because you're literally stretching one ticket and one small fare into four long legs – the equivalent of two round-trips.

LET'S GET STRETCHING

Let's say you live in the U.S. and if the price was right, you'd love to visit Europe twice and South America once within the next 12 months. If so, the Leg Stretch Strategy is perfect for you. And you don't have to do it all at once. That's the other stretchy part: You can space the trips out over one year.

The only potential stumbling block for some Americans is that the Leg Stretch **starts and finishes in Europe**. Now you may scoff and say, "Gee willikers, Bennett, I live in Evanston, Illinois. How does it benefit me?" To that, I'd say, "Check out the savings," because they're so good that the cost to get to and from Europe (using miles via a separate round-trip ticket or two one-way tickets) is more than compensated for by the savings you get with the Leg Stretch Strategy ticket.

You can even combine two Leg Stretches together because at the end of the first one, you'll already be in Europe – where the next Leg Stretch begins. Many travelers start with a one-way award to Europe and follow this strategy indefinitely, continuously reaping the rewards.

STRETCH-O-RAMA EXAMPLE:

Amsterdam - New York - São Paulo - New York - Amsterdam In Business Class for \$2,598

Let's say FCF devotee Dan starts his mammoth Leg Stretch in Amsterdam. As mentioned above, he got there with a discount one-way award ticket or even bought a round-trip published fare. From Amsterdam, he returns home to New York, lives his life, enjoys the latest hit Broadway shows, and does his thing. A few months later, he heads down to Brazil for a vacation, visits Rio's iconic Ipanema beach, and has a great time. Then he heads back home to New York. A few months later, he heads off to Amsterdam for a convention, thus completing his Leg Stretch and, astonishingly, his one Leg Stretch ticket.

Dan's Four-Segment Leg Stretch:

1. Amsterdam to New York (stop at home for a while)
2. New York to São Paulo (samba lessons and more)
3. São Paulo to New York (back home again)
4. New York to Amsterdam (more European fun)

On Delta, this entire four-leg ticket costs an out-of-this-world **\$ 2,598 USD in Business Class**. Screenshot below. The euro is in flux, so the exchange rate might differ slightly.

DELTA AMS - AMS Multi-City Aug 8-Feb 29						Trip Total	Currency Calculator
Flight 1	DL49 AMS • JFK	Tue, Aug 8	12:00pm - 2:00pm	Nonstop, 8h 0m Delta One® suites	1 Passenger	€2,248.00	
Flight 2	DL227 JFK • GRU	Wed, Oct 4	THU, OCT 5 10:30pm - 9:40am	Nonstop, 10h 10m Delta One®	Taxes, Fees & Charges	€197.61	
Flight 3	DL226 GRU • JFK	Tue, Oct 17	WED, OCT 18 9:15pm - 6:10am	Nonstop, 9h 55m Delta One®	Amount Due	€2,445.61 EUR	<i>4 left at this price</i>
Flight 4	DL9357 ¹ JFK • AMS	Thu, Feb 29	FRI, MAR 1 5:50pm - 6:50am	Nonstop, 7h 0m Business			

COMPARED TO BUSINESS CLASS, WHAT DO YOU SAVE?

Let's compare this Leg Stretch to a trip where those destinations are broken down into separate segments. In Business Class, the whole journey would cost around \$4,818 at the time of publication.

Er, \$4,818 versus \$2,598? That's a savings of **\$2,220, or 46%**. I'll say it again: out of this world.

Here are some other Leg Stretch options that start in Europe and what you can save by booking them.

Start Your LSS Ticket In:	Your U.S. Stop (Both Going and Coming):	Your European Destination:	Fare for Four Legs (in Effect, Two Round-Trips)	Normal Cost for Two Round-Trips in Business Class	Savings
London	Washington, DC	São Paulo	\$2,825	\$12,251	\$9,426 / 77%
Amsterdam	Minneapolis	São Paulo	\$2,700	\$7,980	\$5,280 / 66%
Milan	Atlanta	São Paulo	\$2,709	\$7,211	\$4,502 / 62%
Frankfurt	Chicago	Rio	\$3,262	\$7,244	\$3,982 / 55%
London	Atlanta	São Paulo	\$3,171	\$6,870	\$3,699 / 54%
London	New York	Rio	\$2,836	\$6,192	\$3,356 / 54%
Munich	New York	Rio	\$3,070	\$6,392	\$3,322 / 52%
Amsterdam	New York	São Paulo	\$2,598	\$4,818	\$2,220 / 46%
Paris	New York	Santiago	\$3,434	\$5,589	\$2,155 / 39%

PERSPECTIVE:

Business Class for \$1,347 LESS Than Premium Economy

The savings is almost unbelievable when you compare the four Business Class segments (\$2,598) on an FCF Leg Stretch Strategy ticket to two normal round-trips in Premium Economy.

Typical Delta Premium Economy Fares...

▲ DELTA		JFK - AMS	Round Trip	Aug 1-8	1 Passenger	
Outbound	DL46 JFK - AMS	Tue, Aug 1	WED, AUG 2 4:45pm - 6:15am	Nonstop, 7h 30m Premium Select	Trip Total	Currency Calculator
Return	DL49 AMS - JFK	Tue, Aug 8	TUE, AUG 8 12:00pm - 2:00pm	Nonstop, 8h 0m Premium Select	1 Passenger	
					Flights	\$2,009.00
					Taxes, Fees & Charges	\$135.85
					Amount Due	\$2,144.85 USD

▲ DELTA		JFK - GRU	Round Trip	Oct 4-17	1 Passenger	
Outbound	DL227 JFK - GRU	Wed, Oct 4	THU, OCT 5 10:30pm - 9:40am	Nonstop, 10h 10m Premium Select	Trip Total	Currency Calculator
Return	DL226 GRU - JFK	Tue, Oct 17	WED, OCT 18 9:15pm - 6:10am	Nonstop, 9h 55m Premium Select	1 Passenger	
					Flights	\$1,721.00
					Taxes, Fees & Charges	\$80.05
					Amount Due	\$1,801.05 USD

HOW TO BOOK

You have several options, but booking through a travel agent is good if you need help because an agent can access inventory information easily. You can also use [Delta's](#) website or your favorite online search or booking engines, such as [Google Flights](#), [Expedia](#), or [Kayak](#), and use the multi-city search feature.

N.B. One thing to note is that these fares change all the time. We find these fares to be unusually volatile, so play with the dates a day or two (or twenty) before and after each of the segments, and more than likely you'll find fares in the same range as we did.

google.com/travel/flights multi-city screenshot below:

Multi-city 1 Business

Amsterdam AMS → New York

New York JFK → São Paulo GRU

São Paulo GRU → New York

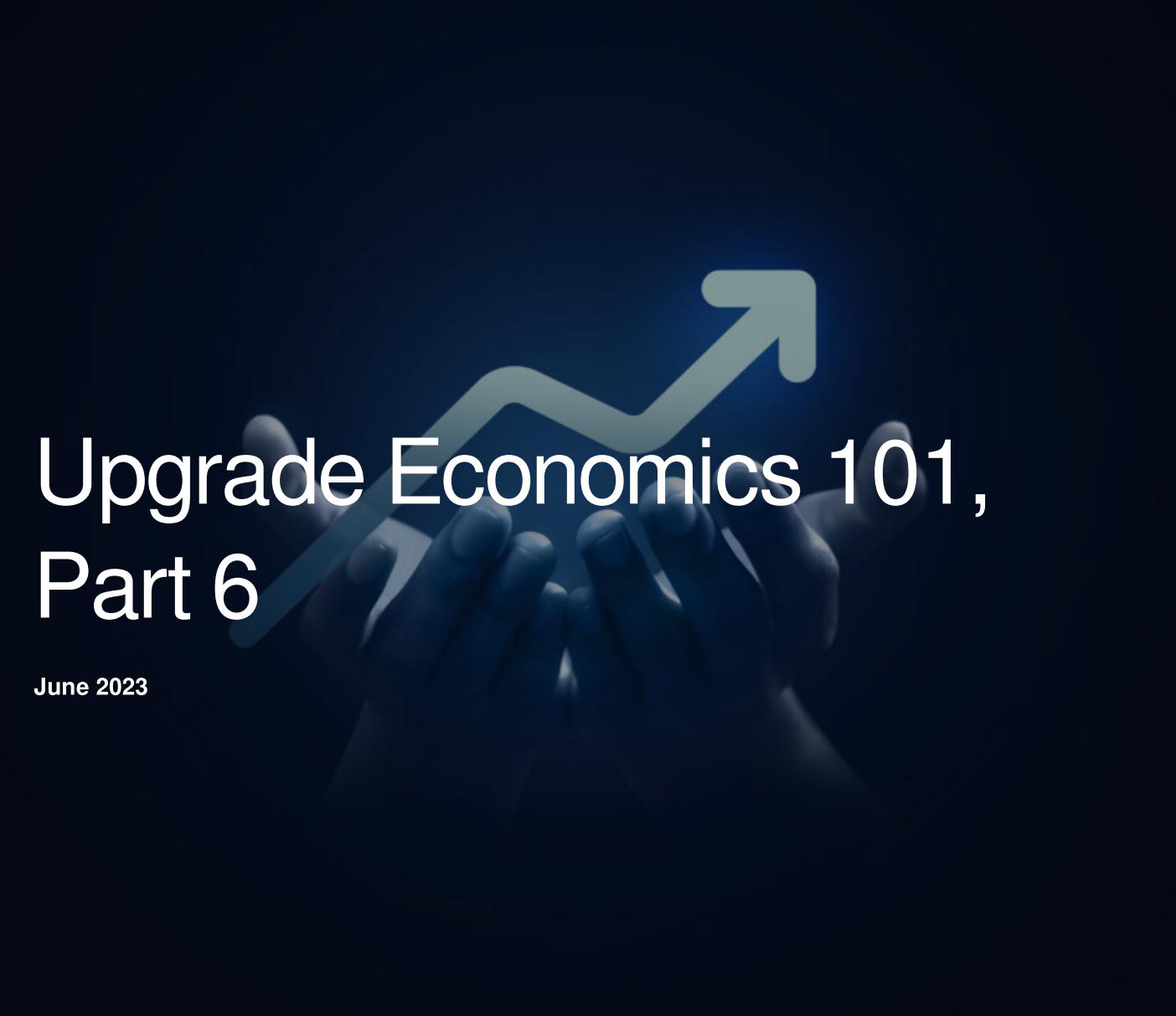
New York → Amsterdam AMS

Tue, Aug 8 | Wed, Oct 4 | Tue, Oct 17 | Thu, Feb 29

Add flight

One of our long-time readers, Conrad, employed this strategy to do business in Europe a couple of times in a 12-month period and also to visit his mom in Brazil. As he said, “If I can get an extra ticket to make my mother happy, why not do it? For me (the Leg Stretch Strategy) was a no-brainer because it worked for personal and business reasons.”

See you up front, for about half price.



Upgrade Economics 101, Part 6

June 2023

A look at in-class seat upgrades

Welcome back, class. I note that there are a few absentees this week. I'm chalking that up to the impact of last month's Upgrade Economics 101, Part 5, lecture about upgrading from Premium Economy to Business Class round-trip to Tokyo , among other lucrative lessons.

Unlike other college courses, we give you extra marks for skipping class to travel!

This month we're delving deep into an upgrade economics masterpiece: **how to upgrade simply by choosing the right aircraft.**

Yes, I see you all looking at each other quizzically. This is a secret that seasoned pro flyers know about, and very soon you will too.

HIGHER EDUCATION: THE IN-CLASS UPGRADE

Airlines keep a secret: Business Class on one flight can be vastly different on another — even for the same airline. It all has to do with the “equipment” they’re flying.

That's because some flights on domestic routes are operated with aircraft that are configured for international flights. International cabins are much nicer — you get better seats, more room, sometimes better food, and so on. But occasionally the internationally configured planes are used for domestic flights, and that's where the in-flight upgrade comes in. Because for no extra cost, you can get a much better experience simply by knowing which flights are internationally configured.

“What kind of equipment are you on?” — Frank Abagnale, “Catch Me If You Can”

JUNE'S UPGRADE ECONOMICS 101 EXAMPLE #1 “SAME AIRLINE” IN-CLASS COMFORT UPGRADE

Let's look at a screenshot of two United flights nonstop from San Francisco to Maui. The first is a B777 with internationally configured 22-inch wide, lie-flat seats. The other, a B737 with a standard 20-inch wide seat with basic recline. In general, these flights cost about the same, depending on the day, yet simply knowing which flight has an internationally configured seat makes it an “in-class upgrade.” All it takes is a tiny bit of investigation for you to score the upgrade. More on that in a minute.

Operating Airline	Sample Route	Class	Aircraft	Seat Width	Recline	Seat Pitch
United	San Francisco-Maui	Business Class	B-777	22 Inches	180°	78 Inches
			B-737	20 Inches	Very Little	37 Inches
Comfort Upgrade				2 Inches	Very Little to Lie-flat	41 Inches

“Professor Upgrade, how do you know which domestic flights are internationally configured?”

Good question, Frank Jr. Here's the answer: You look at the **cargo schedules**. The routes are always changing so use the links below to find which routes currently offer the internationally configured aircraft.

See link to the most recent PDF:

In the middle of [United's cargo page](#). In the middle of [American's cargo page](#). In the middle of [Delta's cargo page](#).

These links show the routes with the wide-body aircraft. If there's no nonstop option for your route with a wide-body aircraft, you want to connect via these flights if you can. Note that these internationally configured aircraft do move around, so be sure to always check your particular options and know they can change.

I'll give that a stamp:



Fares are generally about the same for American Airlines and Virgin Atlantic in Premium Economy to London. The recline and legroom is also about the same, but the seat width is remarkably roomier with Virgin Atlantic, as you get a 21-inch wide seat – the same as Delta's Business Class on many routes – instead of flying in American's 18.5- to 19-inch wide Premium Economy seats. If you're not petite, you'll love Virgin!

Operating Airline	Sample Route	Class	Aircraft	Seat Width
American	Los Angeles-London	Premium Economy	B-777	18.5-19 Inches
Virgin Atlantic			B-787	21 Inches
Comfort Upgrade				2+ Inches

JUNE'S UPGRADE ECONOMICS 101 EXAMPLE #3 DIFFERENT AIRLINE IN-CLASS COMFORT UPGRADE EMIRATES VS UNITED TO DUBAI

Emirates has an awesome First Class cabin on their A380, but not so on their Business Class. Emirates Business Class seat is 18.5 inches wide on its A380s while United's B777 is 22 inches wide. Fares are pretty much the same, although from time to time we see United go on sale for a thousand or two less, which would make it a double upgrade!

Operating Airline	Sample Route	Class	Aircraft	Seat Width	Recline	Seat Pitch
United	New York-Dubai	Business Class	B-777	22 Inches	180°	78 Inches
Emirates			A-380	18.5 Inches	180°	48 Inches
Comfort Upgrade				3.5 Inches	-	30 Inches

So again, if seat comfort is important to you, the United seat is the clear winner when you compare the two matched products. As is so often the case, flyers who have the greatest intel get the win.

How do I compare seats on my own? While these sites' data isn't always updated, here are a few to look up seat dimensions:

[Seat Guru](#) [Seat Maps](#) [American](#) [United](#) [Emirates](#) [Virgin Atlantic](#)

See you up front — in the better seats than otherwise, of course.



June's Top 68 Mileage Awards & Special Fares Greatest Hits (Still Available)

June 2023

Summer Deals (Make Me Feel Fine)

We're singing warm and breezy songs in June because our deal-o-meters are cranking into the red zone. See below for the latest FCF special fare and mileage availability discoveries.

Special Published Fares

AFRICA

[Kenya Biz Class from Canada from \\$2,937 to \\$3,125 USD R/T](#)

[Marrakesh Biz Class from \\$2,673 to \\$3,109 R/T](#)

[Cairo Biz Class from \\$2,522 to \\$3,206 R/T](#)

[Casablanca Biz Class from \\$2,481 to \\$3,185 R/T](#)

[Nairobi Biz Class from \\$2,974 to \\$3,873 R/T](#)

ASIA

[Tokyo Biz Class from \\$3,486 to \\$4,191 R/T](#)

[Malaysia and Singapore Biz Class 30%+ Off](#)

[Bangkok Biz Class from \\$3,749 to \\$3,871 R/T](#)

[Vietnam Biz Class from New York from \\$3,706 R/T](#)

[Seoul Biz Class from Canada from \\$3,097 to \\$3,936 USD R/T](#)

[Philippines Biz Class from Los Angeles, New York, and Washington DC from \\$3,634 to \\$3,859 R/T](#)

CARIBBEAN

[Barbados Biz Class from \\$915 to \\$1,133 R/T](#)

[St. Lucia Biz Class from \\$912 to \\$1,188 R/T](#)

[Aruba Biz Class from \\$923 to \\$1,134 R/T](#)

[St. Croix Biz Class from \\$1,009 to \\$1,139 R/T](#)

EUROPE

[Summer: Milan Biz Class from \\$2,510 to \\$3,109 R/T](#)

[Summer: Greek Islands Biz Class from \\$2,673 to \\$3,068 R/T](#)

[Scotland Biz Class from \\$2,678 to \\$3,071 R/T](#)

[Croatia Biz Class from Boston and Los Angeles from \\$2,699 to \\$3,005 R/T](#)

[Vienna Biz Class from Toronto and Montreal from \\$2,214 USD R/T](#)

[Naples / Italy Biz Class from \\$2,545 to \\$3,219 R/T](#)

[Finland Biz Class from \\$2,517 to \\$3,206 R/T](#)

[Porto Biz Class from New York and Boston from \\$2,585 R/T](#)

[Amsterdam Biz Class from Canada from \\$2,195 to \\$2,371 USD R/T](#)

[Rome Biz Class from \\$2,528 to \\$3,128 R/T](#)

[Dublin Biz Class from \\$2,439 to \\$3,145 R/T](#)

[Amsterdam Biz Class from Canada from \\$2,195 to \\$2,371 USD R/T](#)

[Lisbon Biz Class from \\$2,524 to \\$3,163 R/T](#)

[Seville Biz Class from New York and Boston from \\$2,605 R/T](#)

[Nice Biz Class from \\$2,607 to \\$3,143 R/T](#)

[Manchester UK Biz Class from \\$2,682 to \\$3,075 R/T](#)

[Munich Biz Class from \\$2,571 to \\$3,164 R/T](#)

[Zurich Biz Class from Canada from \\$2,181 to \\$3,205 USD R/T](#)

[Berlin Biz Class from \\$2,568 to \\$3,194 R/T](#)

[Zurich Biz Class from \\$2,352 to \\$3,149 R/T](#)

[Vienna Biz Class from \\$2,541 to \\$3,190 R/T](#)

[Madrid Biz Class from \\$2,410 to \\$3,193 R/T](#)

[Frankfurt Biz Class from \\$2,257 to \\$3,172 R/T](#)

[Belfast Biz Class from \\$2,792 to \\$3,113 R/T](#)

[Paris Biz Class from \\$2,396 to \\$3,189 R/T](#)

[Scotland Biz Class from New York and Boston from \\$2,756 to \\$2,998 R/T](#)

[From Canada: Italy Biz Class from \\$2,185 to \\$2,371 USD R/T](#)

[From Canada: Paris and Nice Biz Class from \\$2,180 to \\$3,188 USD R/T](#)

[Europe Biz Class with TAP from \\$1,918 to \\$2,469 R/T](#)

[Amsterdam Biz Class from \\$1,893 to \\$3,049 R/T](#)

[Athens Biz Class from \\$2,407 to \\$3,181 R/T](#)

[Barcelona Biz Class from Canada from \\$2,734 to \\$3,209 USD R/T](#)

[London Biz Class from \\$2,229 to \\$3,092 R/T](#)

[Stockholm Biz Class from \\$2,425 to \\$3,029 R/T](#)

HAWAII

[Honolulu Biz Class from \\$995 to \\$1,544 R/T](#)

[Maui Biz Class from \\$1,036 to \\$1,548 R/T](#)

[Kauai Biz Class from \\$1,119 to \\$1,530 R/T](#)

Burn Miles Easy & Cheaply

ASIA

[First Class: 2024 Single Seat Opportunities with Japan Airlines from Dallas to Tokyo with American Miles](#)

[Advance Booking for 2024 Handful of Single Seat Japan Airlines First Class Opportunities from San Francisco to Tokyo](#)



AUSTRALIA

[Australia: Handful of Close In United Business Class Mileage Upgrades from San Francisco](#)

EUROPE

[All Year: Scads of *First Class* Lufthansa Awards from New York to Munich & Beyond / 4+ Seats with Miles *OR* Up to 51% Off with Cash \\$](#)

[Summer/Fall: First Class Lufthansa from Washington, DC and Many Other Cities to Munich & Beyond with Miles *OR* \\$](#)

[All Year: First Class Lufthansa from Boston and Many Other Cities to Munich & Beyond with Miles *OR* \\$](#)

[This Summer: First Class Lufthansa from Chicago and Many Other Cities to Munich & Beyond with Miles *OR* \\$](#)

[First Class Lufthansa Opportunities from Miami and Many Other Cities to Munich & Beyond in 2024 — 4+ Seats with Miles *OR* \\$](#)

[London: United Business Class Mileage Upgrades from Newark and Many Other Cities Available](#)

[Europe: United Business Class Upgrades from Washington, DC](#)

[London: United Business Class Mileage Upgrades from Washington, DC](#)

MIDDLE EAST

[Single Seat Emirates First Class Opportunities from Boston to Dubai with Miles / Points](#)

[Scads of Single Seat Emirates First Class Opportunities from Chicago to Dubai with Miles / Points](#)



Emirates First Class

SOUTH AMERICA

[Chile: Close In United Business Class Mileage Upgrades from Houston and Many Other Cities](#)

[Brazil: Handful of Close In United Business Class Mileage Upgrades from Washington, D.C.](#)

[Brazil: Lots of American *First Class* 4+ Seat Discount Award Opportunities from Miami and Many Other U.S. Cities – All Year Long](#)