



# How Secret (Last-Minute) Cheap Seats Can Vastly Improve Your (Already-Booked) Flight: The Iterative Upgrade Mindset, Part I

May 2023

**How upgraders-til-the-end get the best deals in the universe with my favorite underutilized flight strategy**

What do Toyota, Nike, Amazon, and Nestle have in common?

They all embrace the Japanese philosophy of kaizen: the practice of making small, incremental improvements over time in order to achieve significant results.

For example, Toyota encourages all of its employees to continually look for opportunities for improvement, no matter how small.

This got me thinking about flights when I heard about kaizen because I was born a kaizen flyer. For me, it's often an ongoing and iterative process, not a get-it-right-the-first-time process.

I'll leave that strategy to the lottery players.

Instead, my approach is based on the assumption that I'm simply *not* going to get it right the first time.

So I give myself that breathing room whenever I'm thinking about flights and many other things for that matter. This is another characteristic of what we at FCF call "The Upgrade Mindset": a collection of our best thinking and often counterintuitive ideas that lead to success in the travel world.

I mean, let's be realistic. On what planet are you going to find a great deal that involves your exact route, date, airline, and class of service all at the same time, the first time you go out and search? Certainly not on this beautiful blue-greenish one I'm writing to you from on a sunny Friday.

However, if you apply the kaizen concept, you can significantly raise your odds of winning this travel game — **given the peculiarities of how the airline industry works**. More on this in a minute.

## PUTTING KAIZEN TO WORK ON YOUR NEXT FLIGHT BOOKING

Circling back to Toyota, another aspect of kaizen is emphasizing "just-in-time production": i.e., producing goods only when they are needed to minimize waste and reduce inventory costs.

This parallels with what I want to discuss today regarding travel: **cheap last-minute seats**.

Thanks to the lockdown (yes, this is the one thing it was good for), many airlines are still allowing you to take an iterative approach with their **generous cancellation and change fee policies**. Shhh! Don't say it out loud, or they might revert...

As mentioned, I use this kaizen approach all the time. I wrote about one specific example last November and [why I bought three First Class tickets for the same trip](#).



## IT'S A BRINKPERSONSHIP GAME

**Every airline ticket has a use-by date:** the day the plane takes off. This is why **opportunities often build** as you get closer to that date. Like a grocer, airlines don't want their fruit (an empty seat) to spoil, so they get tactical about selling. But they also don't want to advertise a "sale price" because that will just **infuriate a lot of existing ticket holders who paid the rack rate.**

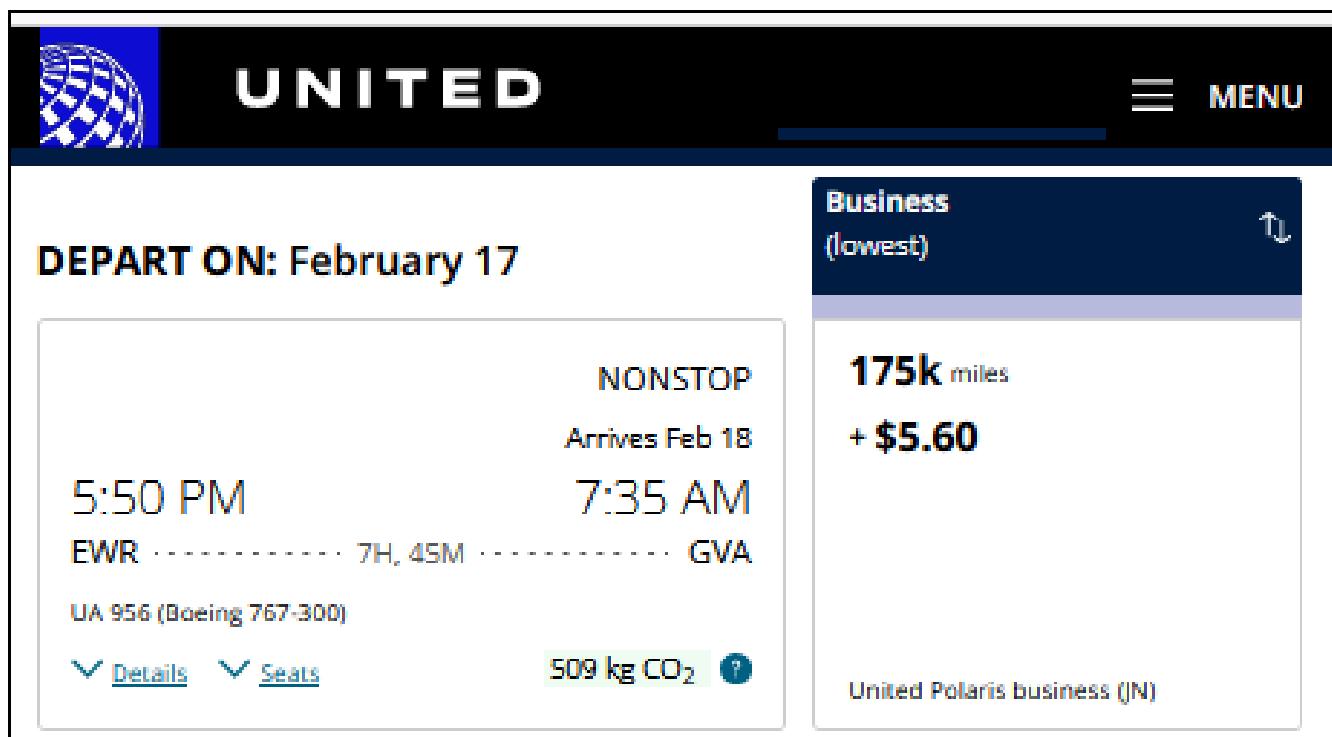
And the last thing they want is to "train" travelers not to buy early. (That's our job!)

Poor airlines — they're walking a tightrope on a straight razor. Let me get my tiny violin and play an elegy for the airlines. I'm kidding — I love it!

**Airlines play the brink game differently.** Lufthansa, for example, often [opens up their unsold First Class seats to Air Canada \(an Amex partner\)](#) mileage program members 14 days before a flight takes off. United opens up mileage upgrades on some of their routes within 30 days. Japan Airlines opens up their unsold First Class seats often about six days prior to departure, for example. More on this below.

In other words, if you're a "good little traveler" and do what the airlines tell you, you'd book 11 months in advance and pay the *anytime mileage rate* to Geneva of 175,000 miles on United for a one-way in Business Class. Or you can put your critical-thinking kaizen hat on and pay the last-minute, we-have-to-dump-seats-now price of just 62,600 miles for the same seat. **I know which traveler I'd rather be!**

*United Pricing Booking Way In Advance*



**DEPART ON: February 17**

**NONSTOP**  
Arrives Feb 18

**5:50 PM**      **7:35 AM**  
EWR ----- 7H, 45M ----- GVA

**UA 956 (Boeing 767-300)**

**509 kg CO<sub>2</sub>** 

**Business (lowest)** 

**175k miles**  
**+\$5.60**

**United Polaris business (JN)**

*United Pricing Booking Next Week (as of May 10)*

**UNITED**

☰ MENU

**DEPART ON: May 16**

NONSTOP

Arrives May 17

5:35 PM

7:30 AM

EWR ----- 7H, 55M ----- GVA

UA 956 (Boeing 767-300)

▼ [Details](#) ▼ [Seats](#)520 kg CO<sub>2</sub> ⓘ**Business**

(lowest)

**62.6k** miles

+ \$5.60

United Polaris business ⓘ

## WHY BE A LAST-MINUTE KAIZEN UPGRADER?

You might be thinking, "What the heck, Bennett, that sounds stressful; just let me buy the darn ticket and be done with it."

Well, first of all, potty-mouth, you need to consider that this ticket you (smugly?) purchased:

1. Cost much more than you wanted to pay (in miles or cash), **and/or**
2. Is in a lesser class of service than you want (say Premium Economy or Business, **and/or**)
3. It may not be on your ideal airline (it has average seats or lacks the amenities you like), **and/or**
4. It may not be very convenient (number of stops, routing, airports, connection times, dates, etc.)

Let's look at some real-world, blue-green planet examples.

## KAIZEN AND THE ART OF ITERATIVE UPGRADING IN FIVE EXAMPLES

**Iterative Upgrading Example #1** Anne bought a Premium Economy cash ticket, and then a discounted First Class mileage ticket opened up at the last minute

Anne went to book her long-awaited dream trip to Australia. But she was astonished by the Business Class fares she was seeing – in the \$8,000 R/T range (or 223,000 to 450,000 miles each way). Not to mention First Class at \$16,800 (or 233,000 to 490,000 miles each way). So, as much as she loves flying up front, she had to settle for a **\$2,998 fare in Premium Economy** because she had nowhere else to turn when booking far in advance (when mileage tickets often cost the most) and wanted to have it locked in.

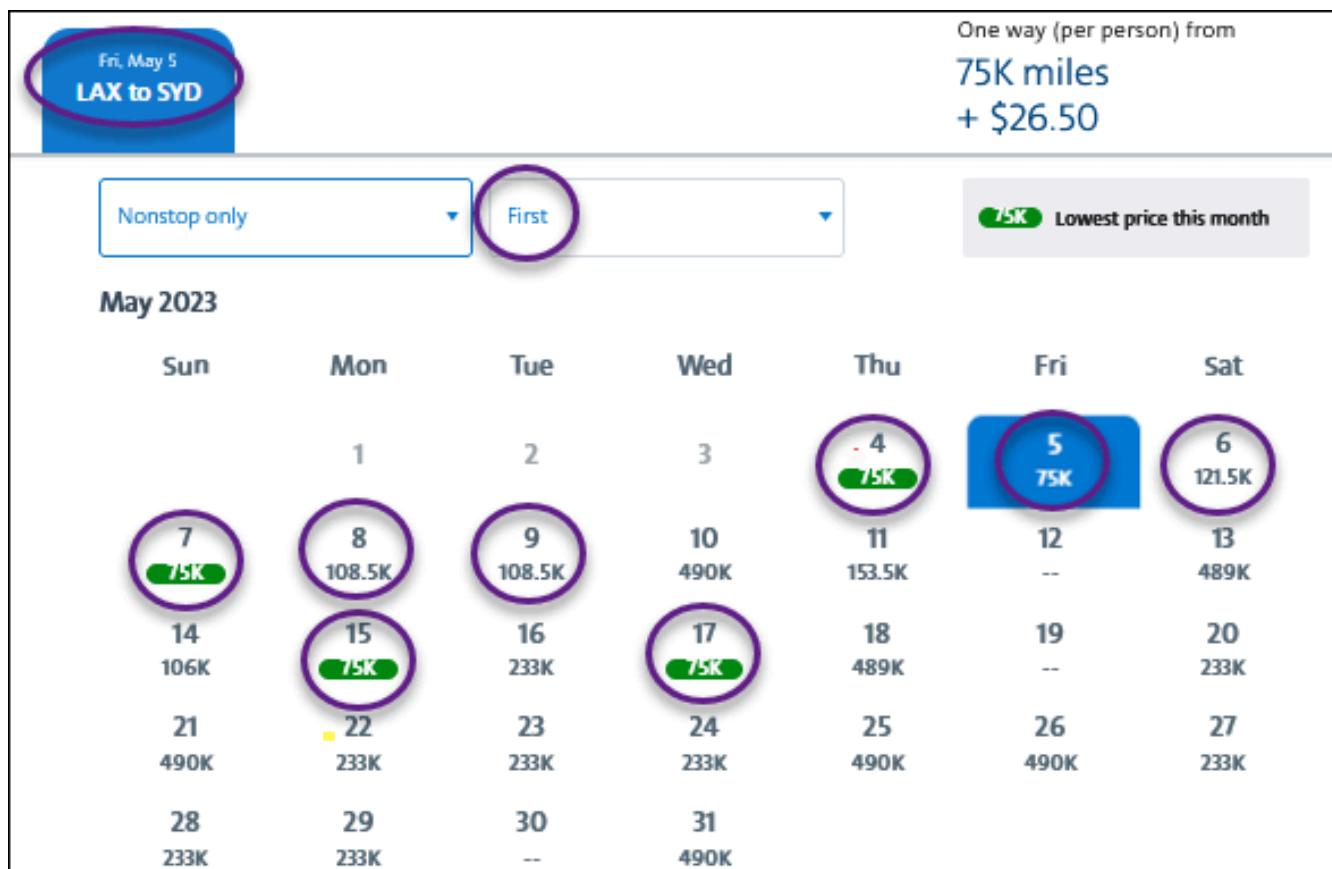
## AS THE WORLD TURNS, SO DO THE PRICES (WHEN TO LOVE THE DYNAMIC PRICING TREND)

The week of her departure, American opened up a few days of award travel in First Class priced at 75,000 miles for the outbound flight (as shown in the screenshot below). So Anne booked her departure in First Class for just 75,000 miles. She got excited when she saw the return flight was also available in First Class for travel 11 days later, also priced at 75,000 miles.

As the Aussies say: "That's a ripper!"

So let's lay it all out: If you could cancel that \$2,998 Premium Economy ticket and use that value for yourself or for others at any time up to a year *while* booking this trip in **First Class for just 150,000 miles round-trip – which anyone can buy for as low as \$2,804 in cash when on sale** (or ~\$3,668 when not on sale) – what would you do?

Me? I'd call that a **more-than-free two-class upgrade** (getting Premium Economy to First in one swoop!) and snatch it up faster than a koala scoffing down a gum leaf.



See an example of what last-minute pricing might be on AA.com.

Anne became an expert on her route, with multiple one-minute searches sometimes daily leading up to departure, so she could tell her friends she flew First Class to Sydney and how that **totally changed how she felt upon arrival and throughout her trip.**

## HOW CAN THIS ALL BE TRUE?

**The Secret:** This is the outcome of two things: airlines dumping premium seats at cheaper “dynamic” pricing right before they are about to perish and your willingness to seize the opportunity.

**The Super Secret:** You can often rely on American to get deals in Business and First Class as the departure date draws closer, between the U.S. and Australia, and a few other routes. Mondays are an especially good day, and ANYONE can buy American miles. This **doesn't work on every route** but remember the [positioning flight strategy](#) too, if you're not starting in LA or traveling to Sydney.

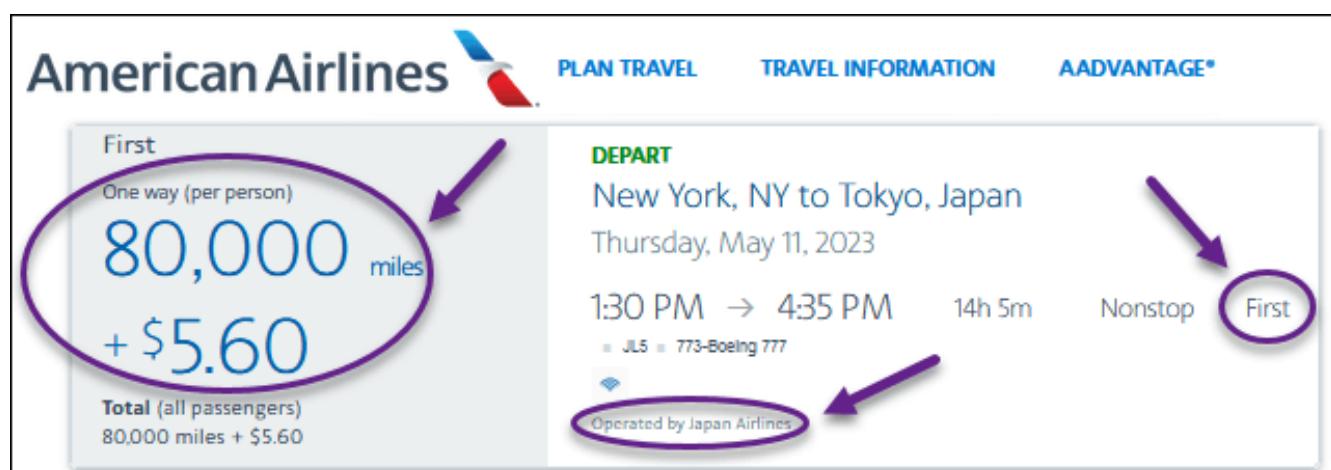
### ITERATIVE UPGRADING EXAMPLE #2 KIRK BOUGHT A BUSINESS CLASS MILEAGE TICKET, AND THEN A CHEAPER FIRST CLASS MILEAGE TICKET BECAME AVAILABLE

Kirk spent 120,000 American miles on **two** one-way Japan Airlines Business Class tickets from New York to Tokyo 11 months ago for himself and his son. That's because First Class wasn't available, which is what he really wanted. Then one week out from departure, more than ten months later--two deeply discounted First Class tickets became available for 80,000 miles each (and just \$1,440 if you had to buy the miles when on sale) and only 20,000 miles more than Kirk paid for his Biz Class seats!

So Kirk got kaizen-brazen, booked the First Class tickets, and then canceled the two Business Class tickets.

So for 20,000 miles more per ticket --- or just \$360 if Kirk didn't have the miles --- he got two Japan Airlines First Class tickets that otherwise go for, wait for it, \$14,978 each.

**The Secret:** Japan Airlines, by using American miles, can often be relied on to get deals in Business and First Class as the departure date draws closer between the U.S. and Tokyo. Also, if you're not starting in a JAL hub or flying to a destination in Asia that's not Tokyo, don't forget about the [positioning flight strategy](#).



A screenshot of the American Airlines website showing flight search results. The search is for a flight from New York, NY to Tokyo, Japan on Thursday, May 11, 2023. The results show a nonstop flight operated by Japan Airlines. The price is \$14,978, which is circled in purple. Arrows point from this price to the '80,000 miles' and '\$5.60' sections on the left, and to the 'First' class section on the right. The 'First' class section is also circled in purple. The 'Operated by Japan Airlines' text is also circled in purple.

### ITERATIVE UPGRADING EXAMPLE #3 PATTY BOUGHT A PREMIUM ECONOMY CASH TICKET

## AND THEN A CHEAP BUSINESS CLASS MILEAGE TICKET OPENED UP AT THE LAST MINUTE

Patty has a **bittersweet relationship with United**. Ever since the airline switched to a dynamic pricing model, she never finds anything in Business Class to Europe for less than 310,000 miles round-trip, if she's lucky, and those tickets are typically many, many months in advance. However, there is a secret with United that's similar to the aforementioned American Airlines secret.

As you'd expect, United hates having flights with empty Business Class seats, so what do they do? They typically slash the pricing on a number of routes within 30 days of takeoff. So while Patty hates United six to 10 months before her trip, she loves them seven days out when that quick switch **changes the tone of the whole trip**.

Because what would've cost her 310,000 miles many months ago can be had for just 120,000 miles last minute. Heck, she can take her boyfriend Dan for free.

**I can't keep a secret**, otherwise I'd keep these last-minute airline shenanigans to myself. But I like you, so I'm telling you.

### PATTY'S MATH

A regular Washington, DC-to-Zurich Business Class award ticket on United booked three or more months out is currently running about 310,000 miles round-trip. The cost to pay cash for that Business Class ticket is about \$3,800. So Patty opted to pay \$2,129 in cash for a Premium Economy ticket as that's the max her budget allowed for. One week prior to departure, a low-cost Business Class ticket on United became available using 88,000 All Nippon miles r/t (**72% less than what United was originally charging**). They can be [purchased from transfer partner Amex at 2.5 cents each](#), if she doesn't already have the points, for a total cost of \$2,521, including taxes.

So she canceled the \$2,129 Premium Economy ticket (she has up to a year to re-use) and bought and transferred the Amex points to All Nippon for a Business Class ticket on United. Nice work, Patty. Keep in mind that you can only book tickets as round-trips through All Nippon and that you can't book within 96 hours (four days) of departure.

If that doesn't work, transfer your Amex points to Air Canada to get the United ticket for 140,000, still less than half of what United was charging many months out, or you can transfer Chase points directly to United.

## **ITERATIVE UPGRADING EXAMPLE #4 MATT BOUGHT A BUSINESS CLASS CASH TICKET, AND A LOW-COST FIRST CLASS MILEAGE TICKET OPENED UP AT THE LAST MINUTE**

Matt (could be me ?) rarely buys round-trip tickets as he's a nomadic traveler who seldom knows where he's going to come home from, which is partly how he's hit 108 different countries. So when he found himself in Europe last year and needed to get home sooner than anticipated for a family emergency, he spent \$2,019 on

a one-way Business Class. Then three days before departure, [a low-cost First Class mileage ticket became available](#) from Milan to New York on Emirates' A380, so he canceled the \$2,019 cash ticket, transferred 102,000 points to Emirates, and departed from **Milan in First Class on a shower flight** for a ticket that otherwise goes for \$4,382. Matt's livin' in Kaizen County.

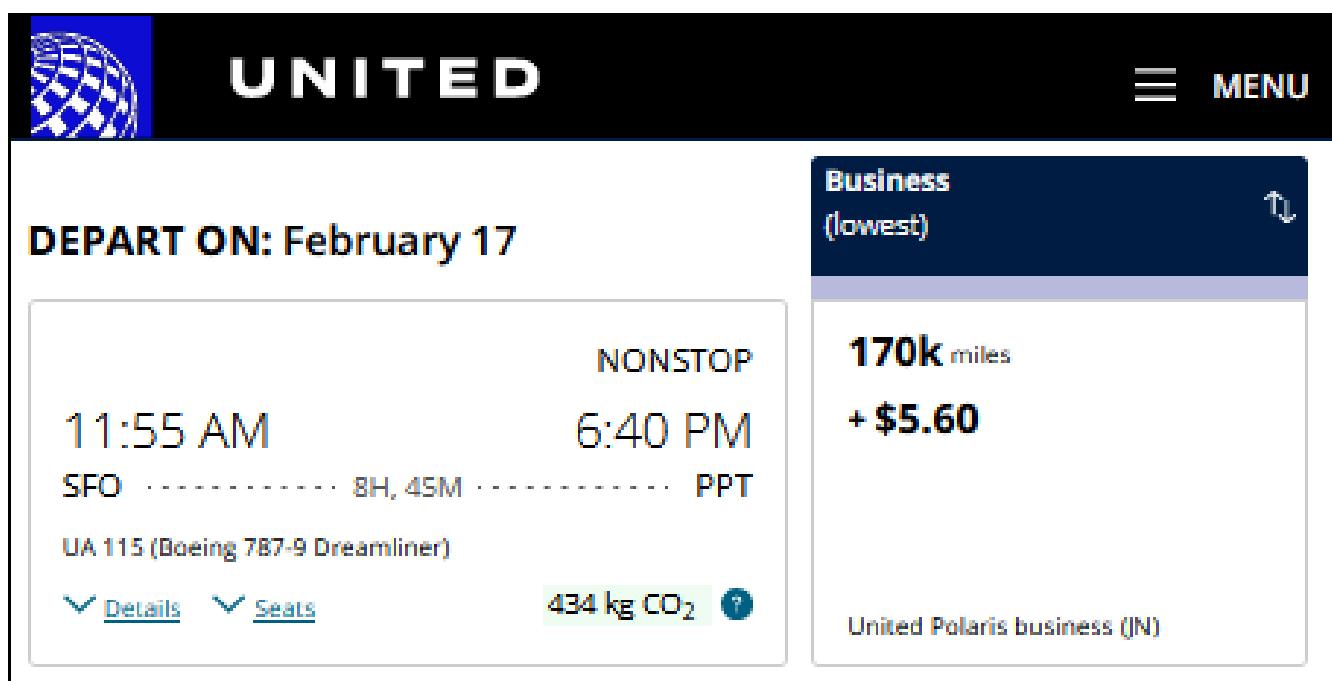
## **ITERATIVE UPGRADING EXAMPLE #5 JOE BOUGHT A PREMIUM ECONOMY MILEAGE TICKET, AND THEN A DISCOUNTED BUSINESS CLASS MILEAGE TICKET OPENED UP AT THE LAST MINUTE**

Joe wanted to lock in a Business Class ticket to Tahiti seven months out, but the cost was 340,000 miles round-trip. So he settled for Premium Economy and spent 120,000 United miles.

Then a couple of days prior to departure, a Business Class ticket opened up for 144,800 miles round-trip, so he canceled the 120,000-mile Premium Economy ticket and got a new ticket in Business Class. Boom!

This cost him just 24,800 more miles for a ticket that otherwise goes for \$2,800 in Premium Economy and \$5,347 in Business Class. That's the power of kaizen – iterating the heck out of that trip and saving a stack of cash with one swift samurai swing.

*United's One-way Pricing Booking Way In Advance*



DEPART ON: February 17

NONSTOP

11:55 AM 6:40 PM

SFO ..... 8H, 45M ..... PPT

UA 115 (Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner)

Business (lowest)

170k miles + \$5.60

434 kg CO<sub>2</sub>

United Polaris business (JN)

*United Each-way Pricing Booking next week (as of May 10)*



# UNITED

≡ MENU

**DEPART ON: May 14**

1:20 PM 6:55 PM

SFO ----- 8H, 35M ----- PPT

## UA 115 (Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner)

## Details   Seats

## NONSTOP

6:55 PM

PPT

## Business

(lowest)



72.8k miles

+ \$5.60

## United Polaris business (I)

# CANCEL FEE? EQUATION

Nowadays, cash tickets (aka as published fares) can typically be canceled, and you can apply the full value of those fares to a future ticket for little or no cost on most airlines up to a year. To confirm, ask an airline reservations, or you can find a link to “fare rules” online on the “manage your reservation” web page if you haven’t already read the rules when you purchased the ticket.

Mileage tickets can be canceled, changed, or redeposited for free or at a low fee nowadays. Here are a few examples:

**American:** No changes allowed. Cancel and redeposit of miles are free.

**Delta**: Changes, cancellations, and redeposits are free.

**United:** Changes, cancellations, and redeposits are free.

[British Airways](#): Changes to date, time, and cabin \$55; cancel and redeposit \$55; additional service center fee for date or time changes, cancellation, and Avios redeposit \$25. No charge for Gold Members.

[Emirates](#): Changes to travel date: Saver award \$25; Flex and Flex Plus free. Cancel and redeposit: Saver award \$75; Flex and Flex Plus free.

[Lufthansa](#): Changes allowed to date and time, but not the route for \$50 or 10,000 miles. Cancel or rebooking: in both cases a fee of 50€ per ticket; this amount may vary or there may be no fee with some awards.

[Singapore](#): Changes to travel date: Saver award \$25 / Advantage award free; change of route, cabin class or award type on Singapore Airlines \$25; change of date, route, flight or carrier on partner airlines \$50; redeposit of miles for award tickets / upgrades Saver award \$75 / Advantage \$50.

**In other words, with most airlines (be sure to check with yours), it's so cheap and easy to change and improve your ticket, it's not worth thinking twice about.**

See you up front.



# Stop Noodling Around – Many Asian Business Class Fares Have Dropped

May 2023

## **The status of FCF's 2023 predictions to Asia and where to get \$8,000 fares for up to 51% Off**

For those looking for a pot of gold at the end of the Asian rainbow, we have good news, as with almost no mileage award availability and high fares, Asia has been off the radar for many.

So imagine the K-Pop dance moves that we busted out on FCF's research floor when fares to Asia started to be cut in half. Not only that, our Crystal Ball Team weighed in with, "we told ya so!" after correctly predicting this would happen in our [2023 prediction article](#).

I think this shift is driven by the economy, as well as by the opening of China, which greatly increased the number of flights into the region. Whatever the reason for a fare fall, there will be happy travelers who previously looked at Business Class fares in the \$6,000 to \$10,000 range and said, "not right now thanks."



## ASIAN BANQUET BACK ON THE MENU

Have you checked out Asia lately? From Hong Kong to Hanoi, Seoul to Singapore, and Tokyo to Thailand, the region is buzzing. There's so much cultural diversity to experience. Old and new cohabitiate together in exciting cities. And the food! Each Asian country has a rich tradition of delicacies. And I don't have to tell you about Thailand, Japan, and China's contributions to those few stubborn pounds we carry. Temptingly, too, it's much more affordable nowadays. Not to mention that history buffs get endless treasures to explore.

## THE START OF THE NEW TREND

In February we told you about the [special Cathay Pacific fares](#) from Los Angeles for under \$4,000 to destinations such as Cebu, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Osaka, Seoul, Singapore; and Tokyo from Boston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco to many destinations in Asia for under \$5,000.

Anything sub-\$4,000 round-trip to Asia in Business Class is newsworthy, given fares are typically \$6,000 to \$10,000. So we're happy to spread the news.

## DISCOUNTED FARE TREND PROLIFERATES

We're now seeing new fares in the same ballpark on many major airlines. As you'd expect, since **Los Angeles** flights are closer to the Asian action, fares are lower. This starts with Delta **to Tokyo** for \$3,570 in July and August, or just \$3,130 if you apply the [Amex IAP discount](#). Other Business Class fares on major airlines to destinations all over Asia are from Montreal, New York, San Francisco, San Diego, Toronto, Tucson, and Vancouver.

Also, consider [positioning flights](#) if you don't live in a low-fare city, as you can fly to Tokyo from Los Angeles for \$3,570 on Delta, as opposed to \$7,737 from Atlanta!

Speaking of great places to visit, here are some great fares that caught our wandering eyes.

## PREMIUM FARE NEEDLES IN THE HAYSTACK ON MAJOR AIRLINES BY ALLIANCE

### Oneworld

The lowest Business Class fares we found are from Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, San Diego, and Tucson from \$3,398 on American, Cathay Pacific, Japan Airlines, and Qatar airlines.

From	To	Oneworld Sale Fare	Regular Published Fare	Travel Months
Los Angeles	Fukuoka	\$3,874	\$6,349	July, August
	Hiroshima	\$3,873	\$6,248	
	Nagoya	\$3,754	\$6,175	
	Osaka	\$3,463	\$5,947	
	Sapporo	\$3,878	\$6,246	
	Tokyo	\$3,461	\$5,744	
New York	Denpasar	\$3,398	\$5,056	August to March
	Hanoi	\$3,548	\$5,038	September to March
	Ho Chi Minh	\$3,540	\$4,494	July to March
	Kuala Lumpur	\$3,523	\$4,762	September to November, January to March
San Francisco	Bangkok	\$3,934	\$5,157	

From	To	Oneworld Sale Fare	Regular Published Fare	Travel Months
San Diego	Fukuoka	\$3,874	\$7,129	July
	Nagoya	\$3,754	\$6,738	
	Okinawa	\$3,876	\$6,925	
	Osaka	\$3,463	\$6,645	
	Sapporo	\$3,878	\$6,363	July, August
	Tokyo	\$3,453	\$5,744	
Tucson	Osaka	\$3,632	\$7,436	
	Tokyo	\$3,629	\$7,248	

### SkyTeam

The lowest Business Class fares are found from Los Angeles, San Diego, and Tucson from \$3,569, on Delta and Korean airlines. While not nearly as good as oneworld fares, there are a few good ones.

From	To	SkyTeam Sale Fare	Regular Published Fare	Travel Months
Los Angeles	Fukuoka	\$3,870	\$5,238	
	Osaka	\$3,586	\$5,734	August
		\$3,569	\$5,251	
San Diego	Tokyo	\$3,958	\$6,649	
Tucson		\$3,631	\$6,845	July, August

### Star Alliance

The lowest Business Class fares are found from Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, San Diego, and Tucson from \$3,488 on Air Canada, All Nippon, Asiana, Eva Air, Singapore, Thai, and United.

From	To	Star Alliance Sale Fare	Regular Published Fare	Travel Months
Los Angeles	Nagoya	\$3,731	\$6,129	July, August
	Tokyo	\$3,488	\$6,519	
	Bangkok	\$3,652	\$5,930	November, January to March
	Cebu	\$3,593	\$5,375	October, November, January to March
	Denpasar	\$3,645	\$5,605	
	Hanoi	\$3,690	\$5,529	
New York	Ho Chi Minh	\$3,833	\$5,675	November, January to March
	Jakarta	\$3,941	\$6,112	
	Kuala Lumpur	\$3,904	\$5,881	
	Manila	\$3,808	\$5,548	
	Phuket	\$3,835	\$6,433	
San Francisco	Cebu	\$3,980	\$5,677	
San Diego	Tokyo	\$3,948	\$6,243	July, August
Tucson		\$3,629	\$7,246	

## UNDER \$5,000 ROUND-TRIP IN BUSINESS CLASS

Crossing the \$4,000 threshold, more exotic possibilities light up across Asia. If you didn't see your destination above chances are the fares are still in the sub-\$5,000 range which is still low for Asia. If you ever wanted to visit this sprawling and fascinating continent, now's the time. Here are some samples:

**Atlanta** to Bangkok, Cebu, and Manila on Qatar Airways

**Boston** to Bangkok on Qatar Airways

**Chicago** to Singapore on Japan Airlines

**Dallas** to Singapore on Japan Airlines

**Houston** to Guangzhou on All Nippon Airways

**Los Angeles** to Hong Kong on All Nippon; Seoul on American, Bangkok, Cebu, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh on Asiana; Jakarta, Manila, and Phuket on Cathay Pacific; Chiang Mai on Singapore Airlines and to Singapore on Qatar

**Miami** to Bangkok, Manila, Phuket, Singapore on Qatar

**New York** to Hong Kong on Asiana, Osaka, and Singapore on United

**San Francisco** to Chiang Mai, Hanoi, Ho Minh, Hong Kong, Manila, Osaka, Seoul and Tokyo on Asiana.

**Seattle** to Cebu, Hanoi, Hong Kong, and Singapore on Asiana; Chiang Mai and Phuket on Korean

**Washington, DC** to Denpasar, Jakarta, and Singapore on Qatar

## **SOME OF THE LOWEST FARES ARE FROM CANADA**

The lowest fares from Canada are from Toronto to Osaka on United for \$2,911 and Vancouver to Osaka from \$2,993 on Japan Airlines with many other destinations under \$4,000. Americans: Remember the [positioning flight strategy](#). Best oneworld fares...

From	To	Oneworld Sale Fare	Regular Published Fare	Travel Months
Montreal	Manila	\$3,771	\$5,607	August to November, January to April
Toronto	Seoul	\$3,699	\$5,385	August, September, January, February
	Fukuoka	\$3,836	\$5,639	
	Jakarta	\$3,607	\$5,803	August to April
Vancouver	Manila	\$3,896	\$5,230	
	Nagoya	\$3,807	\$5,320	July, September to April
	Osaka	\$2,993	\$2,966	September
	Sapporo	\$3,784	\$5,763	August to April
	Tokyo	\$3,684	\$5,197	July to April

\*Oneworld airlines: Cathay Pacific, and Japan Airlines.

## **BEST SKYTEAM FARES**

From	To	SkyTeam Sale Fare	Regular Published Fare	Travel Months
Montreal	Seoul	\$3,896	\$5,454	September to November
Toronto	Beijing	\$3,598	\$5,054	
	Guangzhou	\$3,645	\$5,790	September to April
	Jakarta	\$3,776	\$5,746	
	Seoul	\$3,344	\$5,385	
Vancouver	Bangkok	\$3,883	\$5,366	
	Beijing	\$3,141	\$5,540	November to April
	Busan	\$3,388	\$3,359	
	Cebu	\$3,934	\$5,417	September to April
	Chiang Mai	\$3,829	\$5,590	September, October
	Guangzhou	\$3,707	\$5,634	
	Hanoi	\$3,993	\$6,329	September to April
	Jakarta	\$3,894	\$5,983	
	Kuala Lumpur	\$3,870	\$5,352	
	Macao	\$3,848	\$5,108	September, October
	Manila	\$3,823	\$5,453	September to April
	Phuket	\$3,913	\$5,498	September to January
	Seoul	\$3,241	\$5,966	
	Shanghai	\$3,485	\$5,745	September to April
	Singapore	\$3,910	\$5,392	

\*SkyTeam airlines: Air France, Delta and Korean.

## BEST STAR ALLIANCE FARES

From	To	Star Alliance Sale Fare	Regular Published Fare	Travel Months
Montreal	Osaka	\$3,265	\$6,142	July to September
	Seoul	\$3,997	\$5,582	May to October

From	To	Star Alliance Sale Fare	Regular Published Fare	Travel Months
Toronto	Osaka	\$2,911	\$5,511	July to September
	Seoul	\$3,668	\$5,342	May to October
Vancouver	Fukuoka	\$3,885	\$5,416	September, October
	Manila	\$3,997	\$5,750	July to March
	Osaka	\$3,013	\$4,766	July to September
	Seoul	\$3,145	\$4,747	May to March
	Tokyo	\$3,686	\$4,753	July to March

\*Star Alliance: Air Canada, All Nippon, Asiana, and United.

## ZIPAIR

In January 2022, we told you about [ZIPAIR](#), which offers seasonal service to Tokyo's Narita airport from Los Angeles daily from June 10 through October 28; from San Francisco June 18 through October 27 (no Thursday or Saturday service); and from San Jose July 1 to October 28 (no service on Tuesday or Friday). Fares from Los Angeles range from \$2,228 to \$3,069; San Francisco from \$1,667 to \$2,557; San Jose from \$1,925 to \$3,451 round-trip.

Elsewhere in this May edition of FCF's Upgrade Advisor, Asia-bound or Asia-considering travelers will love finding an [easy discount](#) via Amex's International Airline Program.

## MORE FCF INTEL ABOUT VISITING ASIA

Yearning for Asia and wondering where to park your miles? Cathay Pacific offers [tasty dumpling deals](#) in First and Business Class using miles and cash.

The first thing Asia-bound travelers think about is...Canada. Not! But you really should and we've got the [why all laid out](#). Hint: you can grab up to 54% savings.

I'll keep this real simple: [Tokyo in First Class](#), NOT for \$25,100, but for \$2,880 R/T. Done.

And while we're on the Tokyo topic, we have no fewer than [9 ways to slice Business Class prices](#), samurai-style. *Hai!*



# Upgrade Economics 101, Part 5

May 2023

**Live your best travel life by booking Business Class as a low-cost upgrade over settling for Premium Economy**

Ok class, welcome back to Upgrade Economics 101, the subject where getting an A has nothing to do with well-written term papers and everything to do with scoring great premium cabin deals.

Er, excuse me, Kevin, could you please put down your Hawaii travel guide? I know our [Hula Loophole lecture](#) got all of you excited, but you can read that on the plane.

OK class, let's go back to the basics: What is an "upgrade" again?

**Students: An upgrade is an option where the total benefits outweigh its drawbacks. It can be a better seat, a bonus destination, or [better value-per-mile](#), for free or substantially less than rack rate. We're [upgrade open-minded](#).**

Very good. And one way that value can be measured is the [cost-per-flight hour to upgrade](#).

Cost-per-flight hour becomes so much more relevant on the plane when a kid is kicking your seat from behind, and then that mystery beef-slash-chicken meal arrives that's a little on the chewy side. At that moment, you'd pay a ransom to "upgrade" your experience, wouldn't you? But you can't because it's too darn late.

So this month, we're talking about paying a little more per flight hour to maximize your comfort *hour by hour* — by searching for a good Business Class fare over settling for Premium Economy. I'm quietly confident we'll see an upgrade stamp handed out today.



### **MAY'S UPGRADE ECONOMICS EXAMPLE #1 FLY IN BUSINESS CLASS ON DELTA TO TOKYO INSTEAD OF PREMIUM ECONOMY FOR \$15 MORE PER FLIGHT HOUR**

Instead of flying in Premium Economy on Delta to Tokyo in July and August you can upgrade to Business Class for **just \$15 an hour more**. 15 bucks? That's half as much as a movie, drink, and popcorn. Don't wait to arrive at this no-brainer decision while elbow wrestling with Hans next to you in seat 22A somewhere over

the Pacific. The time to snag this upgrade is now. Grab [the latest special Business Class fares to Asia](#) while they last.

Operating Airline	Sample Route	Class	Cost R/T	
Delta	Los Angeles - Tokyo	Premium Economy	\$3,222	
		Business	\$3,569	
<b>One-Class Upgrade Cost</b>			\$347	
<b>Upgrade Cost Each Way</b>			\$173	
<b>Upgrade Per Flight Hour</b>			\$15	

**▲ DELTA** | LAX - HND | Round Trip | Jul 11-18 | 1 Passenger | **MODIFY** | **SKY PRIORITY**

## Trip Summary

<b>Outbound</b>	DL7	LAX - HND	Tue, Jul 11	WED, JUL 12	10:30am - 2:15pm	Nonstop, 11h 45m Premium Select
<b>Return</b>	DL8	HND - LAX	Tue, Jul 18	TUE, JUL 18	4:45pm - 11:30am	Nonstop, 10h 45m Premium Select

**Delta One**

Spacious 180-Degree Flat-Bed Seat with Full-Height Privacy Door  
Complimentary Sky Club Access  
Board First with Delta One Boarding

**\$347.00**  
1 left at this price  
Per Person\*

**UPGRADE**

**Refundable Delta Premium Select**

All the Benefits of Delta Premium Select, plus...  
Fully Refundable to Your Original Form of Payment

**\$450.00**  
Per Person\*

**UPGRADE**

**Trip Total**  
1 Passenger  
Flights \$3,123.00  
Taxes, Fees & Charges \$98.55  
Amount Due **\$3,221.55 USD**

[Currency Calculator](#)

Altogether, class:



**MAY'S UPGRADE ECONOMICS EXAMPLE #2**  
**FLY IN BUSINESS CLASS ON EMIRATES TO DELHI**  
**INSTEAD OF PREMIUM ECONOMY FOR JUST \$28 MORE PER FLIGHT HOUR**

Or how about this? Instead of flying in Premium Economy on Emirates from San Francisco to Delhi in September for \$3,374, you can upgrade to Business Class for \$1,220 – **just \$28 an hour more**. So for a fraction of the price of a meal at Karim's in Old Delhi per flight hour, you get a *way* better flight experience to Delhi and back. Almost 43 seat-kicking hours. Is that worth \$28 an hour?

Operating Airline	Sample Route	Class	Cost R/T		
Emirates	San Francisco - Delhi	Premium Economy		\$3,374	
		Business	Regular Published Fare	\$4,594	
<b>One-Class Upgrade Cost</b>			\$1,220		
<b>Upgrade Cost Each Way</b>			\$610		
<b>Upgrade Per Flight Hour</b>			\$28		

Once again...



**MAY'S UPGRADE ECONOMICS 101 EXAMPLE #3**  
**FLY IN BUSINESS CLASS ON LUFTHANSA TO FRANKFURT**  
***INSTEAD OF PREMIUM ECONOMY FOR \$316 MORE R/T***

Instead of flying in Premium Economy on Lufthansa from New York to Frankfurt in August, you can “upgrade” to Business Class for **just \$19 per hour more**. 19 bucks? Once again, that’s a movie, drink, and popcorn. For \$19 per hour, it’s not worth risking getting stuck in the middle seat between two annoying kids.

Operating Airline	Sample Route	Class	Cost R/T			
Lufthansa	New York - Frankfurt	Premium Economy		\$2,129		
		Business		Regular Published Fare \$2,445		
<b>One-Class Upgrade Cost</b>				\$316		
<b>Upgrade Cost Each Way</b>				\$158		
<b>Upgrade Per Flight Hour</b>				\$19		

**Strategy Tool Links:**

[First Class: How Anyone Can Save Up to 58% from 50+ U.S. Cities to 100+ Cities in Europe](#)

[New Lufthansa First Class Ticketing Strategy to Europe from \\$1,722 Each Way](#)

One final time, class, with gusto!...



There were several stamps handed out today. Cost per flight hour is a great metric to measure the overall value of a flight experience. Rather than glancing at a disembodied *total extra cost* and dismissing it, **put yourself into your future seat** and imagine sitting on that plane for 6...12...20 hours. And imagine what you would give to be sitting about 20 yards farther forward in the plane. Now, if that kid kicks my seat ONE MORE TIME.....

## FURTHER READING FOR DILIGENT UPGRADE STUDENTS

For those cramming for extra marks, last month's lesson: [Upgrade Economics 101, Part 4](#) takes you into the much overlooked realm of buying miles when they're on sale to take advantage of amazing miles deals.

[Upgrade Economics 101, Part 3](#) looks at a very interesting, and somewhat underrated, economic indicator that we looked at again this month: the cost of upgrading *per flight mile*.

[Upgrade Economics 101, Part 2](#) considers upgrades to better situations for both flights and hotels, while paying even less to do so (crazy, right?), or not a lot more.

[Upgrade Economics 101, Part 1](#) the first lecture looked at three different ways to upgrade — the perfect introduction to our course.

Opportunity travel is a prime trait of the brightest Upgrade Mindset student. [Discover it here.](#)

One savvy traveler secret is knowing that there are lots of free flights you can take advantage of, which is why you need to read [The Art of Skipping Stones & What We Can All Learn from the Boise to Budapest Premium Traveler](#).

Most flyers, i.e., probably you, dream of a trip, plan it, then book it. This report outlines why [you may have that order all wrong](#).

It's the best of both worlds: Happily, you're faced with a good cash deal and a good miles deal, [so which one should you choose?](#)

Buying points can be a lucrative way of saving money. We show you [how to do it with American Express](#).

And while we're on that topic, sometimes there are only so many points and miles you're allowed to buy. [Learn how to hack that "limited" system](#).

And finally, [this report](#) is required reading for all students of Upgrade Economics 101: our examination and definition of the word "upgrade."



AMERICAN EXPRESS



# The Latest Amex IAP Discounts to Asia

May 2023

F FROST

**Get up to 42% off Business and First Class fares,  
bookable online or by phone**

Learning how to cut fares down to size should be taught at schools. We do our part here at FCF, particularly by extolling the virtues of being flexible. But there is another way that often works to shrink your fare like a silk shirt in a tumble dryer and usually works regardless of your flexibility: Amex's International Airline Program, or IAP.

And with the drop in Asian fares at the moment, now's the perfect time for a refresher on the power of this program, wherever you're planning to fly overseas.

Thanks to the IAP, American Express Platinum and Centurion cardholders can knock off a couple hundred dollars (sometimes even thousands) on tons of premium fares across a range of airlines (25 in fact — see below).



Through the program, you can [book tickets online](#) or over the phone. More details to come, but let's check out some of the best deals first.

## UP TO 42% OFF TO ASIA

This month's focus is on routes between the U.S. and Canada to Asia. (Keep in mind [positioning flights](#) from the U.S. to Canada as the fares can be low enough that they're worth going out of your way for). We're seeing IAP program discounts of 3% to 42% on many published First and Business Class fares to many destinations in Asia, on All Nippon, Cathay Pacific, Delta, Japan Airlines, and Singapore Airlines.

## BUSINESS CLASS SAVINGS WITH AMEX IAP: UP TO \$961 (OR 29%) LESS

Asiana, Delta, Japan Airlines, and Singapore Airlines offer the biggest discounts through IAP to Asia in Business Class, for \$2,335 to \$2,897 from Canada and **\$2,856 to \$3,787 from the U.S.** as you can see below.

**For context, Premium Economy seats on American, Delta and United can easily run to \$1,900 to \$3,037 to Asia.**

At the moment, we're seeing the biggest IAP discounts on Japan Airlines in Business Class from Vancouver with as much as 29% savings. Then there's Los Angeles and San Diego with as much as 20% savings, and New York with savings from 4% to 12% and Seattle with just 3% to 8% savings over normal fares.

## Japan Airlines Business Class from Vancouver

To:	Sample Dates of Travel	Regular Published Fare	IAP Fare	Savings
Osaka	August 18 to August 27	\$3,296	\$2,335	\$961 29%
Jakarta	August 25 to September 3	\$3,648	\$2,830	\$818 22%
Nagoya	July 18 to July 27	\$3,768	\$2,994	\$774 21%
Tokyo	September 12 to September 20	\$3,646	\$2,897	\$749

## Business Class from Los Angeles

**Delta Airlines** offers a 12% discount, which brings the fare down to \$3,130 for travel from Los Angeles to Tokyo.

Airline	To:	Sample Dates of Travel	Regular Published Fare	IAP Fare	Savings
Japan	Osaka	July 12 to July 20	\$3,577	\$2,860	\$717 20%
	Sapporo		\$3,887	\$3,223	\$664 17%
	Okinawa		\$3,881	\$3,242	\$639 16%
Delta	Tokyo	June 20 to July 8	\$3,570	\$3,130	\$440 12%
Asiana	Hanoi	August 14 to August 22	\$3,980	\$3,777	\$203 5%
	Ho Chi Minh		\$3,944	\$3,772	\$172 4%

## Business Class from San Diego

**Japan** offers a 20% discount on routes we checked, bringing the fare down to under \$2,856 for travel from San Diego to Tokyo and \$3,094 to Nagoya. For San Diego to Tokyo on **Delta**, the airline's discount was 13%.

Airline	To:	Sample Dates of Travel	Regular Published Fare	IAP Fare	Savings	
Japan	Nagoya	July 3 to July 10	\$3,861	\$3,094	\$767	20%
	Tokyo	July 9 to July 17	\$3,568	\$2,856	\$712	
Delta		July 1 to July 9	\$3,958	\$3,458	\$500	13%

## Singapore Airlines Business Class from New York

**Singapore Airlines** offers a 4%-12% discount on routes we checked, bringing the fare down to under \$3,600 for travel from New York to Cebu, Denpasar, Kuala Lumpur, and Manila and around \$3,700 to Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh.

To:	Sample Dates of Travel	Regular Published Fare	IAP Fare	Savings	
Manila	November 20 to November 28	\$3,888	\$3,410	\$478	12%
Denpasar	November 28 to December 7	\$3,899	\$3,443	\$456	
Kuala Lumpur	November 20 to November 28	\$3,940	\$3,516	\$424	11%
		\$3,964	\$3,540	\$424	
Bangkok	October 30 to November 8	\$3,931	\$3,698	\$233	6%
Ho Chi Minh	November 20 to November 28	\$3,876	\$3,709	\$167	4%

## Business Class from Seattle

From Seattle to Seoul on **Delta** the regular published fare is \$4,301 and the IAP fare we found was \$3,775 for a 12% discount. The Amex IAP offers nominal discounts on **Asiana** from Seattle, from 3% to 8% to Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh, and Seoul.

Airline	To:	Sample Dates of Travel	Regular Published Fare	IAP Fare	Savings	
Delta	Seoul	July 4 to July 11	\$4,301	\$3,775	\$526	12%

Airline	To:	Sample Dates of Travel	Regular Published Fare	IAP Fare	Savings	
Asiana	Bangkok	July 25 to August 2	\$3,817	\$3,512	\$305	8%
	Ho Chi Minh		\$3,789	\$3,565	\$224	6%
	Seoul		\$3,890	\$3,787	\$103	3%

## IAP FOR BUSINESS TRAVELERS

### Sample Fare Savings Up to 1,615 (or 23%) Less

Business travelers often have particular requirements: They often fly at the last minute and/or without a Saturday-night stay. Here's what we found for sample savings with the Amex International Airline Program using these parameters.

**Seven-day advance** on the Los Angeles-Osaka route is currently \$7,162 round-trip on Japan Airlines nonstop in Business Class. Via Amex IAP it's \$5,547 for a \$1,615, or 23%, savings.

**Seven-day advance** from Los Angeles-Tokyo is currently \$7,047 round-trip on All Nippon non-stop in Business Class. Via Amex IAP it's \$5,526 for a \$1,521, or 22%, savings.

Other routes found to have a seven-day advance purchase IAP discount:

Airline	Route	7-Day Advanced Purchase Fare	IAP Fare	Savings	
Japan	Los Angeles - Osaka	\$7,162	\$5,547	\$1,615	23%
All Nippon	Los Angeles - Tokyo	\$7,047	\$5,526	\$1,521	22%
Japan	San Diego - Tokyo	\$6,915	\$5,544	\$1,371	20%
Japan	New York - Tokyo	\$13,445	\$10,936	\$2,509	19%
Asiana	Seattle - Tokyo	\$8,859	\$7,304	\$1,555	18%
Delta	Minneapolis - Tokyo	\$18,087	\$15,467	\$2,620	14%
Qatar	Atlanta - Tokyo	\$12,641	\$10,975	\$1,666	13%

## FIRST CLASS SAVINGS WITH AMEX: UP TO \$9,383 (OR 42%) LESS

**Japan Airlines** from San Francisco to Tokyo is currently \$22,372 round-trip in First Class. Via Amex IAP it's \$12,989, a savings of **\$9,383, or 42%**.

Now it might take an extra 10 minutes to find the lowest fare, but if you save \$9,383, that's \$930 for each minute you spent researching. It's like you're playing in the NBA.



**JAPAN AIRLINES**

**International reservation**

Search
Passenger

■ Your itinerary
■ Your itinerary
■ Price summary

Departure flight

→ **Wed 9 Aug 12:20**  
San Francisco ([San Francisco International](#), Terminal 1)

[Show details](#)

→ **Thu 10 Aug 15:10**  
Tokyo ([Tokyo International Haneda](#), Terminal 3)

Total duration 10h50m  
Fare: First Flex  
[Fare conditions](#)

Departure flight

→ **Wed 9 Aug 12:20**  
San Francisco ([San Francisco International](#), Terminal 1)

[Show details](#)

→ **Thu 10 Aug 15:10**  
Tokyo ([Tokyo International Haneda](#), Terminal 3)

Total duration 10h50m  
Fare: First Flex  
[Fare conditions](#)

Adult x1 \$ 21,670.00 (USD)

Fuel and insurance surcharge \$ 603.20 (USD)

+ Taxes \$ 98.95 (USD)

**Total \$ 22,372.15 (USD)**

[Currency converter \(for information only\)](#)

[Information about Tax/Surcharges](#)  
[Preview your receipt](#)

## JAPAN AIRLINES FIRST CLASS WITH IAP DISCOUNT

DEPARTURE	
Aug 09, 2023	Non-Stop
SFO	→ HND
12:20pm	9h 50m
AIRLINE	FLIGHT NUMBER
Japan Airlines	1
RETURN	
Aug 16, 2023	Non-Stop
HND	→ SFO
04:25pm	10h 40m
AIRLINE	FLIGHT NUMBER
Japan Airlines	2
INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE PROGRAM	
5X MEMBERSHIP REWARDS® POINTS	
Total Trip Cost	\$12,989.25

**All Nippon Airways** from Chicago to Tokyo is currently \$22,141 round-trip in First Class. Via Amex IAP, it's \$18,912, a savings of **\$3,229, or 15%**.

**Singapore Airlines** from Los Angeles to Tokyo is currently running \$13,986 round-trip in First Class. Via Amex IAP it's \$12,613, a savings of **\$1,373, or 10%**.

## First Class Published Fares Versus Amex IAP Fares

Airline	Route	Sample Dates of Travel	Regular Published Fare	IAP Fare	Savings
All Nippon	Chicago - Tokyo	August 9 - August 16	\$22,141	\$18,912	\$3,229 15%
	New York - Tokyo		\$22,764	\$19,472	\$3,292 14%
	San Francisco - Tokyo		\$22,372	\$12,989	\$9,383 42%
	Los Angeles - Tokyo		\$20,038	\$12,303	\$7,735 39%
	Dallas - Tokyo		\$23,163	\$14,258	\$8,905 38%
	New York - Tokyo		\$22,913	\$14,108	\$8,805 38%
Singapore	Los Angeles - Tokyo		\$13,986	\$12,613	\$1,373 10%

## HOW TO BOOK

[Go online to Amex travel](#) and log in to your American Express Platinum or Centurion Card account, or if you prefer to call: 1-800-525-3355 for Platinum Travel Service or 1-800-553-9497 for Business Platinum Travel Service. (Note that there's a \$39 booking fee per ticket if you call and no fees when you book online.)

The next time you're browsing through [FCF's special fare alerts](#) and spot a nice low \$1,800 Business Class long-haul fare — or even a flash deal for \$1,400, book it [online with Amex](#) and you might save even more.

## WHEN AMEX IAP DID NOT WORK

During our research, we found that not every route or airline offered the IAP discount, even if the airline itself had service. For example, there were no discounts available when flying Toronto to Seoul; Tucson to Osaka and Tokyo; San Diego to Osaka and Sapporo; Vancouver to Seoul and Tokyo.

That said, **our research was obviously finite** — checking every airline, class, and route is impossible so results will vary.

More analysis of IAP deals to other destinations coming soon. With the drop in Asian fares at the moment, grab these while they're hot!

## MORE FCF ASIA-CENTRIC GOODIES

Read why [Cathay Pacific](#) is worth considering for First and Business Class (just make sure you click the right button)

Japan's post-lockdown reopening brought with it some sumo-sized fares. So we got to work, nimbly using their weight against them and finding some [Fuji-sized savings](#).

[Fly to Asia via...Canada?](#) You bet. It's a great way to ice high fares.

Scoring a \$25,100 First Class ticket to Tokyo for \$2,880 is the kind of thing you'll be talking about for the rest of your life. [That starts here.](#)

Still looking for clever ways to slice up Asia fares like a master sushi chef? [Here are our Ninja-Nine!](#)



# May's Top 49 Mileage Awards & Special Fares Greatest Hits (Still Available)

May 2023

## May's Award & Fare Finds

The trees are full of pollen giving FCF a heavy case of May fever with lots of deals floating about. It's causing itchy noses as well as itchy deal-trigger fingers. I'm sure your finger will hover over the book button with some of the specials found below, including **Europe Business Class for under \$2,000**. Let's go!

## Special Published Fares

### AFRICA

[Nairobi Biz Class from \\$2,993 to \\$3,873 R/T](#)

[Kenya Biz Class from Canada from \\$2,625 to \\$3,400 USD R/T](#)

India

[Mumbai Biz Class from \\$3,345 to \\$3,835 R/T](#)

[New Delhi Biz Class from \\$3,050 to \\$3,807 R/T](#)



## **ASIA**

[Tokyo Biz Class from \\$3,417 to \\$3,875 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](#)

## **NORTH AMERICA**

[Domestic Coast-to-Coast Business Class Fares from \\$707 R/T](#)

## **EUROPE**

[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 \\$2,204 to \\$2,371 USD R/T](#)

[From Canada: Paris and Nice Biz Class from \\$2,215 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](#)

[Venice Biz Class from \\$2,380 to \\$3,151 R/T](#)

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

[HOT: Switzerland Biz Class from \\$2,304 to \\$2,990 R/T](#)

[Frankfurt and Munich Biz Class from Canada from \\$2,483 to \\$2,978 USD R/T](#)

[Finland Biz Class from \\$2,748 to \\$3,179 R/T](#)

[Dublin Biz Class from \\$2,789 to \\$3,185 R/T](#)

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

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

[Biz Class from Europe to U.S. from \\$1,553 to \\$1,956 R/T](#)

[Barcelona Biz Class from \\$2,291 to \\$3,207 R/T – Major Airlines](#)

## **HAWAII**

[West Coast / Midwest to Kona Biz Class from \\$1,137 to \\$1,539 R/T](#)

Hawaii Biz Class from Vancouver from \$944 to \$1,233 USD R/T

Maui Biz Class from \$1,136 to \$1,523 R/T

Tahiti Biz Class from \$2,878 to \$4,146 R/T

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

Buenos Aires Biz Class from Miami and Orlando from \$2,576 to \$3,031 R/T

From Canada: Santiago Biz Class from \$2,290 to \$3,219 R/T

Brazil Biz Class from Canada from \$2,528 to \$3,020 USD R/T

Rio Biz Class from \$2,400 to \$3,133 R/T

Santiago Biz Class from \$2,605 to \$3,010 R/T

Brazil Biz Class from \$1,930 to \$3,198 R/T



## **CARIBBEAN**

[St. Maarten Biz Class from \\$875 to \\$1,168 R/T](#)

[East & West Coast to Aruba Biz Class from \\$1,019 to \\$1,183 R/T](#)

## **MEXICO**

[Cozumel Biz Class from \\$703 to \\$913 R/T](#)

[Cancun Biz Class from \\$648 to \\$926 R/T](#)

[Cabo San Lucas Biz Class from \\$735 to \\$854 R/T](#)

[Acapulco Biz Class from \\$795 to \\$901 R/T](#)

## **MIDDLE EAST**

[Tel Aviv Biz Class from New York and Miami from \\$2,899 to \\$3,315 R/T](#)

[Dubai Biz Class from \\$2,871 to \\$3,628 R/T](#)

[Abu Dhabi Biz Class from \\$3,265 to \\$3,823 R/T](#)

## Burn Miles Easy & Cheaply

### EUROPE

[Lots of 4+ Seat Discount Lufthansa Business Class Mileage Availability from Washington, DC to Munich and Beyond](#)

[Lots of 4+ Seat Discount SWISS Business Class Miles/Points Availability from Los Angeles to Zurich and Beyond](#)

[London: Scads of American Business Class Opportunities from Chicago and Many Other Cities with Miles / 4+ Seats](#)

[A380 First Class Opportunities from Los Angeles and Many Other Cities to Munich and Beyond on Lufthansa Miles \(Or Cash\)](#)

[First Class Opportunities from New York and Many Other Cities to Frankfurt and Beyond on Lufthansa \(With Miles or Cash\)](#)

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