



Staying Beyond Your Means: How to Save 60% Off Luxury Winter Holiday Hotels in Europe

October 2022

Or simply save enough to upgrade your flight to First Class

We've reported before ([here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)) about the wonderful ABA membership discount for travel within North America. That's the American Bar Association (the legal kind) membership that can offer great luxury hotel deals, at various Four Seasons, Luxury Collection, Ritz-Carlton, Savoy (Fairmont), St. Regis, Westin, and more.

[The \\$150 annual fee](#) is almost laughable considering you can make that up and more with just one night's savings. It must be the first time "inexpensive" and "lawyer" can be used in the same sentence. And you don't even have to be a lawyer or judge to join; anyone can be a member.

So today we're going to make a case for using the membership in Europe over the winter holidays and New Year's.


YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE BEYOND YOUR MEANS

Many of you have a per-night hotel budget of say \$300. The ABA membership discount means you can get a \$500 or \$600 per-night room for that same \$300 in some cases. I call that living beyond your means.

Take The St. Regis Rome, for example. Not too many people have a thousand-dollar-a-night budget, but many more travelers will splurge at \$500 per night, especially if it's a special occasion. "Sustained!" as we demonstrate in the chart below. The regular price per night is \$825 or \$6,454 for seven nights BEFORE the ABA membership discount, and **just \$446 per night or \$3,531 for a seven-night stay AFTER the discount is applied.**

That's a savings of \$2,923, or 45%.

Side Note: If you haven't already, examine our special report about all the different ways of thinking about a hotel upgrade: including [room upgrades](#), [view upgrades](#), and more.



The St. Regis Rome

Via Vittorio E. Orlando, 3, Rome 00185 Italy
 +39 06 47091
 4.6 760 Reviews
 Currency Calculator


EXCLUSIVE AMENITIES
 Service Request
 Spa
 Fitness
 Internet

Stay Dates
 Tue, Nov 22, 2022 - Tue, Nov 29, 2022

Total for Stay
 6,512.10 EUR

Room(s) held for: 14:34

CONTINUE



1 King Bed, Superior Guest Room, Butler Service

ROOM DETAILS

Check in: Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Check out: Tuesday, November 29, 2022

Room(s): 1

Guest(s) per room: 2

EDIT

Summary of Charges

| | | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| 833.00 | + | 681.10 | 6,512.10 |
| EUR Avg/night | | EUR Taxes and fees | EUR Subtotal |



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Stay Dates
 Tue, Nov 22, 2022 - Tue, Nov 29, 2022

Total for Stay
 3,563.00 EUR

Room(s) held for: 14:29

CONTINUE



Superior, Guest room, 1 King

ROOM DETAILS

Check in: Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Check out: Tuesday, November 29, 2022

Room(s): 1

Guest(s) per room: 2

EDIT

Room Accessibility & Bed Type

Please note Room Identification required for rate eligibility upon check-in

Summary of Charges

| | | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| 450.00 | + | 413.00 | 3,563.00 |
| EUR Avg/night | | EUR Taxes and fees | EUR Subtotal |

STRIKE HIGH HOTEL COSTS FROM THE RECORD

Now that you've saved a lot of legal tender on your hotel room, use it to make your European vacation epic. You can upgrade your flight from Premium Economy to Business Class, or even Business to First, with all that extra \$ you saved. You can also look for better routing, or a nonstop flight. Think of it like advancing to go in Monopoly; you skip the high-price hits on the way, and score a nice bonus upon landing.

Why not use it to get really creative? With the \$2,923 you save in Rome, you can get four one-way Business Class tickets between Europe and South America. That's a wow! More on [that strategy here](#).



**SAMPLE SAVINGS
7 NIGHTS DURING THANKSGIVING,
CHRISTMAS, AND NEW YEAR'S**

| Hotel | Room Type | Sample Dates | Normal Cost | ABA Member Cost | Savings |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Four Seasons Trinity Square, London* | Deluxe Guest Room, King | December 28 - January 4 | \$7,383 | \$2,954 | \$4,429 / 60% |

| Hotel | Room Type | Sample Dates | Normal Cost | ABA Member Cost | Savings |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| The Savoy (Fairmont), London* | Deluxe Guest Room, King | December 20 - December 27 | \$7,527 | \$3,330 | \$4,197 / 56% |
| Prince de Galles, A Luxury Collection Hotels, Paris | Mosiac Jr. Suite, King | December 20 - December 27 | \$10,709 | \$5,555 | \$5,154 / 48% |
| The St. Regis, Rome | Superior Guest Room, King | November 22 - 29 | \$6,454 | \$3,531 | \$2,923 / 45% |
| The Westin Vendome, Paris | Superior Guest Room, King | December 20 - December 27 | \$4,510 | \$2,825 | \$1,685 / 37% |
| The Westin Excelsior, Rome | Deluxe Guest Room, King | December 28 - January 4 | \$3,943 | \$2,560 | \$1,383 / 35% |
| The Westin Palace, Milan | Classic Room, King | November 22 - 29 | \$2,846 | \$2,086 | \$760 / 27% |
| The Ritz Carlton, Vienna | Deluxe Guest Room, King | November 22 - 29 | \$5,352 | \$4,281 | \$1,071 / 20% |

*Rates not available on-line need to call or email hotel directly to book using the ABA membership discount. **Rates shown in USD, rates may vary based on exchange rates.

SOME ABA DEALS ONLY AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

Everyone loves the ease of booking online. That said, would you be willing to book over the phone or email if you could save 60% at the Four Seasons, London over New Years?

Take a look at this online rate of ~~7~~927 average per night:

December 28, 2022 - January
04, 2023
1 Room - 2 Adults

Deluxe Room

Room Rate

One king bed

Average Rate **GBP 927.86**

Hide Daily Rates



7 Nights

Wednesday, 28 December
GBP 950.00

Thursday, 29 December
GBP 950.00

Friday, 30 December
GBP 950.00

Saturday, 31 December
GBP 950.00

Sunday, 01 January
GBP 910.00

Monday, 02 January
GBP 840.00

Tuesday, 03 January
GBP 945.00

Total Room Rates
GBP 6,495.00

Now take a look at this rate by contacting the hotel directly via email:

Thank you for contacting Four Seasons Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square.

We are delighted to offer you our Superior King Room and Deluxe King Room for the below requested dates. Please kindly find the ABA Corporate nightly rate.

Superior King Room (22nd Nov to 27th Nov): £390.00 per night including VAT

Superior King Room (20th Dec to 27th Dec): £390.00 per night including VAT

Deluxe King Room (28th Dec to 04th Jan): £426.00 per night including VAT

Please note the above rates are per room, per night and come with a 24-hour free cancellation policy and is inclusive of VAT only.

A discretionary Service Charge of 5% of the room rate (inclusive of applicable taxes) will be applied to all reservations. This charge is in addition to the room rate per night and is intended to cover a portion of the costs associated with our employees.

I hope you will find the above information helpful, and we can move this reservation forward. Please be advised that we are currently not holding a reservation and therefore, rates and availability are subject to change. Should you wish to reserve a room, please do not hesitate to contact us with a valid credit card to guarantee the reservation.

In the meantime, I remain at your disposal should you require any further information.

Kind Regards,

While the ABA discounts are hit or miss, to be sure, and aren't available at every hotel, I've stayed at the St. Regis Rome and it's lovely. So if the occasion is right, it is definitely worth \$446 a night, for a top hotel that normally goes for twice that.



Ways to Beat the Family Curse For Booking Multiple Seats Using Miles and Points

October 2022

We've spotted a few of these rare birds to Asia and Europe on major carriers... if you blink you might miss them.

I'm sure you've had this experience before. You go to an airline website hoping to use miles for four or more seats in a premium cabin for your family vacation and you **end up feeling like you're lost in a forest looking for Bigfoot.**

I mean, the truth is that searching for just one seat with miles can be bad enough, let alone for your whole tribe.

And then there's the cost. It's not uncommon to end up seeing prices that are 200,000 or 300,000 miles *per round-trip ticket*. For a family of four to Europe, that's close to a million miles, which at a minimum value are worth two cents each, or \$20,000. So that's obviously out of the question.

SO WHAT'S A FAMILY TO DO?

Wouldn't it be nice to get discount mileage tickets for you and your whole family? Well, despite those crazy mileage costs you normally see, you actually can. You just need to think a little more laterally.

Your family-friendly team here at FCF is the best source for finding four+-seat availability. We look at that as part of our [Sweet Redeems reporting](#).

Intriguingly, if your search doesn't have four seats available on your dates, some airlines will just return some generic "not available" response, which I find a little uncreative on their part. For example, if there are three seats, you won't see the screen say, "by the way, we have three seats available, maybe that can work for you?"

So to get around this roadblock, I always start with one seat, then move up to two, then three, then four. Even if I find only two seats, **it's better to get half the trip paid for with low-cost mileage tickets and pay for the remaining two tickets in cash.**

We'll share more on other family strategies soon, but this story focuses on where you can book your family for free on miles, now.

And if you don't have all the miles you need for four or more travelers, don't forget that you might be able to transfer points to the desired airline with the points you have.

BUSINESS CLASS FAMILY AVAILABILITY TREASURE MAP

Looking to fly high with four to seven travelers on discount award tickets? Voila! The following chart shows what's available at time of publication to Asia and Europe.

Months in black at least four seats available; in blue at least six; in green at least seven. Remember to use the data as a guide since availability can be volatile...

Don't see your route listed? See [this report on free connections](#) with award flights.

| Operating Airline | Route | Round-trip Mileage Cost | 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 |
| American | Charlotte-Frankfurt | 144,000-156,000 | Jan. | | | Feb. | | |
| | Charlotte-Munich | | Feb. | Jan., Feb. | Jan. | Feb., March, April | March | |
| | New York-London | 156,000 | Nov., Dec., Aug. | | | Sept., Oct., Nov. | Feb. | Dec., Jan., Feb. |
| | Seattle-London | | Feb. | | | Jan., Feb. | | |
| Japan | Los Angeles - Tokyo | 100,000 | Aug., Sept. | | | Aug., Sept. | | |
| | San Francisco - Tokyo | | Aug. | | | Oct., Sept. | | |
| Singapore | New York - Frankfurt | 162,000 | Oct., Dec., June | Nov., May, June | Nov., Dec., Jan. to April, May, July to Sept. | Oct., Dec. | Nov., Dec., June | Nov., Jan. to May, June, July to Sept. |
| | Los Angeles - Tokyo | 207,000 | Nov., Jan., Feb., April, May, Sept. | Feb., July | July, Aug. | July, Aug., Sept. | | |
| | Los Angeles - Singapore | 214,000 | Aug. | Sept. | | May, Aug., Sept. | | |
| | New York - Singapore | 223,000 | Aug., Sept. | | | April, June, July, Sept. | July, Aug., Sept. | Aug. |
| United | Boston - London | 120,000 | Jan. | | | Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. to April, June, July | Dec., Feb., March, May | Feb., May |

Months in black at least four seats available; in [blue](#) at least six seats; in [green](#) at least seven seats. Remember to use the data as a guide since availability can be volatile

BUSINESS CLASS PARTNER AVAILABILITY FOR THE FAMILY

This next chart below shows routes with availability to Europe on Austrian and TAP airlines, using United miles (which you can transfer from Chase points), and on Delta, using Virgin Atlantic miles (which you can transfer from Amex, Chase, and Citi).

| Operating Airline | Using Partner Miles | Route | Round-trip Mileage Cost | 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 |
| Austrian | United | Chicago - Vienna | 144,000 | Dec., Jan. | | | Nov. to March | Jan. | |
| | | New York - Vienna | | Feb., March | Jan. | | March | | Jan., Feb., March |
| | | Washington, DC - Vienna | | Jan., Feb., March | Jan., Feb. | | Nov. | Jan. | Feb., March |
| Delta | Virgin Atlantic | Detroit - Amsterdam | 100,000 | Nov., Jan. | | | Jan. | | |
| | | New York - Brussels | | Jan., March | Jan. | Feb. | Nov. | Jan., March | Jan., Feb. |
| | | New York - Frankfurt | | Jan. | | | March to May | | |
| | | New York - Reykjavík | 95,000-115,000 | Oct., April | | | April, May | | |
| | | New York - London | | Aug. | | | April, May | | Aug. |
| | | Portland - Amsterdam | 100,000 | Nov., Feb., March | Jan. | | Feb., March | Jan. | |
| TAP | United | Boston - Lisbon | 144,000 | Feb., March | Jan. | | Feb., March | | |
| | | New York - Lisbon | | Jan. | Feb. | | Jan., March, May | Feb., March | |
| | | Washington, DC - Lisbon | | Jan., Feb. | | | Jan., Feb., March | Feb. | |

Months in black at least four seats available; in [blue](#) at least six seats; in [green](#) at least seven seats. Remember to use the data as a guide since availability can be volatile

UNITED UPGRADE AVAILABILITY FOR THE FAMILY

Here are three routes to Europe with United mileage upgrade availability from economy to Business. (40,000 round-trip, valid with most fares, plus \$1,100 co-pay.)

| Operating Airline | 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 |
| United | Boston - London | Oct., Jan. | | | Nov., Jan., March, April, June, July | Oct., Dec., Feb., March, April, Aug. | Oct., Feb., May |
| | Newark - London | Oct. | | | Oct., Feb., March, April | Oct. | |
| | Washington, DC - Frankfurt | Oct. | | | Dec., Jan., Feb. | | |

Months in black at least four seats available; in [blue](#) at least six seats; in [green](#) at least seven seats. Remember to use the data as a guide since availability can be volatile

ONE ROUTE WITH FIRST CLASS FAMILY AVAILABILITY

Here's the only American Airlines route with First Class availability for a family of four or more.

| Operating Airline | Route | Round-trip Mileage Cost | 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 |
| American | New York - London | 168,000-249,000 | Dec., Jan., Aug. | | | Dec., Jan., Feb., Aug. | Nov. to Jan., Aug. | |

Months in black at least four seats available; in [blue](#) at least six seats; in [green](#) at least seven seats. Remember to use the data as a guide since availability can be volatile

TRANSFER POINTS PARTNERS

The chart below shows airlines with four or more award seats available, and their points transfer partners.


Partner availability can be different from the operating carrier's loyalty program. As with any deal,

make sure you double-check availability with the mileage program you want to use, before you transfer any points to miles.

| Airline With Four or More Seats Available | Carrier Points Redemption Partners | Lowest Cost Mileage Redemption Partners | Partner Points Redemption Partners |
|---|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| American | Citi | Cathay Pacific | Amex, Capital One, Citi |
| Austrian | | United | Chase |
| Delta | Amex | Virgin Atlantic | Amex, Chase, Citi |
| Japan | | Cathay Pacific | Amex, Capital One, Citi |
| Singapore | Amex | Singapore | Amex, Capital One, Chase, Citi |
| TAP | Capital One | United | Chase |
| United | Chase | All Nippon | Amex |

WATERING THE FAMILY TREE

Don't write off premium travel with miles or points just because you're traveling with four or more people.

A composite image featuring a man's face from the nose up, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and a dark jacket. On top of his head is a realistic human brain, which is enclosed within a metal cage structure. A small red stop sign is visible on one of the cage's vertical bars. The background is a solid, muted teal color.

The Upgrade Mindset & Contentment, Part II: Unhappy Ticket Buyers & FCF's Theory of Relativity

October 2022

It's all about perspective...

It's human to think in relative, and not absolute, terms. We all perceive an inch on a yardstick as smaller than an inch on a ruler. A \$20 discount on a restaurant meal seems way more substantial than a \$20 discount on a new sofa, despite the fact that you're getting \$20 either way.

This is a form of cognitive bias that we fall victim to every day. There's confirmation bias, optimism bias, the halo effect... or my personal favorite, the Dunning-Kruger effect, where someone thinks they're the smartest person in the room, when in fact the opposite is the case, but they're too incompetent to realize it. (Charles Bukowski put it best: "The problem with the world is that the intelligent people are full of doubts while the stupid ones are full of confidence.")

In travel, anomalies of relativity abound. Jake hates making domestic connections, but he wouldn't hesitate to make a double or even triple connection from Monterey to the Maldives. But if he has to book a connection to Los Angeles? Heck no.

Margy wouldn't think of paying 40% more than the lowest cost in dollars or miles, and yet she's overlooking the fact the more expensive one fits perfectly with her schedule, on a nice internationally configured widebody flight, and it's to and from her favorite airports.

A trip to the Maldives can certainly be looked at in relative terms. If you don't like long-haul flights, a low \$2,400 Business Class fare is kind of irrelevant, or if it's not on your bucket list, you don't care about a great fare. But let's say you're a loyalty traveler looking to rack up miles. In that case, a \$2,400 flight to the Maldives can sound pretty great.

NO FARE IS AN ISLAND

All of which is to say: No fare is an island (Maldives or not) and you shouldn't necessarily look at fares in isolation. Most loyalty travelers go straight to their favorite airline website, thus missing the *context* of what other airlines are charging. How can you recognize a good fare if you're only looking at one airline, one route, one origin airport, or even one class of service? Without the full context, how could you say that something is expensive or inconvenient? **Those self-talk statements are relative, without relevant data.** So how does all this *relate* to booking flights?



Maldives

IT TAKES TWO KINDS

I see two kinds of travelers, those that love booking flights and those that don't. "[Opportunity](#)" travelers go where the deals are. They're the ones flying comfortably for way less. The other travelers lock themselves in on a particular flight, with a particular airline, on a particular date, thus locking themselves OUT of any potential opportunity.

Most people hate booking airline tickets. That's because they see on screen in black and white how they've committed to what amounts to a high-fare route, date, airline, and flight, and/or they think that fares should be less.

And the process itself isn't much fun either, for them. They're forced to search on a zillion websites trying to squeeze blood out of a stone. These are unhappy bookers with unrealistic expectations.

Here's a plan: start with a deal, have a bucket list of five or 10 destinations, don't lock yourself into one airline, and reap the benefits of Opportunity Travel. We have a bunch of readers that do just this, and let me tell you, they usually have a smile on their faces when they're booking.

IT'S ALL ABOUT PERSPECTIVE: 3 WAYS TO FLIP YOUR COGNITIVE-BIASED TRAVEL MIND

1. The 3Cs. Last month we covered the [3Cs of premium air travel](#): Cost, Comfort, and Convenience – where cost is dollars, miles, or points, comfort is the class of service and seat quality, and convenience are the dates, times, number of stops, routing, layover times and so on. Most people are aiming to optimize all three on a journey and are generally disappointed. I sing this song: "[two out of three ain't bad](#)" – aim for two of those three Cs. You should be happy paying a little more if you get a nice seat on the exact dates you want. Or, for a nice low price, you might have to put up with leaving a day or so earlier or later, and so on. I think you'll find that this opens up possibilities, rather than closing them down.

2. Already have a trip in mind? Be an Opportunity Traveler. Beating cognitive biases means opening your mind and being flexible. Sometimes, it means being a little adventurous. Don't see a deal to Copenhagen in FCF's [Rare Fares](#)? Why not look at some nearby cities? European cities are often relatively close to each other, and travel from one to another is cheap over there. Hey, there's a deal to Amsterdam. Grab it and catch a short flight or the train over to Denmark. Can't find a great deal to Singapore but Ho Chi Minh City is available for a discount price in Business Class? Go to HCM – a fantastic destination – and then jump a shuttle to Singapore. They're only two hours apart. That right there is being an [Opportunity Traveler](#). Go get 'em.

3. Don't have a trip in mind but would take one if the price was right? Don't Book Backwards. The conventional wisdom when booking travel is to dream of somewhere you want to go (maybe you were inspired by a magazine article or a friend's story), THEN you plan (most folks visit 38 websites during this phase, according to surveys) and THEN you book. I say, flip that script. So when I book, I rate the premium cabin aspect of my trip as highly important. ("If I have to fly coach, I'm not going," many say.) I start there and build around it. This means finding a great flying experience and retrofitting it back to a range of destinations I have

in the back of my mind (but never in the back of the plane). In this way, you're turning the funnel upside down with the largest number of premium travel opportunities at the start of the process. [More about booking backwards here.](#)



Use FCF's two-trips-on-one-ticket to win any contest at your next BBQ boast competition

One of FCF's favorite ticketing maneuvers is the Leg Stretch Strategy (LSS), because it can often get you Business Class 3-for-1s. We discovered it many years ago and have covered it a number of times to all parts of the globe. But it's been 11 months since we've put it under the microscope, so it's time to pull on those leg warmers and get physical with a healthy Leg Stretch.

SAY FETCH FOR THE LEG STRETCH

It's the most counterintuitive travel strategy I can think of. Probably for two reasons:

#1: The fare isn't aimed at Americans, yet Americans can really make hay with huge savings. I'm talking about long-haul flights (a bunch of them) in **Business Class, sometimes for the price of coach** and sometimes even less.

#2: It's booking two different trips on one ticket – which is just not on anyone's radar.

Let's recap what the Leg Stretch Strategy is. In the example below, it will take you from Europe to South America, via stops in the U.S. (both directions), and back to Europe. We've also done Leg Stretch strategies involving [Asia](#) and the Middle East.

But here's the thing, if you were to break up those segments into separate trips, namely Europe to the U.S; and the U.S. to South America, you'd pay WAY more than if you combine them into one ticket.

Didn't know you could? Well, you can.

THIS MONTH'S LEG STRETCH

Europe-USA-South America-USA-Europe – all on one ticket

So you might be pondering: When would I do such a trip? These destinations are so different (and pretty far apart).

The genius of the strategy is that you can stretch the ticket over a year. You might have business in Europe in January and July, and a vacation in Brazil in March. That's fine. **The U.S. “stopover” between Europe and South America is simply when you're hanging out at home.**

Since this fare is aimed ostensibly at non-Americans, the LSS starts in Europe, so you'll have to get yourself there and back home at the beginning and end of the strategy (unless you let the good times roll and book another LSS again). But believe me, with the amount you save, it's worth it to just find a round-trip, or two one-way flights for those legs ([paying in miles is often best for one-ways.](#)) You're still going to end up way ahead.

FCF'S CONTINENTAL DIVIDE AND CONQUER STRATEGY *SAMPLE* ITINERARY...



A quick summary of the sample itinerary:

LSS Ticket Segment #1: Amsterdam to New York. Stay at home as long as you'd like before your trip to South America — as long as you complete the entire itinerary within 12 months.

LSS Ticket Segment #2: New York to São Paulo. Stay and have an awesome time in Brazil (or hop around from there to other South American hot spots).

LSS Ticket Segment #3: São Paulo to New York. Go home and relax.

LSS Ticket Segment #4: New York to Amsterdam, London, Paris, or any other European destination (the final leg of the Leg Stretch) that has a low LSS fare and is on your bucket list... The world is your oyster. Then at the end you find another one-way fare back to the U.S. OR you start another LSS and just keep living the dream.

This strategy works best for travelers with a homebase in or near Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, and Washington, DC.—or travelers willing to buy separate tickets to those cities.

SO WHAT DOES THIS COST AND WHAT DO YOU SAVE?

If you were to divide this Leg Stretch into separate trips in coach, it would cost **around \$2,943** for nonstops on Delta, at time of publication. But if you were to combine them all into one LSS Business Class ticket, it would cost (drumroll, please) **\$2,380**. That’s Business for \$500+ /less than the price of coach.

Amsterdam - New York - São Paulo - New York - Amsterdam **The Equivalent of Two Round-Trips** on Delta in Business Class for \$2,380 USD Normally \$2,943+ in coach or \$6,620 in Business

DELTA

AMS - AMS

Multi-City

Jan 31-Jul 12

1 Passenger

MODIFY

SIGN UP

LOG IN

Trip Summary

SKY PRIORITY

| | | | | | | |
|----------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Flight 1 | DL49 | AMS • JFK | Tue, Jan 31 | 12:00pm - 2:30pm | Nonstop, 8h 30m Delta One® suites | |
| Flight 2 | DL6056 ¹ | JFK • GRU | Wed, Mar 15 | THU, MAR 16 6:45pm - 5:20am | Nonstop, 9h 35m Business | |
| Flight 3 | DL226 | GRU • JFK | Wed, Mar 22 | THU, MAR 23 9:15pm - 6:20am | Nonstop, 10h 5m Delta One® | |
| Flight 4 | DL46 | JFK • AMS | Wed, Jul 12 | THU, JUL 13 4:20pm - 5:55am | Nonstop, 7h 35m Delta One® | |

Trip Total

Currency Calculator

1 Passenger

Flights

€2,250.00

Taxes, Fees & Charges

€205.64

Amount Due

€2,455.64 EUR

2 left at this price

COMPARING THE LEG STRETCH WITH ROUND-TRIP TICKETS IN BUSINESS CLASS

Now let’s compare it to a Business Class trip where those destinations are broken down into separate trips. In Business Class, it would cost

GET CREATIVE, SWITCH IT UP

For just a bit more, instead of traveling back to Amsterdam, travel to London, Paris, etc. Here’s an example to London:
on Delta in Business Class for \$2,510 USD

AMS - LHR

Multi-City

Jan 31-Jul 12

1 Passenger

MODIFY

SIGN UP

LOG IN

3

Q

Trip Summary

SKY PRIORITY

Flight 1

DL49

AMS → JFK

Tue, Jan 31

12:00pm - 2:30pm

Nonstop, 8h 30m

Delta One® suites

▼

Flight 2

DL6056¹

JFK → GRU

Wed, Mar 15

THU, MAR 16
6:45pm - 5:20am

Nonstop, 9h 35m

Business

▼

Flight 3

DL226

GRU → JFK

Wed, Mar 22

THU, MAR 23
9:15pm - 6:20am

Nonstop, 10h 5m

Delta One®

▼

Flight 4

DL5996²

JFK → LHR

Wed, Jul 12

WED, JUL 12
8:15am - 8:00pm

Nonstop, 6h 45m

Upper Class

▼

Trip Total

Currency Calculator

1 Passenger

Flights

€2,384.00

Taxes, Fees & Charges

€205.64

Amount Due

€2,589.64 EUR

2 left at this price

END GAME: KEEP THE LSS PARTY PUMPING, OR SLEEP IT OFF AT HOME?

At the end of your Leg Stretch adventure, you have two options. You can embark on ANOTHER Leg Stretch ticket, or just get a ticket that ends at home. Let's break this down.

Option #1: Book Another LSS Ticket: Remember, in Europe you're already at the starting point of *another* LSS. Since you can control the timing of that final flight from the U.S. to complete an LSS, you can make it work with your next multi-continent ticket. The savings you'd net over more trips like this are astronomical.

Option #2: Head Home: If you're a one-and-done LSSer, you can buy a round-trip ticket to/from the starting point and return destinations, or even two one-way tickets.

SAMPLE DELTA LSS FARES

While they change all the time, when we played with the dates we found the following at time of publication:

| Start Your LSS Ticket In: | Your U.S. Stop (Both Coming and Going) | Your South American Destination: | Fare for Four Legs (In Effect, Two Round-Trips) | Total Normal Cost For Two Round-Trips in Business Class | Savings |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| Zurich | Houston | Rio de Janeiro | \$2,730 | \$14,679 | \$11,949 / 81% |
| Munich | Houston | Rio de Janeiro | \$3,044 | \$14,460 | \$11,416 / 79% |
| Frankfurt | Chicago | Rio de Janeiro | \$2,942 | \$13,512 | \$10,570 / 78% |

| Start Your LSS Ticket In: | Your U.S. Stop (Both Coming and Going) | Your South American Destination: | Fare for Four Legs (In Effect, Two Round-Trips) | Total Normal Cost For Two Round-Trips in Business Class | Savings |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| Vienna | Washington, DC | Sao Paulo | \$2,907 | \$13,425 | \$10,518 / 78% |
| Amsterdam | Minneapolis | Sao Paulo | \$2,431 | \$8,439 | \$6,008 / 71% |
| Milan | Atlanta | Sao Paulo | \$2,517 | \$7,570 | \$5,053 / 67% |
| Amsterdam | New York | Sao Paulo | \$2,380 | \$6,620 | \$4,240 / 64% |
| Rome | Boston | Sao Paulo | \$2,495 | \$6,952 | \$4,457 / 64% |
| Paris | Miami | Santiago | \$3,025 | \$8,150 | \$5,125 / 63% |
| London | New York | Rio de Janeiro | \$2,885 | \$6,185 | \$3,300 / 53% |

HOW TO BOOK

You have several options but booking through a travel agent is best because an agent has easy access to inventory information. You can also use [Delta's](#) website or your favorite online booking engines such as Google Flights, Expedia, Orbitz, 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/flights multi-city screenshot below:

Google Flights Multi-city search interface showing a 4-stop itinerary:

| From | To | Date |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Rome FCO | New York | Wed, Feb 1 |
| New York | São Paulo GRU | Tue, Feb 7 |
| São Paulo GRU | New York | Mon, Feb 13 |
| New York | Rome FCO | Wed, Feb 22 |

Buttons: Add flight

MORE LSS INSIGHTS IN FCF'S EXTENSIVE RESEARCH, WE'VE DISCOVERED THE FOLLOWING LSS TRENDS RECENTLY:

Lowest Cost European Destination Cities: Amsterdam, Frankfurt, London, Milan, Munich, Paris, Rome, Vienna, and Zurich.

Lowest Cost South American Destination Cities: Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, and São Paulo.

Lowest Cost U.S. Stopover (your home): Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, and Washington, DC.

Airlines LSS works best with right now: Delta, as you can see above. While American was [great in the past for combining Asia and South America](#), its fares for Europe and South America are considerably more at time of this publication. But even in the \$3,800 to \$4,200 range, they still can represent solid savings. We have not seen any low prices using this strategy on United recently, but have [found them in the past](#). So once again, don't give up because these fares change constantly.

FLIP THE TRIP

If you start your Leg Stretch Strategy trip In South America, (making it South America>U.S.>Europe>U.S.>South America), you can still typically save 40% or more versus buying those same trips separately. In this case, you'd be beginning and ending the LSS in South America instead of Europe. It costs a little more than starting and ending in Europe, at the moment, but if you have things to do in South America, it's still hugely beneficial, pricewise. Here's an example:

SAMPLE LEG STRETCH STRATEGY STARTING IN SOUTH AMERICA

South America - U.S. - Europe - U.S. - South America

| Start Your LSS Ticket In: | Your U.S. Stop (Both Coming and Going) | Your European Destination: | Fare for Four Legs (in effect, two round-trips) | Total Two Round-Trips in Business Class | Savings |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|---|---------------|
| Sao Paulo | New York | London | \$3,764 | \$6,551 | \$2,787 / 43% |



Take Off Your Shoes: Japan Reopens its Doors and FCF Opens Up 88% First Class Savings

October 2022

Japan is open for Business (and First), so let's get there without paying the usual sumo-sized prices, with—or without—miles or points

You probably heard: Starting [October 11](#), Japan is reopening its borders to tourism with fewer restrictions. Ironically, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida made this announcement in *New York* where he was attending a UN General Assembly meeting.

All returnees and entrants to Japan are required to provide either a valid vaccination certificate (three doses), or a certificate of a negative test within 72 hours prior to departure from the country of origin.

While this is great news, it's tempered a little by the fact that fares to Tokyo are sumo-sized right now. First Class nonstop flights range from \$19,400 to \$24,400 and Business Class nonstops range between \$7,200 and \$12,900. But that's nothing new for this destination.

So, while enjoying a teriyaki chicken takeaway feast, our intrepid team got to work surveying nonstop availability using miles and points and found free award availability in First Class on All Nippon Airways and Japan Airlines, and in Business Class on All Nippon Airways, Japan Airlines, and Singapore Airlines. United has free award availability and upgrades to Business Class.

And of course, we went straight to the top and looked at **First Class availability**. October dates are in 2022 while September are 2023. In other words, you can go now or in a year.

| Airline | To Tokyo From | Round-trip Mileage Cost | Outbound | | Return | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | | | 4 to 8 Days Per Month | 9 to 12 Days Per Month | 4 to 8 Days Per Month | 9 to 12 Days Per Month |
| All Nippon | Chicago | 150,000 | Sept. | | | |
| Japan Airlines | Chicago | 140,000 | | Sept. | Oct. | Sept. |
| | Los Angeles | | Sept. | | Oct. | Oct., Sept. |
| | New York | | | Sept. | | Sept. |
| | San Francisco | | Oct. | | Oct. | Oct., Sept. |
| | | | | | | |

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

NO MILES? NO PROBLEM.

Simply buy them (ideally when they are on sale) and you'll save a fortune compared to using those same dollars to buy normal fares. Buy American miles when on sale to get Japan Airlines First Class (more on how to save up to \$21,520 below), and United miles when on sale for All Nippon. For those of you who love the Virgin / All Nippon deal, we didn't find any availability using Virgin miles.

The chart below shows how you can take a samurai sword to the cost of a normal First Class fare, with an Amex points partner, for flights on All Nippon and Japan Airlines.

| Operating Carrier | To Tokyo From | Lowest Cost Amex Partner | Amex Partner Cost | Cost To Buy Points / Miles at 2.5¢ | Normal Published Fare | Savings | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----|
| All Nippon | Chicago | All Nippon | 150,000 | \$3,750 | \$22,300 | \$18,550 | 83% |
| Japan | Chicago | Cathay Pacific | 240,000 | \$6,000 | \$23,800 | \$17,800 | 75% |
| | Los Angeles | British Airways | 206,000 | \$5,150 | \$19,400 | \$14,250 | 73% |
| | New York | Cathay Pacific | 240,000 | \$6,000 | \$24,400 | \$18,400 | 75% |
| | San Francisco | British Airways | 206,000 | \$5,150 | \$21,700 | \$16,550 | 76% |

And similarly, you can buy American or United miles to karate kick those regular fares to the curb. Can you believe a savings of \$16,520 to \$21,520 for one trip?!

PARTNER SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES USING AMERICAN OR UNITED MILES

| Operating Carrier | To Tokyo From | Buy Miles From | Mileage Cost | Typical Cost To Buy Miles When on Sale at about 1.8¢ | Normal Published Fare | Savings | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--|-----------------------|----------|-----|
| All Nippon | Chicago | United | 220,000 | \$3,960 | \$22,300 | \$18,340 | 82% |
| Japan | Chicago | American | 160,000 | \$2,880 | \$23,800 | \$20,920 | 88% |
| | Los Angeles | | | | \$19,400 | \$16,520 | 85% |
| | New York | | | | \$24,400 | \$21,520 | 88% |
| | San Francisco | | | | \$21,700 | \$18,820 | 87% |

BUSINESS CLASS TO JAPAN

Along with First Class, we also drilled down on Business Class. First up, our *bento box* of availability on All Nippon, Japan, Singapore, and United.

| Airline | To Tokyo From | Round-trip Mileage Cost | 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 |
| All Nippon | Chicago | 75,000 | | Sept. | | Oct., Aug., Sept. | | |
| | Houston | | July, Aug. | Sept. | | Sept. | | |
| | Los Angeles | | Aug., Sept. | | | Aug., Sept. | Oct. | Sept. |
| | San Francisco | | Oct., Aug., Sept. | | | Oct., Sept. | | Oct. |
| | Seattle | | Oct. | Oct. | | Oct. | Oct. | |
| | Washington, DC | | Aug. | | | Sept. | | |
| Japan | Boston | 100,000 | Aug., Sept. | Aug. | Sept. | June, Aug., Sept. | | Sept. |
| | Chicago | | July, Aug., Sept. | Aug. | Sept. | Aug., Sept. | Sept. | Sept. |
| | Dallas | | Oct., Nov., July, Aug. | July, Aug. | Nov., Aug., Sept. | Nov., Aug., Sept. | Aug. | Sept. |
| | Los Angeles | | Nov., July, Aug., Sept. | Aug. | Aug., Sept. | Aug., Sept. | Aug. | Aug., Sept. |
| | New York | | July, Aug., Sept. | | Aug., Sept. | | Sept. | Sept. |
| | San Francisco | | | Sept. | | Oct. | Sept. | |
| | Seattle | | Aug. | July, Aug. | Aug., Sept. | Oct., Aug. | Aug., Sept. | Aug., Sept. |
| Singapore | Los Angeles | 207,000 | Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., March, April, May, June | Nov., Jan., Feb., April, May, Sept. | Nov., Feb., May, July, Aug. | Nov., Jan., Feb., March, May, June, July to Sept. | Oct., July | Oct., Aug. |

| Airline | To Tokyo From | Round-trip Mileage Cost | 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 |
| United | Chicago | 144,800-145,600 | | | | Oct., June, July, Aug. | | |
| | Denver | 140,000 | April, May | | June, July, Aug. | | | Aug. |
| | Los Angeles | 140,000 | June | June | July, Aug. | | Aug. | |
| | San Francisco | 140,000-145,600 | May | | June to Aug. | Oct., Aug. | | |

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

The chart below shows huge savings when you buy points instead of fares. Look at that All Nippon San Francisco-Tokyo opportunity as one example. You could fork out \$11,252 for a Business Class fare on All Nippon, or run that bad idea over with a bullet train and instead pay just \$1,875 by buying the miles required, through Amex. *Arigato!*

PARTNER SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES USING AMEX POINTS

| Operating Airline | To Tokyo From | Lowest Cost Amex Miles Partner | Amex Partner Cost / Miles | Cost To Buy Points / Miles at 2.5¢ | Normal Published Fare | Buying Amex Points Savings | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| All Nippon | Chicago | All Nippon | 75,000 | \$1,875 | \$10,300 | \$8,425 | 82% |
| | Houston | | | | \$11,252 | \$9,377 | 83% |
| | Los Angeles | | | | \$7,001 | \$5,126 | 73% |
| | San Francisco | | | | \$11,252 | \$9,377 | 83% |
| | Seattle | | | | \$8,589 | \$6,714 | 78% |
| | Washington, DC | | | | \$11,500 | \$9,625 | 84% |

| Operating Airline | To Tokyo From | Lowest Cost Amex Miles Partner | Amex Partner Cost / Miles | Cost To Buy Points / Miles at 2.5¢ | Normal Published Fare | Buying Amex Points Savings | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Japan | Boston | Cathay Pacific | 150,000 | \$3,750 | \$9,863 | \$6,113 | 62% |
| | Chicago | | | | \$9,976 | \$6,226 | 62% |
| | Dallas | | | | \$9,446 | \$5,696 | 60% |
| | Los Angeles | | | | \$6,198 | \$2,448 | 39% |
| | New York | | | | \$10,024 | \$6,274 | 63% |
| | San Francisco | | 122,000 | \$3,050 | \$9,785 | \$6,035 | 62% |
| | Seattle | | | | \$7,243 | \$4,193 | 58% |
| Singapore | Los Angeles | Singapore | 184,000 | \$4,600 | \$7,711 | \$3,111 | 40% |
| United | Chicago | All Nippon | 85,000 | \$2,125 | \$11,452 | \$9,327 | 81% |
| | Denver | | | | \$12,400 | \$10,275 | 83% |
| | Los Angeles | | | | \$8,815 | \$6,690 | 76% |
| | San Francisco | | | | \$12,985 | \$10,860 | 84% |

As with First Class, you can buy American or United miles and save big on Business Class trips. It's a great way to beat high fares, which I do all the time.

| Operating Carrier | To Tokyo From | Buy Miles From | Mileage Cost | Typical Cost To Buy Miles When on Sale at about 1.8¢ | Normal Published Fare | Savings | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--|-----------------------|---------|-----|
| All Nippon | Chicago | United | 160,000 | \$2,880 | \$10,300 | \$7,420 | 72% |
| | Houston | | | | \$11,252 | \$8,372 | 74% |
| | Los Angeles | | | | \$7,001 | \$4,121 | 59% |
| | San Francisco | | | | \$11,252 | \$8,372 | 74% |
| | Seattle | | | | \$8,589 | \$5,709 | 66% |
| | Washington, DC | | | | \$11,500 | \$8,620 | 75% |

| Operating Carrier | To Tokyo From | Buy Miles From | Mileage Cost | Typical Cost To Buy Miles When on Sale at about 1.8¢ | Normal Published Fare | Savings | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--|-----------------------|----------|-----|
| Japan | Boston | American | 120,000 | \$2,160 | \$9,863 | \$7,703 | 78% |
| | Chicago | | | | \$9,976 | \$7,816 | 78% |
| | Dallas | | | | \$9,446 | \$7,286 | 77% |
| | Los Angeles | | | | \$6,198 | \$4,038 | 65% |
| | New York | | | | \$10,024 | \$7,864 | 78% |
| | San Francisco | | | | \$9,785 | \$7,625 | 78% |
| | Seattle | | | | \$7,243 | \$5,083 | 70% |
| United | Chicago | United | 160,000 | \$2,880 | \$11,452 | \$8,572 | 75% |
| | Denver | | | | \$12,400 | \$9,520 | 77% |
| | Los Angeles | | | | \$8,815 | \$5,935 | 67% |
| | San Francisco | | | | \$12,985 | \$10,105 | 78% |

UNITED UPGRADE AVAILABILITY

Here are five routes to Asia with United mileage upgrade availability from economy to Business Class (60,000 round-trip, valid with most fares, plus a \$900 co-pay).

| To Tokyo From | Outbound | | | Return | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | 4 to 8 Days Per Month | 9 to 12 Days Per Month | 13+ Days Per Month | 4 to 8 Days Per Month | 9 to 12 Days Per Month | 13+ Days Per Month |
| Chicago | April, May | Feb., April to June | Feb., March, July, Aug. | Oct., June, Aug. | | |
| Denver | | | June., July, Aug. | Aug. | | |
| Los Angeles | Feb., April, June, Sept. | Feb., July | May, July, Aug. | Aug. | Oct., Sept. | |
| New York | Feb., March | Feb., April to Aug. | | | | |

| To Tokyo From | Outbound | | | Return | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | 4 to 8 Days Per Month | 9 to 12 Days Per Month | 13+ Days Per Month | 4 to 8 Days Per Month | 9 to 12 Days Per Month | 13+ Days Per Month |
| San Francisco | May | | June to Aug. | Oct. | | |

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

WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT...

- Sick of negative stories about poor First Class availability to Asia? AND are you single or, er, flying solo? Then [this read is for you.](#)
- And [this is a report](#) we wrote when Tokyo was closed, however you might like the strategy of **using Tokyo as a gateway to other Asian destinations.**



With the Pound Sinking to Record Lows, the UK's on Serious Sale

October 2022

Now's the time to head across the pond to take advantage of pond-size savings, including a Euro that's worth about the same as a dollar

If you love a bargain, grab your credit card and head to the airport. The UK is on serious sale — as in Black Friday, doorbuster, and Blue Light Special sale.

With the British pound hitting record lows against the dollar, the cost for U.S. travelers has plummeted by more than 20 percent in the last six months. (The euro, too, has taken a dive and now stands at about 1:1 with the greenback.) Add that up over a long weekend shopping trip, and you can save big.



We'll leave it to economists to explain the details, but while central bankers and currency traders sort through the news, this is the time to visit London, a notoriously pricey destination where travelers now can scoop up deals on hotels, meals, and luxury goods.

SAVE BIG ON DELUXE HOTELS

First, your accommodations. London claims to have more five-star hotels than any other city in the world, and this is your chance to try one out.

A deluxe king room at the five-star Savoy Hotel that goes for around \$852 a night right now would have cost \$1,108 back in April — a savings of \$256. Just be sure to pre-pay to lock in today's rate. If you plan to visit London, say for the Chelsea Flower Show next May, you can save enough for all kinds of upgrades.

DINE IN STYLE WITH CHANGE TO SPARE

This is also a time to sample London's high-end dining. With nearly 70 Michelin-star restaurants, including Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester and Restaurant Gordon Ramsay, you won't have to settle for beans on toast.

SCORE HUGE SAVINGS ON LUXURY GOODS

And then there's the shopping.

If you found yourself admiring the fashion at Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, you may want to snap up a hat from Philip Treacy, milliner to the royal family, suggests Marcia Sherrill, who runs the travel and shopping site Cool City Guides. Or perhaps it's time for a bespoke or made-to-measure Saville Row suit.

Others may want to wander Bond Street, where retailers report Americans are scoring collectible Rolex, Cartier, and Patek Philippe watches at big savings. And you can always explore stores like Harrods with 330 departments spread over seven floors, or Selfridges, which boasts the world's largest assortment of designer jeans (11,000 pairs).

But before you splurge, keep these details in mind:

- Don't forget U.S. customs. Even if it's a bargain, you typically must pay duty on purchases totaling over \$800. (A family traveling together can combine their \$800 exemptions, but you must have been overseas for at least 48 hours to qualify.) After that, it's a 3% charge on the next \$1,000, and then the additional rate varies based on the item.
- Be careful at the airport duty-free shop. Purchases there still count toward your exemption.
- When using a credit card, always choose to make your purchase in pounds, not dollars. This rookie error can cost you because credit card companies use an unfavorable exchange rate that will cut into your savings.

With that in mind, you're ready to hop on over to Heathrow. Just remember to bring an extra suitcase.



October 2022

Travel like a champ on the most comfortable flights and save up to 33% with the best fares, too

Last month we wrote about the [three Cs of travel](#): cost, comfort, and convenience, and how getting two out of three for premium travel ain't bad (hey, if it's not premium travel you can rule out comfort every time).

In this report, we score all three Cs on a Hawaiian vacation. I'm talking about beautiful, big, comfy, [internationally configured Domestic Business Class](#) seats combined with a package deal that's destined to make your next Hawaiian getaway one to remember.

EXTEND YOUR VACATION WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE

Vacations are precious. As far as I'm concerned, the flights to and from your vacation are part of the vacation itself. They can either add to it or detract from it. A nice comfortable widebody flight means your vacation starts at the airport, not on the beaches of Hawaii. In effect, a great flying experience adds two days to your holiday. Conversely, a bad flying experience leaves a bad taste in your mouth either at the beginning or the end (or both) when you should be arriving back home refreshed.

Unfortunately, finding a widebody aircraft to Hawaii is harder now than ever.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE COMFY SEATS TO HAWAII?

There were many more widebody flights to Hawaii this time last year. American Airlines had five then, but now they only have two (Dallas to Honolulu and Maui). Delta had 11, but now they only have seven (Atlanta, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, and Seattle to Honolulu, and Los Angeles or Seattle to Maui). United had 16, but now they have 10 (Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Newark, San Francisco to Honolulu; Chicago to Kona; Chicago, Denver, and San Francisco to Maui.)

That's a 40% decrease in widebody flights to Hawaii. Why? Because airlines are shifting aircraft to fast-growing international routes and away from former domestic routes that ruled when there was little demand for international flights due to The Lockdown.

So we thought we'd give you the ultimate Hawaiian vacation gift: a comprehensive guide to current widebody flights to paradise, COMBINED WITH a fantastic deluxe package deal.

ABOUT THE SEATS

Currently there are 12 nonstop routes from the U.S. mainland to Honolulu, six to Maui, and one to Kona with widebody aircraft. If you don't fly in these aircraft, you will get a relatively crappy seat on all other flights.

WIDEBODY AIRCRAFT CONFIGURATION BY AIRLINE

| Airline | Aircraft | Version | Number of Seats | Seat Width |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------|-----------------|------------|
| American | B777-200 | 1 | 37 | 21.9 |
| | B787-800 | | 20 | 21 |
| | B787-900 | 2 | 28 | |
| Delta | B767-300ER (K) | 1 | 30 | 20.5 |
| | B767-300ER (L) | 2 | 26 | |
| | B767-300ER (Z) | 3 | 36 | |
| | | | 26 | |

| Airline | Aircraft | Version | Number of Seats | Seat Width |
|------------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------|------------|
| | B767-400ER | 1 | 40 | |
| | B767-400ER | 2 | 34 | 19.9-20 |
| | A330--200 | 1 | 34 | 19.7 |
| | A330--300 | | 34 | |
| | A330--900 | | 29 | 22.5 |
| | A350-900 | | 32 | 20.46 |
| United | B777-300ER (77W) | 1 | 60 | 22 |
| | B767-300 | 1 | 30 | 20.6 |
| | | 2 | 46 | |
| | B767-400 | 1 | 39 | 20.5 |
| | B787-800 | | 28 | |
| | B787-900 | 1 | 48 | 20.6 |
| | | 2 | 48 | 20.5 |
| | B787-10 | 1 | 44 | |

*Aircraft subject to change

AMERICAN WIDE-BODY OPPORTUNITIES U.S. TO HAWAII

American is primarily using the B777-200, 787-800, and the 787-900 to Honolulu and Maui.

| Travel Between | Flight numbers* | Aircraft | Return | Aircraft |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Dallas and Honolulu | AA0123 | B777-200 | AA0102 | B777-200 |
| | AA0115, AA0124 | B787-800 | AA0102, AA0115 | B787-800 |
| | AA0005, AA0115, AA0123 | B787-900 | AA0008, AA0102, AA0115 | B787-900 |
| Dallas and Maui | AA119 | B787-800 | AA116 | B787-800 |
| | AA119, AA007 | B787-900 | AA116, AA006 | B787-900 |

* Schedule through October 31. Flight number and aircraft subject to change.

DELTA WIDE-BODY OPPORTUNITIES U.S. TO HAWAII

Delta is primarily using their A330, A359 and B767 to Honolulu and A330 to Maui routes.

| Travel Between | Flight numbers* | Aircraft | Return | Aircraft |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Atlanta - Honolulu | DL1264 | B767 | DL0836 | B767 |
| | DL0837 | A359 | | |
| Los Angeles - Honolulu | DL0330, DL0443, DL0480 | B767 | DL0331, DL0368, DL0495 | B767 |
| Los Angeles - Maui | DL0443, DL0448, DL0462 | A330 | DL1031, DL0448, DL0355 | A330 |
| Minneapolis - Honolulu | DL0435*** | B767 | DL0788*** | B767 |
| Salt Lake City - Honolulu | DL0397 | | DL0347 | |
| Seattle - Honolulu | DL2874, DL2932, DL0450 | A330 | DL0440** | A330 |
| Seattle - Maui | DL0169 | A330-NE | DL1708 | A330-NE |

* Schedule through October 31. Flight number and aircraft subject to change. ** No Service on Fri. *** No service on Mon., Tue.

UNITED WIDE-BODY OPPORTUNITIES U.S. TO HAWAII

United is primarily using the B767 on Newark-Honolulu routes, B777 on Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco to Honolulu and Denver- and San Francisco-Maui routes, and B787 on Chicago-Honolulu, - Kona and -Maui routes.

| Travel Between | Flight numbers* | Aircraft | Return | Aircraft |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| Chicago - Honolulu | UA219 | B787 | UA218 | B787 |
| Chicago - Kona | UA66** | | UA67** | |
| Chicago - Maui | UA202*** | | UA348*** | |
| Denver - Honolulu | UA384 | B777 | UA383 | B777 |
| Denver - Maui | UA1736**** | | UA1430**** | |
| Houston - Honolulu | UA253 | | UA252 | |
| Los Angeles - Honolulu | UA1158, UA1170 | | UA534, UA1231, UA1636 | |
| Newark - Honolulu | UA363 | B767 | UA362 | B767 |
| San Francisco - Honolulu | UA300, UA1175, UA1509, UA2380 | B777 | UA372, UA396, UA1141 | B777 |
| San Francisco - Maui | UA1273, UA1725 | | UA1722 | |

* Schedule through October 31. Flight number and aircraft subject to change. **Saturday service only; ***No service Tue., Wed.; ****Service on Sun., Mon. only.

SAVINGS ON WIDEBODY HAWAII VACATION PACKAGE DEALS

Now, let's take a look at the vacation packages to Hawaii that, when combined with those beautiful comfortable widebody cabins, mean you'll be enjoying palm tree-swaying luxury and volcanic value. For example, hula your way from San Francisco to Maui on a 777 before staying at the Ritz Carlton. If you were to separate airfare and accommodation for two travelers, you'd pay a total of \$13,534 for five nights. However, if you combine the flight and hotel into a package deal, you'd only pay \$10,842, for a savings of \$2,692, or 20%. The chart below details a range of packages to both Honolulu and Maui from a range of U.S. cities on the big three carriers. And all with multi-thousands of dollars in savings.

SAMPLE PACKAGE PRICE

UNITED

Vacations

MileagePlus® offers

Destinations

Vacation planning

Resorts

Deals

My UV

▼ Flights

Depart: Jan 31

UNITED

SFO

9:05 AM

#1725

United First

OGG

12:37 PM

Total travel time: 5hr 32min

Return: Feb 5

UNITED

OGG

2:10 PM

#1722

United First


SFO

9:05 PM

Total travel time: 4hr 55min

▼ Hotel

The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua



Check in: 1/31/2023

Check out: 2/5/2023

4.5

TripAdvisor Traveler Rating

4339 reviews

Room 1: 2 Adults

Room type: [Deluxe Ocean View room](#) offers partial ocean vie ws of the Pacific Ocean from the lanai, 1 King, Mini fridge, 440sqft/40sqm, Wireless internet, \$100 USD Hotel Credit!

Total Package Price

\$10,842.61

or from \$502/mo

Price Per Person \$5,421.31

COST WHEN PRICED SEPARATELY

Page 6 of 8

Round trip · 2

San Francisco ↔ Kahului

Total price from \$5,656

Departing flight · Tue, Jan 31

2,751 kg CO₂

Change flight

9:05 AM · San Francisco International Airport (SFO)

Travel time: 5 hr 32 min

12:37 PM · Kahului Airport (OGG)

United · First Class · Boeing 777 · UA 1725

Lie flat seat

Wi-Fi for a fee

In-seat power outlet

Stream media to your device

Carbon emissions estimate: 2,751 kg

Returning flight · Sun, Feb 5

2,751 kg CO₂

Change flight

2:10 PM · Kahului Airport (OGG)

Travel time: 4 hr 55 min

9:05 PM · San Francisco International Airport (SFO)

United · First Class · Boeing 777 · UA 1722

Lie flat seat

Wi-Fi for a fee

In-seat power outlet

Stream media to your device

Carbon emissions estimate: 2,751 kg

The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua

1 Ritz-Carlton Drive, Kapalua, Hawaii 96761 USA
+1 808-668-8200

4.4
1327 Reviews

Currency Calculator

EXCLUSIVE AMENITIES

Mobile Key

Digital Check-In

Mobile Dining

Service Request

Spa

Stay Dates: Tue, Jan 31, 2023 - Sun, Feb 5, 2023

Total for Stay 7,878.62 USD

Room(s) held for: 05:10

CONTINUE

Deluxe Ocean View, Guest room, 1 King, Partial ocean view, Lanai

ROOM DETAILS

Check in: Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Check out: Sunday, February 5, 2023

Room(s): 1

Guest(s) per room: 2

EDIT

Summary of Charges

1,302.00
USD Avg. night

+ 1,368.62
USD Taxes and fees

7,878.62
USD Subtotal

SAMPLE DEALS ON WIDEBODY HAWAII VACATION PACKAGES

| Airline | Route | Air Only (Lowest Advance Fare 2 people) | Hotel | Hotel Price | Air Ticket + Hotel Booked Separate | Package Price (Non-stop Air + 5 Nights Hotel) | Supplier | Savings | |
|----------|--------------------|---|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|---|----------|---------|-----|
| American | Dallas-Honolulu | \$7,591 | Espacio Luxury Suite | \$20,643 | \$28,234 | \$20,436 | Orbitz | \$7,798 | 28% |
| | Dallas - Maui | \$8,591 | Ritz Carlton, King | \$12,909 | \$21,500 | \$17,016 | | \$4,484 | 21% |
| Delta | Los Angeles - Maui | \$3,754 | Ritz Carlton, King | \$10,256 | \$14,010 | \$9,423 | | \$4,587 | 33% |

| Airline | Route | Air Only (Lowest Advance Fare 2 people) | Hotel | Hotel Price | Air Ticket + Hotel Booked Separate | Package Price (Non-stop Air + 5 Nights Hotel) | Supplier | Savings | |
|---------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|---|------------------|---------|-----|
| | Atlanta - Honolulu | \$10,299 | Royal Hawaiian, King | \$2,954 | \$13,253 | \$9,580 | Delta Vacations | \$3,673 | 28% |
| | Salt Lake City - Honolulu | \$5,798 | Ritz Carlton, King | \$3,686 | \$9,484 | \$6,862 | | \$2,622 | 28% |
| | Seattle - Maui | \$4,374 | Wailea Beach Resort, King | \$10,590 | \$14,964 | \$11,118 | | \$3,846 | 26% |
| United | Los Angeles - Honolulu | \$3,106 | Prince Waikiki, King | \$2,866 | \$5,972 | \$4,484 | Orbitz | \$1,488 | 25% |
| | San Francisco - Honolulu | \$2,666 | Four Seasons, Resort Oahu, King | \$6,795 | \$9,461 | \$7,694 | | \$1,766 | 19% |
| | San Francisco - Maui | \$5,656 | Ritz Carlton, King | \$7,878 | \$13,534 | \$10,842 | | \$2,692 | 20% |
| | Chicago - Maui | \$14,198 | Wailea Beach Resort, King | \$7,743 | \$21,941 | \$17,318 | United Vacations | \$4,623 | 21% |
| | Denver - Maui | \$12,598 | Wailea Beach Resort, King | \$9,716 | \$22,314 | \$17,627 | | \$4,687 | 21% |

Package prices valid at time of publication and are subject to change.