



Business Class Flash Fares Are B-A-A-A-A-A-C-K

March 2022

Flash Fare Fest For Revenge Travelers. Here's How to Make Yours Sweet.

NOTE: FCF spotted this trend prior to the conflict escalation in Ukraine. While many travel bookings to Europe are in a wait-and-hold to see what happens there, I'm hopeful that the pattern I describe below will continue. From my perspective, this could make a difference in how you plan to use cash or miles for 2022, so that's why I didn't cut this special report from this month's lineup.

People are back to traveling nowadays. Hotels are filling up. Countries such as Austria, Italy, Norway, Spain, and Switzerland are lifting restrictions, seemingly in concert. How does this affect the premium air travel industry? I'm glad you asked.

DID YOU GO WHEN THE GOING WAS HOT?

If you were a mileage or point traveler, up until a few months ago, it wasn't very hard to find low-cost award flights. For many travelers, it was the best of times, whether you'd heard about it or not.

That said, it wasn't like during April 2020 when airlines were discount pricing just to fill up seats in their planes on long-distance routes. Sure, I know plenty of people that didn't stop traveling, but overall they were in the minority.

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED

And now? People are traveling like crazy again. Some call it Revenge Travel. Airline employees who get paid to figure out [elaborate pricing schemes](#) have their jobs back, and they're feverishly doing what they always did: constantly testing new fares to fill unsold seats. It was only two years ago that there were an estimated million fare changes a day.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

So what to do in this new travel atmosphere? You have to be ready to pounce when the moment strikes. It all starts with knowledge of strategies and available deals.

You don't have to look any farther than [Nairobi, Kenya](#), a safari launchpad city. A round-trip flight can be had for [\\$1,696 in Business Class](#). That's amazing. Premium Economy traditionally goes for \$1,600-\$2,200. That means you can upgrade from economy to Business Class for about \$695, or upgrade from Premium Economy to Business Class for just \$95.

SAMPLES OF RECENT FLASH FARES FCF FOUND

Airline	Route	Flash Fare	Normal Fare	Flash Fare Savings	
United	Ft. Lauderdale - Rio de Janeiro	\$1,403	\$3,304	\$1,901	58%
United	Ft. Lauderdale - São Paulo	\$1,553	\$3,284	\$1,731	53%
American	New York - Santiago	\$1,591	\$2,807	\$1,216	43%
Air Canada	Chicago - Cairo	\$1,658	\$3,201	\$1,543	48%
Air Canada	Houston - Dubai	\$1,673	\$4,312	\$2,639	61%
Air France	Dallas - Nairobi	\$1,696	\$3,095	\$1,399	45%
Air France	Toronto - Capetown	\$1,698	\$4,844	\$3,146	65%
Iberia	New York - Porto	\$1,813	\$3,562	\$1,749	49%
American	New York - Geneva	\$1,831	\$3,890	\$2,059	53%
American	New York - Munich	\$1,883	\$3,936	\$2,053	52%

Airline	Route	Flash Fare	Normal Fare	Flash Fare Savings	
JetBlue	New York - London	\$1,941	\$3,000-\$4,000	\$1,059-\$2,059	35%-51%
Air Canada	Montreal - Casablanca	\$1,967	\$3,277	\$1,310	40%
Air France	Montreal - Marrakesh	\$1,970	\$3,077	\$1,107	36%
Delta	Atlanta - Cairo	\$1,976	\$3,155	\$1,179	37%

YOUR FLASH FARE TO-DO LIST

So the first thing you want to do, given these fares come from FCF out of nowhere and don't last long, is find out if they're for you. And more importantly, if they *could* be for you, once you think about them.

What does that mean? Talk to your travel companions (unless you fly alone) and get a sense of where they're willing to go. Also try to get an idea of what regions work and which airlines serve those regions. Then you have to get a sense of how flexible your companions are. For example, if they want to go to Geneva, and there's a great deal to Paris, know that it's only a 3 ½ -hour train ride or a short connecting flight of 1 hour and 15 minutes to get there.

VARIOUS COMPLIMENTARY FARE STRATEGIES

[If You're NOT Flexible: 11 Ways to Save on Premium Flights](#)

[Horses for Courses \(and Cabins\). How Returning in a Different Class Can Make for a Much Better Value](#)

[How to Choose Between a Flash Fare and a Mileage Deal](#)

[How to Lock in Amazing Premium Flash Fares Long Enough to Decide If They're Right for You](#)



March 2022

...Or get free First Class flights for staying at the Hilton

Are you feeling the leafy green shoots emerging from a post-lockdown world? As one of the oldest medical journals, *The Lancet*, puts it, “COVID-19 will continue but the end of the pandemic is near.” It says covid will become another recurrent disease that health systems and societies will have to manage, like a bad influenza season.

Then there’s the horrible situation in Eastern Europe. Just when you start looking to lands afar post-lockdown, lands afar suddenly become less attractive for some. Our hearts go out to those affected and are optimistic it will end soon.

Naturally, with the “pandemic” over, many of you are likely reading this with itchy feet, and want to get away from it all — but perhaps without having to go to a foreign land. One obvious answer is Hawaii. There’s never a bad time to go to the land of hula and pineapples. So this month we came up with a deal for the savvy premium traveler to stay at the Four Seasons while staying in the United States, as well. If you want a volcanic bang for your buck, we’ve found it. It involves [United Vacations](#).

HOW TO SAVE \$10,940 / 40% AT THE FOUR SEASONS HUALALAI

Let’s start with the fun one. If you book the lowest-category room at the Four Seasons Hualalai in Kona on the Big Island for seven nights, you’re looking at a price tag of \$24,360, as you can see here:



Tack on a couple of First Class round-trip tickets on United from Los Angeles to Kona, and you’re looking at another \$2,798.

So, for a total of \$27,158, you get the Four Seasons and two First Class tickets when you buy them separately, as most people do. But (drumroll on coconuts, please), book them through [United Vacations](#) and the price tag is *only* \$16,218, as you can see here:

[MileagePlus® offers](#)
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[Resorts](#)
[Deals](#)

▼ Flights

Depart: Jun 12

LAX

9:00 AM

#2373

→

United First

KOA

11:39 AM

Change flight

Total travel time: 5hr 39min

Return: Jun 19

Next day arrival

KOA

10:48 PM

#1147

→

United First

LAX

7:07 AM

Change flight

Total travel time: 5hr 19min

▼ Hotel

Four Seasons Resort Hualalai

Check in: 6/12/2022

Check out: 6/19/2022

★★★★★

4.5

5

3609 reviews

Room 1: 2 Adults

Room type:

Room-specific promotions

Price per stay:

[Ocean Golf View Room With One King Bed - Free WiFi](#)

Selected

[Change room type](#)

Modify hotel

REVIEW PRICE

Flights & Hotel Package price (includes taxes and carrier imposed fees)	\$16,418.16
Promotion (ALOHA22)	-\$200.00
Price per person	\$8,109.08
Total price	\$16,218.16

[Information on charges payable directly to third parties.](#)

HOW KONA THIS BE TRUE?

You're not the only one thinking about Hawaii right now. People want revenge on lockdowns (revenge travel, that is). They're busting to get out. But, **when booked directly, hotels are charging up to 50% more than normal** given the limited supply and pent-up-demand. We remind you of this Hawaii strategy every so often, most recently [here](#) and [here](#).



So, the savings you can get by packaging up a deal are worth mentioning again, with fresh samples shown in the chart below. These airline-hotel packages are negotiated way ahead of time so they don't always reflect shifting events in the market.


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HOW TO GET 2 FREE FIRST CLASS TICKETS TO HAWAII BY BOOKING HILTON USING UNITED VACATIONS

Four Seasons isn't the only example of a package deal. It costs \$7,745 to stay seven nights at the Hilton Waikoloa Village on the Big Island. That is... the cost for this hotel ONLY is more than a United Vacations package that includes BOTH air and hotel.

Hilton

Your Stay  Sun, Jun 12 – Sun, Jun 19, 2022 (7 nights)  1 room for 2 adults



Hilton Waikoloa Village
69-425 Waikoloa Beach Drive Waikoloa,
Hawaii 96738 USA
[Hotel details >](#)

☐ **Palace Resort View 1 King Bed**
Change Room

☐ **Honors Discount**

Payment and Guest Details

Total for stay	\$7,745.84
Show price details	
Total room charge	\$6,250.94
Total fees	\$315.00
Total taxes	\$1,179.90

So for \$7,745, you get the hotel and *only* the hotel. But what if I told you that you could get that hotel (the same room), PLUS two First Class tickets from Los Angeles on United Airlines, **for \$6,297**. That can be the case if you book using [United Vacations](#). So you're getting two First Class flights for free, right?

Or, "less than free," actually.

Look at it this way: You can get **paid** around \$1,500 to fly in First Class.

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[Deals](#)

▼ Flights

Depart: Jun 12

LAX

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Total travel time: 5hr 39min

Change flight

Return: Jun 19 Next day arrival

KOA

10:48 PM

#1147

→

United First

LAX

7:07 AM

Total travel time: 5hr 19min

Change flight

▼ Hotel

Hilton Waikoloa Village

Check in: 6/12/2022

Check out: 6/19/2022

★★★★★

10509 reviews

Room 1: 2 Adults

Room type:

Room-specific promotions

Price per stay:

[Palace Resort View Aloha Rate Promotion](#)
[formerly Palace Tower Resort View Aloha Rate](#)
[Honeymoon Inclusions!](#)
[Promotion](#)

Selected

Modify hotel


REVIEW PRICE

Flights & Hotel Package price (includes taxes and carrier imposed fees)	\$6,474.15
Promotion (ALOHA22)	-\$176.88
Price per person	\$3,148.64
Total price	\$6,297.27
Pay Monthly	from \$292/mo ⓘ

So, depending on your budget and how itchy you are to get out of town but not venture out of the country right now, FCF has you covered.

By the way, **this doesn't work everywhere all the time**. It takes some time on the [United Vacations](#) site and comparing prices on other sites, like those of Hilton and Four Seasons. But so what... if it takes you an hour or two to save 10 grand or get two First Class tickets for free, then that's volcanic bang for the buck.

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A photograph of a child in a pink dress with large, colorful, translucent fairy wings standing in a grassy area. To the left, a person wearing a mask with orange and blue face paint and a white wig is partially visible. Behind them is a large, ornate, dark wood chair with a pink tufted backrest. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a building and a white metal chair.

Playing Musical Cabins with Miles and Points to Europe with Foreign Airlines to Save on Upgrades, and Even Downgrade

March 2022

Looking beyond U.S. airlines, here's what to do when you don't have enough miles or just want to save a bundle by using Amex, Capital One, Chase and Citi points

FCF's series on booking mixed-cabin tickets highlights many different ways this can work for premium travelers. Mixed-cabin flying is where you fly in one cabin on the outbound flight, like Business Class, and return in another, say, Premium Economy. Or First Class out, Business Class back.

This is a good strategy to implement for comfort, accessibility, and/or price. For example, if you were on a budget why would you pay very much for a lie-flat seat when you'll be working on your laptop or watching a movie? Most people select the default option of flying both ways in the same cabin, but there is another way to maximize value on long-haul flights.

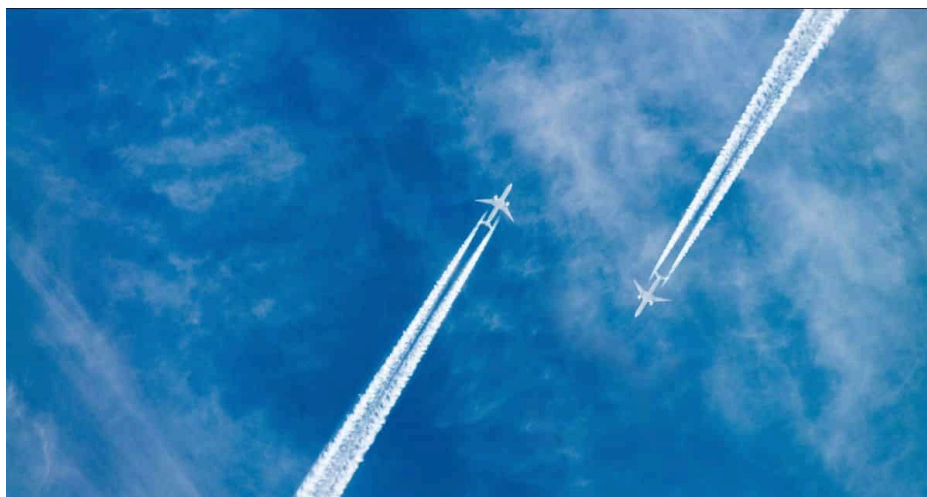
We've covered this strategy using normal published fares, [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). And we also looked at mixing cabins when using miles with American, Delta, and United to Europe [here](#). This was all to prompt you to think creatively about mixing up your seats. You have more choice than you think, and certainly more than the airlines or your average travel advisor will talk to you about.

MIXING CABINS TO EUROPE USING FOREIGN CARRIERS

This month we look at the following carriers to Europe: **Air France, British Airways, Emirates, Iberia, KLM, and Virgin Atlantic** — for which you can obtain miles through points transfers from **Amex, Capital One, Chase, and Citi** — and the many possible cabin combinations, namely:

- First Class on the outbound flight, Business on the return
- First Class on the outbound flight, Premium Economy on the return
- First Class on the outbound flight, economy on the return
- Business Class on the outbound flight, Premium Economy on the return
- Business Class on the outbound flight, economy on the return
- Premium Economy on the outbound flight, economy on the return

There are plenty of reasons to mix cabins, covered more in depth [here](#). You can add this special report to the list if you're not satisfied with the aforementioned options delivered by the big three U.S. airlines.



Mix your cabins each way to maximize your comfort or your dollar

WHY USE FOREIGN CARRIERS' LOYALTY PROGRAMS FOR MIXED CABIN FLIGHTS TO/FROM EUROPE?

Because some foreign carriers offer lower-cost mileage award tickets in First, Business, and/or Premium Economy, while:

- American inflates the cost of mixed-cabin tickets
- Delta is ridiculously high most of the time
- United's mixed-cabin award tickets can often offer good savings, but not always

If your itinerary requires a connection, there's more on that [here](#).

LOOKING AT FOREIGN LOYALTY PROGRAMS FOR THE MIXED-CABIN STRATEGY

We've looked at the top foreign loyalty programs to find out which ones the mixed-cabin strategy to Europe works with best. We'll highlight the best and worst options below.

BEST AND WORST UPGRADES & DOWNGRADES

What's the best downgrade with miles? (By downgrade we mean dropping down a cabin level on one leg to save, more [here](#)). Emirates saves you 40,000 miles and \$17 in taxes when downgrading from a First Class round-trip to First Class outbound (on your night flight) and Business (on your day flight) on the return. Air France and KLM saves you 35,500 miles and \$206 in taxes when you downgrade from Business Class round-trip to Business Class outbound (on your night flight) and economy (on your day flight) for the return flight (115,000 versus 79,500).

What's the best upgrade with miles? Air France and KLM charge just 12,000 miles and \$77 more in taxes when upgrading from a Premium Economy round-trip to Business Class outbound (on your night flight) and Premium Economy (on your day flight) on the return (103,000 miles versus 91,000). That's a great value.

What's the worst downgrade with miles? It's Iberia, but ONLY because Iberia's overall round-trip costs are so low, so it doesn't make sense to downgrade. In other words, Iberia only saves you 8,500 miles and \$21 in taxes to downgrade the return flight.

Mixed Cabin Pricing and Savings Opportunities

Perspective #1: Downgrading the Return Flight to Save

Airline	Sample Route	Mixed-Class Outbound / Return	Mixed-Cabin Cost off-peak	Mixed Cabin Taxes	Mileage And Tax Savings By Downgrading Your Return Flight			Transfer Partner*
Miles Savings		Tax Savings						
Air France	New York - Paris	Premium Economy / Economy	67,500	\$266	23,500	35%	\$35	AX, CO, UR, TY
		Business / Premium Economy	103,000	\$410	12,000	12%	\$87	
		Business / Economy	79,500	\$344	35,500	45%	\$153	
British Airways	New York - London	First / Business	118,000	\$1,792	18,000	15%	\$0	AX, CO, UR,
		Business / Premium Economy	76,000	\$1,342	24,000	32%	\$450	
		First / Premium Economy	94,000	\$1,342	42,000	45%	\$450	
Emirates	Newark - Athens	First / Business	130,000	\$183	40,000	31%	\$17	AX, CO, UR, TY
	New York - Milan	First / Economy	107,500	\$158	62,500	58%	\$42	
		Business / Economy	67,500	\$158	22,500	33%	\$20	
Iberia	New York - Madrid	Business / Premium Economy	59,500	\$246	8,500	14%	\$21	AX, UR
		Business / Economy	51,000	\$236	17,000	33%	\$33	
KLM	New York - Amsterdam	Business / Economy	79,500	\$328	35,500	45%	\$130	AX, CO, UR, TY
Virgin Atlantic	New York - London	Business / Premium Economy	65,000	\$1,364	30,000	46%	\$425	AX, UR, TY
		Business / Economy	57,500	\$1,077	37,500	65%	\$712	

*AX = Amex, CO = Capital One, UR = Chase Ultimate Rewards, TY = Citi ThankYou

Perspective #2: Upgrade Your Outbound Flight for Maximum Return on Investment

Airline	Sample Route	Mixed-Class Outbound/Return	Mixed-Cabin Cost off-peak	Mixed Cabin Taxes	Mileage And Tax Cost to Upgrade Your Outbound Flight			Transfer Partner*
Cost Miles		Cost Taxes						
Air France	New York - Paris	Business / Premium Economy	103,000	\$410	12,000	12%	\$109	AX, CO, UR, TY
		Business / Economy	79,500	\$344	35,500	45%	\$163	
		Premium Economy / Economy	67,500	\$266	23,500	35%	\$85	
British Airways	New York - London	First / Business	118,000	\$1,792	18,000	15%	\$0	AX, CO, UR,
		Business / Premium Economy	76,000	\$1,342	24,000	32%	\$450	
Emirates	Newark - Athens	First / Business	130,000	\$183	40,000	31%	\$5	AX, CO, UR, TY
	New York - Milan	Business / Economy	67,500	\$158	22,500	33%	\$30	
Iberia	New York - Madrid	Business / Premium Economy	59,500	\$246	8,500	14%	\$21	AX, UR
		Business / Economy	51,000	\$236	17,000	33%	\$33	
		Premium Economy / Economy	42,500	\$214	8,500	20%	\$11	
KLM	New York - Amsterdam	Business / Economy	79,500	\$328	37,500	47%	\$130	AX, CO, UR, TY
Virgin Atlantic	New York - London	Business / Premium Economy	65,000	\$1,364	30,000	46%	\$425	AX, UR, TY
		Premium Economy / Economy	27,500	\$652	7,500	27%	\$150	

*AX = Amex, CO = Capital One, UR = Chase Ultimate Rewards, TY = Citi ThankYou



Last Call for Cheap Mileage Award Tickets

March 2022

Burn your miles before they burn you

If you're a [Flash Fare](#) Flyer (not a bad tongue twister), you don't really need to worry about the skyrocketing price of mileage awards these days. It's like the price of buying a new or used car. Have you seen that craziness lately? Mileage awards follow similar, don't-look-now "dynamic" pricing.

UBER IN THE SKY: DYNAMIC PRICING

Start getting **more** used to a dynamic pricing award world. Just as Uber has a dynamic pricing algorithm that changes the price of a ride based on time, route, and demand, so do airlines, except you can multiply their

algorithm complexity by a big number. It can get silly, such as American Airlines charging 960,000 miles round-trip to Sydney in Business Class (no, not in First).



You don't have to look any further than our [special report on United](#) back in December, where we were seeing inflation sitting at 59%+, and last month's [special report on American](#), where pricing was up to 800,000 miles in Business Class to Rome. Nuts!

Sure, there will always be pockets of opportunities for opportunity travelers, and those who are [flexible on dates, destinations, and airlines](#) will fly like rock stars. But if you're not flexible, your miles aren't going to be worth the paper they're printed on.

WHY DO I THINK THAT?

Much of what remains unchanged is airline partner availability. I think partner airline award tickets are still cheap because the technology that integrates partner data from one airline to the other is NOT yet sophisticated enough to handle dynamic mileage pricing, or it would.

BUT THEY'RE GETTING THERE

Last month there were rumors that Oneworld is coming out with *alliance* upgrades, where upgrades will be available right across the alliance partner airlines. It all sounds good at-a-glance but don't get too excited, as it's likely to follow the Star Alliance upgrade scheme – only valid with inflated full B and Y fares. That's primarily international business travelers who fly on short notice and/or without a Saturday-night stay, and who have a coach-only corporate travel policy.

But it does signal that partner technology integrations are maturing, and that's the last barrier to skyrocketing partner pricing. It wouldn't surprise me if that happened next month... six months from now... or in a year. But it's happening. And as soon as it does, your miles are going the way of the U.S. dollar or the Venezuelan bolivar: up.

ARE YOU A MILES MILLIONAIRE? DUMP THOSE TURKEYS NOW BEFORE DYNAMIC-PRICING DEVALUATION GOBBLES THEM UP

This means you have to look at your miles *not* as something you're proud of — “hey Mom, I've just tipped over to the kajillion miles level!” Deflate that ego. You want to burn through those 2,000,000 miles or whatever they are. If all you have is 250,000 miles, then you don't have that much to lose — basically a pair of tickets — as opposed to a warehouse full of devaluation.

But if you're a miles millionaire, spend those turkeys now. And keep your loyalty assets in points NOT miles to the extent you can. Burn miles first; points last. That way you'll be able to transfer points to the airlines that are last to devalue.

Over the months and years to come, as one airline after another inflates their pricing, it's because they're in a non-competitive/price-fixing environment like big sports leagues are. Alliances are driving most of the airlines' decisions nowadays with few exceptions.

AIRLINE DYNAMIC PRICING = MILES VACUUM. FOLD 'EM, DON'T HOLD 'EM

If you're thinking about miles and you're a mileage flier who refuses to fly coach or premium economy, make sure your trip planning starts with what's feasible. That means building your bucket list around what is available to you. If [there was ever a time to not book backwards, it's now](#).

How can you get a sense of what's available? Here's a host of special reports to give you a sense of award availability trends. I don't know anyone that publishes award seat availability reports like FCF does, do you?

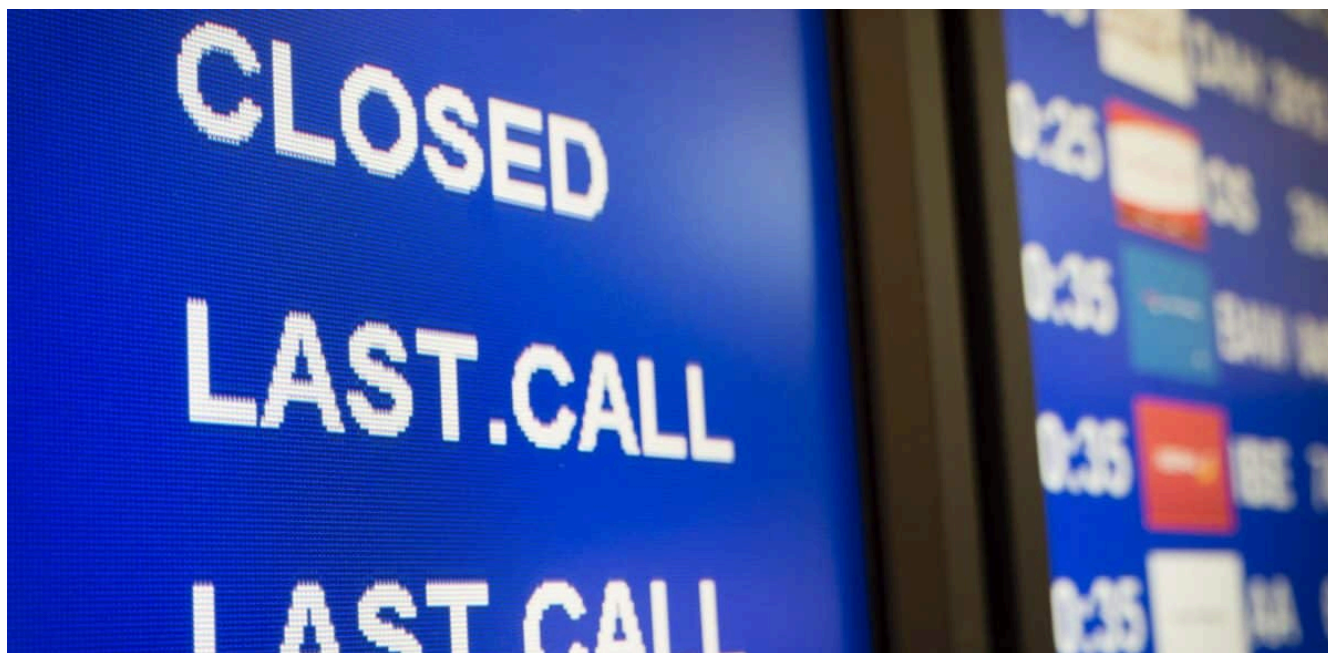
[Like an Overnight Snowfall, New Asian Lockdown Provides Fresh United Mileage Upgrade and Award Availability to Asia – for Travel All Year](#)


[Like United, American AAdvantage Miles' Inflation Follows the U.S. Dollar](#)

[U.S. Inflation Ruination: Add United Business Class Award Flights to Your List of Things to Kiss Goodbye](#)

[United We Fall: UA Elites Are Getting the Rough End of the Upgrade Stick to Europe](#)

[AA Oddsmaker. Up Your Chances of a Mileage Award Ticket in a Tough Market to Europe](#)





The Destination Double Down: Our Secret Strategy That Premium Bargain Hunters & Elite Point Collectors Will Love

March 2022

Tis time Star Alliance high rollers and elite status seekers score with funky fares to Asia and Europe.

Value (noun): the worth of something compared to the price paid or asked for it.

Value comes in many shapes, sizes, *and sounds*. Sometimes it's simply a lot of flight hours in a Business or First Class cabin for a low price. Take, for example, the special value fares we found. They may not appeal to everyone, but they will to some of you. They're perfect if you don't mind a little extra flying – especially if you're interested in **racking up elite credit in a First Class seat**, or if you actually just enjoy being in the air in First Class for the heck of it, **or if you're visiting multiple places on one trip**. We love bang for the buck here at FCF, and wow, this one is pretty LOUD.

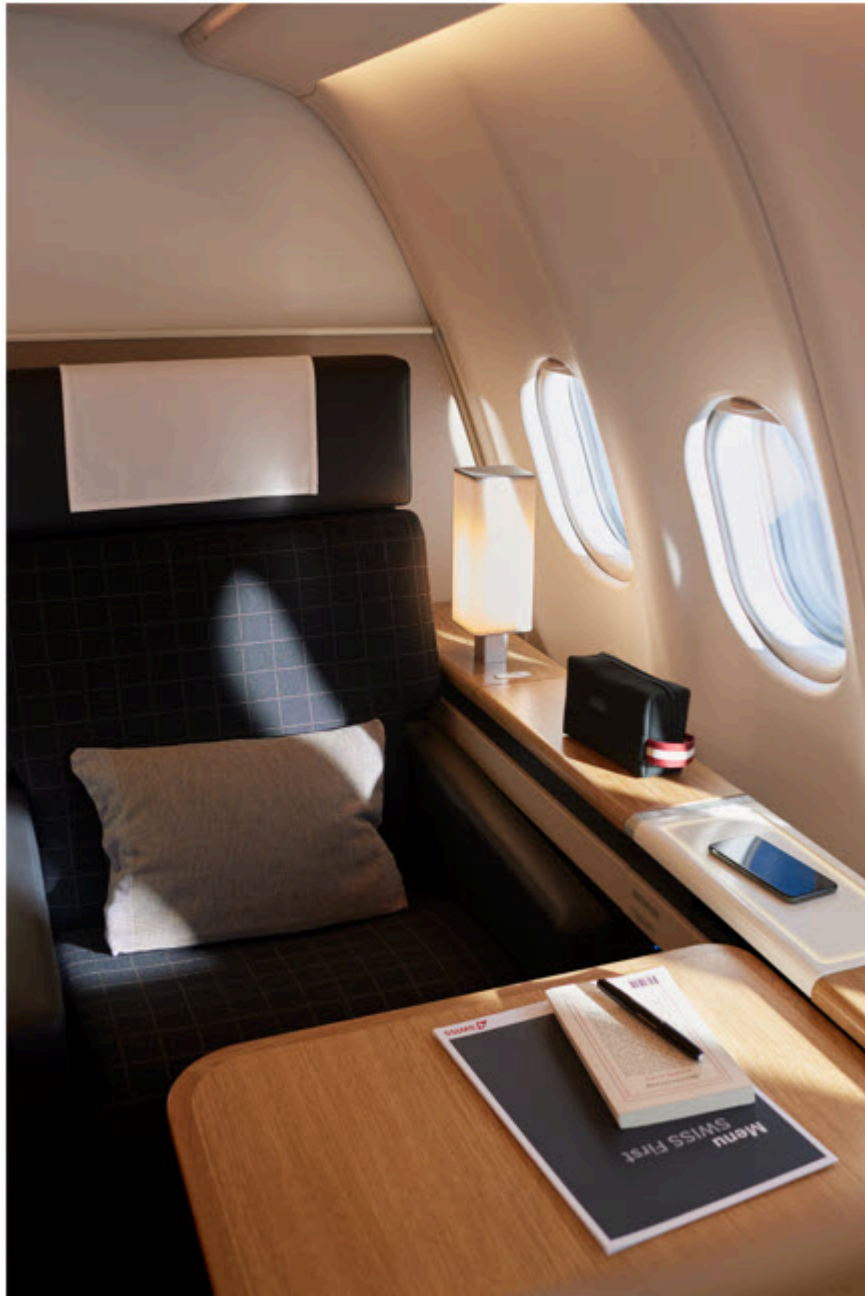
WHERE DOES IT WORK?

This Star Alliance play works for those traveling to Asia who'd like to visit Europe for free or even less than free. Or, those who are travel to Europe and would like Asia for free. And that all comes with the aforementioned bonus of elite status benefits accrued by the extra flying. Call it a 2-for-1 of a different kind, if you want. We call it the “**Destination Double Down**,” because it does exactly that – it gets you to an extra world-class destination for barely any more cost.

This deal on Star Alliance looks a lot like the story we did [here](#) involving Oneworld airline member Finnair. From Finnair's U.S. departure cities – Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, and New York — you can fly to Asia with a stop in Helsinki for half the price (more or less) of a nonstop from the U.S. to Asia.



SO WHAT ABOUT THE STAR ALLIANCE VERSION OF THIS DEAL?

While First Class is up to double the price of Business Class, I want to start with the First Class deal because we almost never see First Class loopholes nowadays. That's for two reasons. First, most airlines have done away with First Class, and second, First Class fares are rarely discounted.






BOOK STAR ALLIANCE TO ASIA AND GET EUROPE FOR FREE




First Class to Europe on SWISS is a special experience. It's very spacious, very luxurious, and starts at \$7,900 just to Europe and can jump quickly to \$11,000+ if you're not careful. Let's take a look at an average SWISS fare below: Chicago-Zurich round-trip.

Round trip · 1 · First Class				Total price from	
Chicago ↔ Zürich				\$7,918	
	Tue, Jun 14 · 2:35 PM – 6:15 AM ^{*1} SWISS	8 hr 40 min ORD–ZRH	Nonstop	2,696 kg CO ₂	▼
	Tue, Jun 21 · 9:45 AM – 12:35 PM SWISS	9 hr 50 min ZRH–ORD	Nonstop	2,696 kg CO ₂ Avg emissions ⓘ	▼

Now let's look at a flight from both Chicago and New York to Zürich, but adding on Tokyo — in First Class... It's just \$124 more.




1 · First Class				Total price from	
Multi-city trip				\$8,042	
	Wed, Jun 22 · 7:10 PM – 7:40 AM ^{*2} SWISS · United, ANA	22 hr 30 min ORD–NRT	1 stop 2 hr 10 min ZRH	6,845 kg CO ₂ +21% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Sun, Jul 3 · 10:25 AM – 3:35 PM SWISS · ANA	12 hr 10 min NRT–ZRH	Nonstop	4,878 kg CO ₂ Avg emissions ⓘ	▼
	Thu, Jul 14 · 9:45 AM – 12:35 PM SWISS	9 hr 50 min ZRH–ORD	Nonstop	2,696 kg CO ₂ Avg emissions ⓘ	▼

From New York Still just \$124 to add another continent (in First Class), and a boatload of elite credit

1 · First Class				Total price from	
Multi-city trip				\$8,042	
	Wed, Jun 22 · 9:50 PM – 7:40 AM ^{*2} SWISS · United, ANA	20 hr 50 min EWR–NRT	1 stop 1 hr 25 min ZRH	6,532 kg CO ₂ +10% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Sun, Jul 3 · 10:25 AM – 3:35 PM SWISS · ANA	12 hr 10 min NRT–ZRH	Nonstop	4,878 kg CO ₂ Avg emissions ⓘ	▼
	Thu, Jul 14 · 9:50 AM – 12:40 PM SWISS	8 hr 50 min ZRH–JFK	Nonstop	2,374 kg CO ₂ -14% emissions ⓘ	▼

So you can look at this two ways: add Europe to a Tokyo trip or add Tokyo to a Europe trip. It's essentially only \$124 more.

Not everyone's going to want to do this, but some will. Some of you will love sipping champagne in First Class on a SWISS flight and looking forward to one extra segment on your way back to the U.S. And get this: **You can actually stop in Zürich either direction.** Compare flight schedules to plan which direction you want to stop in Europe.

<div> <div>1 · First Class</div> <div>Multi-city trip</div> </div>					Total price from
					\$8,042
	Wed, Jun 22 · 7:10 PM – 10:50 AM ⁺¹ SWISS	8 hr 40 min ORD–ZRH	Nonstop	2,696 kg CO ₂	▼
	Mon, Jul 4 · 1:00 PM – 7:40 AM ⁺¹ SWISS · ANA	11 hr 40 min ZRH–NRT	Nonstop	4,878 kg CO ₂ -6% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Wed, Jul 13 · 10:25 AM – 12:35 PM ⁺¹ SWISS · ANA, United	40 hr 10 min NRT–ORD	1 stop ▲ 18 hr 10 min ZRH	7,574 kg CO ₂ +59% emissions ⓘ	▼



NOTHING NEUTRAL ABOUT RACKING UP UNITED OR OTHER STAR ALLIANCE ELITE STATUS CREDIT

For just \$124 more, on this First Class ticket to Asia via Zürich from the U.S., you can easily earn 35,595 United miles and 7,119 PQP. For perspective, that’s 52 percent of what’s required to get the top tier with United, or to get gold status. All from just one flight.

ACCIDENTAL ELITES

[Yeah](#), [yeah](#), [yeah](#), I argue against elite status all the time (just click on those “yeah” links). But I know many of you either a) don’t listen to me, or b) you fly on routes that are largely served by one program and you accidentally earn an elite card. You don’t have to confess your reason for going after an elite card; I’m “accidentally elite” with two airlines, American and United. All I’m saying is that many of you are going to drool over this First Class ticket. For just \$113 per flight hour (not easy to come by), it is relatively cheap and comes with a heck of a lot of elite credit. Now, let’s talk about **Business Class**.





WORKING THE STAR ALLIANCE EUROPE-ASIA “DESTINATION DOUBLE DOWN” IN BUSINESS CLASS

This one is similar to the Oneworld deal on Finnair, covered [here](#). Nonstops to Asia usually cost \$7,000 or \$8,000, but if you fly via Europe in Business Class, you can get New York to Hong Kong, Tokyo, or Seoul for as low as \$3,379. If price or Oneworld airline elite credit is the driver, then look at the [Finnair deal](#). If Star Alliance credit is the driver — **or flying by one of the Star Alliance hub cities other than Helsinki, such as Frankfurt, Istanbul or Vienna** — then you’re in for a treat with fares that aren’t far off the Oneworld Destination Double Down fare.

So, as you can see in the screenshot below, here are the best fares and some sample routings on Star Alliance’s finest.

TURKISH \$3,812 ROUND-TRIP BUSINESS CLASS USING THE DESTINATION DOUBLE DOWN STRATEGY

New York-Istanbul-Tokyo

1 • Business Class				Total price from	
Multi-city trip				\$3,812	
	Tue, Aug 9 • 11:50 PM – 4:45 PM ^{*1} Turkish Airlines	9 hr 55 min EWR–IST	Nonstop	1,939 kg CO ₂ Avg emissions ⓘ	▼
	Tue, Aug 16 • 2:20 AM – 7:20 PM Turkish Airlines · ANA	11 hr IST–HND	Nonstop	2,646 kg CO ₂ +6% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Sat, Aug 20 • 10:05 PM – 5:15 AM ^{*1} Turkish Airlines · ANA	13 hr 10 min HND–IST	Nonstop	2,646 kg CO ₂ Avg emissions ⓘ	▼
	Wed, Aug 24 • 7:40 AM – 11:05 AM Turkish Airlines	10 hr 25 min IST–JFK	Nonstop	2,327 kg CO ₂ +34% emissions ⓘ	▼

SWISS \$4,781 ROUND-TRIP BUSINESS CLASS USING THE DESTINATION DOUBLE DOWN STRATEGY

New York-Zurich-Bangkok

1
Business Class

Total price from
\$4,781

Multi-city trip

This airline may be offering additional flexibility for bookings. [More details](#)

Selected flights
Track prices

	Thu, Jun 23 · 4:30 PM – 6:15 AM ^{*1} SWISS · United	7 hr 45 min JFK–ZRH	Nonstop	1,608 kg CO ₂ Avg emissions ⓘ	▼
	Mon, Jul 4 · 1:20 PM – 5:00 AM ^{*1} SWISS	10 hr 40 min ZRH–BKK	Nonstop	2,618 kg CO ₂ +17% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Wed, Jul 13 · 1:05 PM – 1:10 PM ^{*1} SWISS, United	35 hr 5 min BKK–EWR	1 stop ▲ 14 hr 35 min ZRH	4,588 kg CO ₂ +11% emissions ⓘ	▼

AUSTRIAN \$4,795 ROUND-TRIP IN BUSINESS CLASS USING THE DESTINATION DOUBLE DOWN STRATEGY

Chicago-Vienna-Tokyo

1
Business Class

Total price from
\$4,795

Multi-city trip

	Tue, Jun 14 · 4:20 PM – 7:30 AM ^{*2} Austrian · United, ANA	25 hr 10 min ORD–NRT	1 stop 5 hr 10 min VIE	4,072 kg CO ₂ +80% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Fri, Jun 24 · 9:15 AM – 2:00 PM Austrian · ANA	11 hr 45 min NRT–VIE	Nonstop	2,225 kg CO ₂ -6% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Tue, Jun 28 · 10:30 AM – 1:20 PM Austrian · United	9 hr 50 min VIE–ORD	Nonstop	1,846 kg CO ₂ Avg emissions ⓘ	▼

LUFTHANSA \$4,886 ROUND-TRIP IN BUSINESS CLASS USING THE DESTINATION DOUBLE DOWN STRATEGY

Chicago-Frankfurt-Tokyo

1
Business Class

Total price from
\$4,886

Multi-city trip

	Mon, Jun 6 · 4:00 PM – 7:20 AM ^{*1} Lufthansa · United	8 hr 20 min ORD–FRA	Nonstop	1,973 kg CO ₂ +12% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Tue, Jun 21 · 5:50 PM – 12:25 PM ^{*1} Lufthansa · ANA	11 hr 35 min FRA–HND	Nonstop	2,925 kg CO ₂ +9% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Tue, Jun 28 · 11:05 AM – 8:00 PM ANA, Lufthansa · United	22 hr 55 min HND–ORD	1 stop 1 hr FRA	5,791 kg CO ₂ +74% emissions ⓘ	▼

So double down on these fares to score premium seats, extra destinations, and even elite credit. What could be a greater bang for the buck than that?