



Showered with Gifts: Why Emirates First Class Is a Bucket List Must and How You Can Get It Now For \$19,713 Off

June 2021

Love flying? Take advantage of this royal opportunity to Dubai and beyond...

If you're like many others, you're itching to get back in the air. And with more of the world opening up every day, now's your chance.

That said, not all airplane seats are created equal — even if you're upgrading to Business or First Class.

But heck, do we ever have an unequal cabin experience to talk about — in several ways. It's Emirates First Class, and you can take it to fascinating Dubai, the cultural, nightlife, and crazy-tall-building hub of the Middle

East and of travel connections the world over.



Dramatic Dubai

DUBAI IS OPEN FOR TRAVEL NOW

Dubai is [open to tourists](#) (yes, regular old tourists). The only requirement is that you'll have to present a valid negative COVID-19 PCR test taken no more than 96 hours before departure. A minor inconvenience for an awesome travel experience. And don't forget that Emirates also has a [vast route network beyond Dubai](#) for those who have been there and done that.

THE MAGNIFICENT A380

For anyone who loves flying, this is [one of those unforgettable experiences of a lifetime](#). I've flown on the A380 — the largest passenger aircraft in the world — a bunch of times, and let me say, it's a *real* treat. Flying isn't always enjoyable, but on the luxurious A380 it's practically guaranteed to be interesting, and particularly so with Emirates First Class complete with showers on board.



THE PREMIUM A380 SEAT

At the time of publication, Emirates has reintroduced the A380 on their New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, DC, routes. The Emirates First Class suite is one of the best First Class suites in the air. The shoulder-high enclosed compartment offers sliding doors for a very comfortable, private experience. Depending on the specific aircraft and route, the number of suites ranges from 8 to 14, in a 1x2x1 configuration.

Each suite has an 80.5"-long lie-flat seat, a personal mini-bar, vanity table, mirror, wardrobe, and a 27" monitor for entertainment viewing. And to top it all off, A380 suite passengers also get to use the in-flight Shower Spas. [You can take a closer look at the experience here.](#)



NO EMIRATES MILES? NO PROBLEM.

Getting Emirates miles is relatively simple. They're a point transfer partner with three credit card reward programs — Amex, Chase, and Marriott — so it's a breeze to transfer points over. Our research shows that transfer times from Amex and Chase are nearly instantaneous, while Marriott points can take up to three days.

NO POINTS? NO PROBLEM.

You can buy up to 500,000 Amex Rewards points per year for just 2.5 cents each. Given that the baseline First Class fare from San Francisco to Dubai is \$26,300, and you can buy 247,500 Amex Rewards Points for \$6,187, and add in taxes with the Emirates loyalty program for ~\$400, you **save \$19,713** — that's 75% off.

CURRENT AVAILABILITY

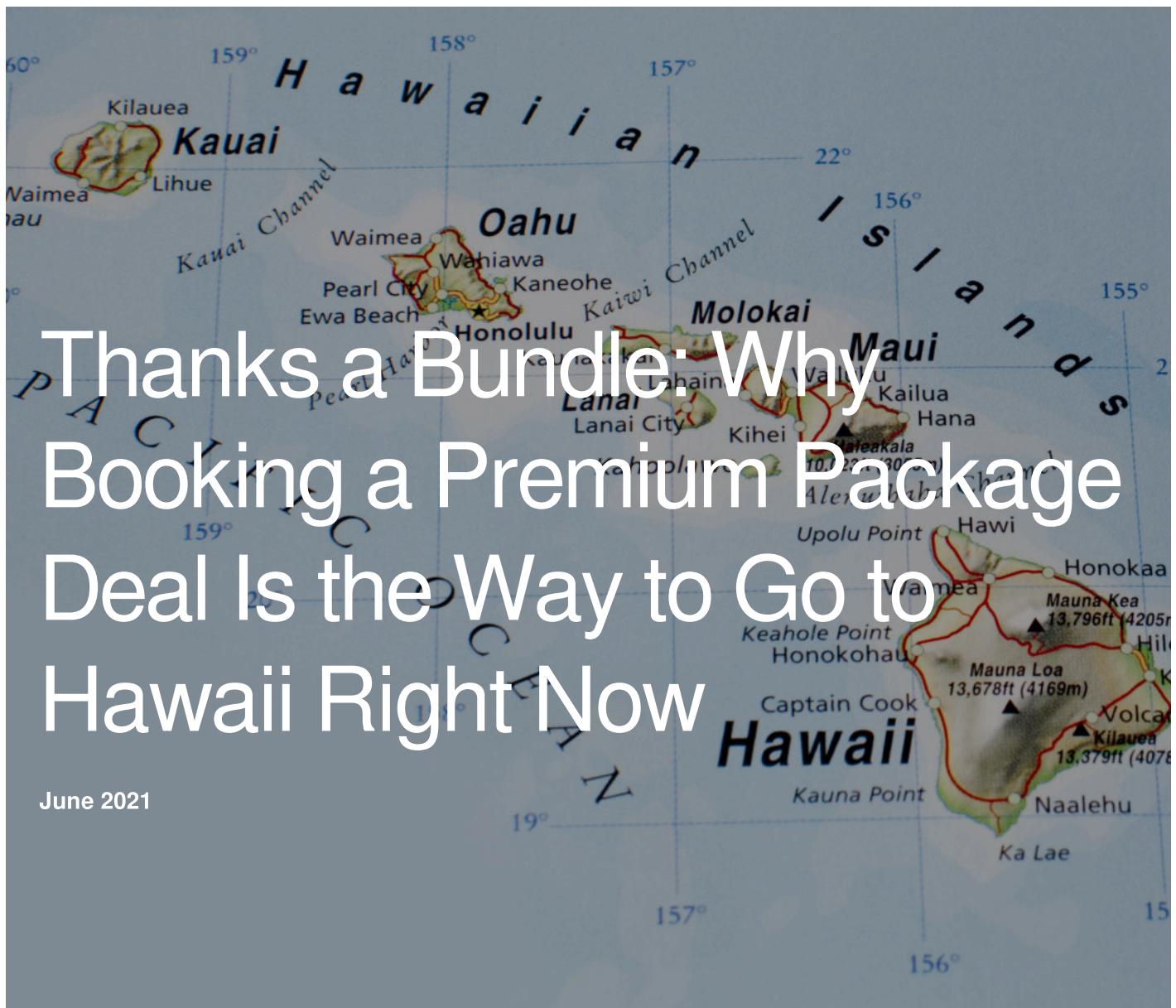
FCF's Availability Treasure Map...

Emirates First Class to Dubai From	Depart			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	Nov., April		Jan., to March	Nov., Feb., April		Dec., March
Washington, DC	Sept. to Nov.	July, Aug., March	Jan., Feb.	Sept., Oct.	July, Aug.	

*Months in black at least one seat available; in blue at least two seats.

USE EMIRATES FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO DUBAI AND BEYOND

The airline offers flights to bucket list destinations all over the globe like Tanzania; Mauritius; Cape Town, South Africa; and Nairobi, Kenya, just to name a few.



June 2021

Separation anxiety: Why you might package up that Hawaii trip rather than book your airfare and price-gouging hotel separately

With lockdowns getting behind many of us, here's a place for you to go: sunny Hawaii. And to add some ice to the Mai Tai, we've found package deals that will save you between 28% and 49% versus booking the flights and accommodation separately.

THE DYNAMICS

You're not the only one thinking about Hawaii, however, and that means **hotels are charging up to 50% more than normal** given the limited supply and pent-up-demand-busting limited supply when booking directly.

One reason air and land packages are able to offer this level of discounting is because their contract rates don't fluctuate mid-contract as circumstances do on the ground, especially when so many places are opening up and fast. This is all while airlines are ramping up more and more (not limited) flights by the day. In other words, it's the opposite of the [gouging coming from airlines on flights to Europe](#).

The example deals we'll highlight today look at seven-night packages with premium class round-trip fares and four- and five-star hotels. Just the refreshing break you need after the roller coaster that was 2020. The packages feature nonstop flights from the mainland to Hawaii in Business/First Class on American, Delta, and United. Bookings are made through American Vacations, Delta Vacations, United Vacations, and Orbitz.

PACKAGING VERSUS SEPARATING: THE DIFFERENCE IN \$ IS BIG

Here's where the coconut hits the coral. If you were to fly from Chicago to Maui and back, you'd pay \$5,608 in Business/First Class on United. And don't forget the accommodation on top of that. Fairmont Kea Lani Hotel is gorgeous but it costs \$15,342 for those seven days. Altogether you're paying \$20,950 for two travelers. (Packages usually work best for more than one traveler.)

Compare that cost to the package deal we spotted with United Vacations for \$11,459 for the exact same getaway. That's \$9,491 (45%) in savings.

SEPARATION ANXIETY EXAMPLE #2

Let's say you need a Kona minibreak. A Los Angeles-Kona trip in Business/First Class sets you back \$1,976 on Delta. A seven-night stay at the Fairmont Orchid costs \$4,498, making the total cost for the trip (aside from your massages) \$6,474. Go with a Delta Vacations package deal, on the other hand, and that same trip costs \$4,648, **a savings of \$1,826 (28%)**.

More examples...

Route	Air Only (Lowest Advance Fare)	Hotel Price	Air Ticket + Hotel Booked Separate	Package Price (Air + 7 Nights Hotel)	Supplier	Hotel	Savings	
Chicago - Maui	\$5,608	\$15,342	\$20,950	\$11,459	United Vacations	Fairmont	\$9,491	45%
Dallas - Maui	\$5,563	\$13,126	\$18,689	\$12,961	American Vacations	Fairmont	\$5,728	31%

Route	Air Only (Lowest Advance Fare)	Hotel Price	Air Ticket + Hotel Booked Separate	Package Price (Air + 7 Nights Hotel)	Supplier	Hotel	Savings	
Denver - Kona	\$3,764	\$4,747	\$8,511	\$5,836	United Vacations	Hilton Waikoloa	\$2,675	31%
Los Angeles - Kona	\$1,976	\$4,498	\$6,474	\$4,648	Delta Vacations	Fairmont Orchid	\$1,826	28%
Seattle - Maui	\$2,385	\$13,385	\$15,770	\$8,053	Delta Vacations	Fairmont	\$7,717	49%

HAWAIIAN HOTEL PRICES ARE VOLCANIC UNLESS YOU PACKAGE THEM UP

Look at those differences in the last column, I'm sure you'd rather have \$9,491, \$7,717, or \$5,728 in your pocket rather than gift it to airlines and hotels. It's a no-brainer once you recognize what's going on. Now you know, and your wallet will thank you.



On Europe Gouge Routes, Wrap Yourself in a Package and Send It

June 2021

How to save up to 43% on gouge fare routes to Europe on American, Delta, and United with air-and-land packages

While we're thankful that Europe is opening up, airlines are price-gouging on some routes. So we say, if you can't beat 'em, package 'em.

Our favorite airline, Delta (dripping with sarcasm here), has high fares across the board, while certain routes such as New York-Venice are gouge (think 2X to 3X more) opportunities for multiple airlines. You can also

find disproportionately high fares from cities like Savannah, Atlanta, and Miami to destinations like Athens and Rome. More on fare trends [here](#).

Package pricing, on the other hand, doesn't fluctuate like fares do. That's because the tour operators generally get flat-rate, year-long contracts that aren't renegotiated any time there's a lockdown, political situation, or anything else.

The tour operators typically negotiate with airlines and hotels and commit to high-volume buying in exchange for rates that are attractive to online and offline travel agencies and airline's leisure marketing units who then go on to sell the packages to their leisure travel customers.

When fares skyrocket as we're seeing now on a number of routes, package deals make for big wins for travelers in the know.



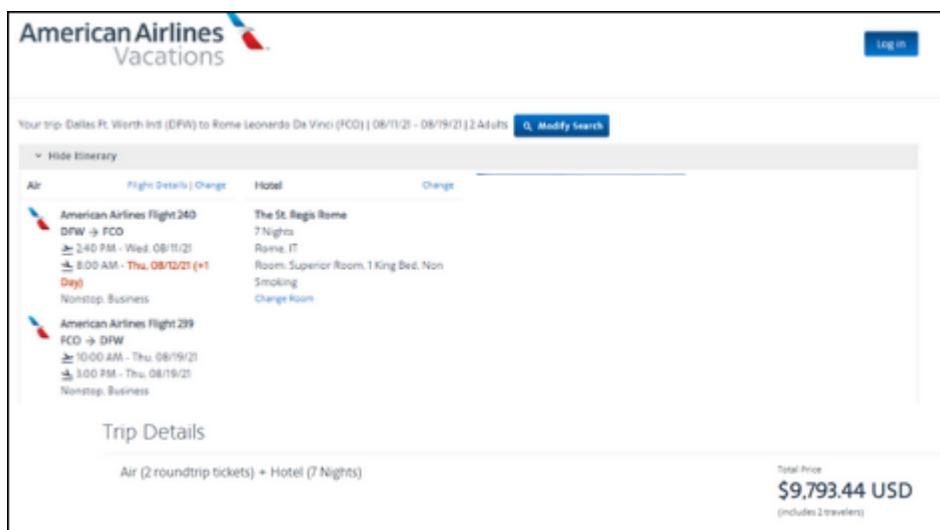
WRAP IT UP

We're talking seven-night packages with premium class round-trip airfares, staying at four- and five-star hotels. Just the refreshing break you need after all this lockdown nonsense. The packages also feature nonstop flights from the U.S. to Europe in Business Class on American, Delta, and United. Today's report covers bookings made through American Vacations, Delta Vacations, United Vacations, and Orbitz.

PUT A BOW ON IT

If you were to fly nonstop from Dallas to Rome and back, you'd pay \$10,027 in Business Class on American for two tickets. Then there's accommodations at the St. Regis Hotel, which is gorgeous, but it costs \$3,987 for those seven days. Altogether you're paying \$14,014.

Compare that cost to the package deal we spotted with AA Vacations for \$9,793 for the exact same trip. **That's \$4,221 (30%) in savings**, as evidenced in the following screenshot.



The screenshot shows a travel itinerary on the American Airlines Vacations website. The trip is from Dallas Ft. Worth Intl (DFW) to Rome Leonardo Da Vinci (FCO) for 2 adults, from 08/11/21 to 08/19/21. The package includes:

- Air:** American Airlines Flight 240 (DFW → FCO) on 08/11/21, departing at 2:40 PM and arriving at 8:00 AM on 08/12/21. Nonstop, Business class.
American Airlines Flight 299 (FCO → DFW) on 08/19/21, departing at 10:00 AM and arriving at 3:00 PM on 08/19/21. Nonstop, Business class.
- Hotel:** The St. Regis Rome, 7 Nights, Rome, IT. Room: Superior Room, 1 King Bed, Non Smoking. Change Room.

Trip Details: Air (2 roundtrip tickets) + Hotel (7 Nights) **Total Price: \$9,793.44 USD** (includes 2 travelers)

If you were to fly nonstop from Chicago to Zurich, you'd pay \$8,709 for two Business Class tickets in late August on United/Swiss, plus accommodations at the Kameha Grand Marriott's Autograph Collection, but it costs \$2,467 for seven days. Altogether you're looking at a hefty payment of \$11,176.

Now compare that to the package deal with Orbitz for **\$6,408 for (again) exactly the same trip. That's a savings of \$4,768 (43%)**.

Thu, Aug 26 - Fri, Sep 3
Roundtrip 2 travelers

 **No change fees for all flights**
You can change these flights without paying a fee if plans change. Because flexibility matters.

No change fees

 United	7:15pm - 10:50am	8h 35m	Nonstop	Special Fare
			Arrives Fri, Aug 27	
			✓ Free cancel within 24 hrs	

Fare Rules and Restrictions:

- Choose your seat
- Bring a carry-on bag

No change fees

 United	12:55pm - 3:30pm	9h 35m	Nonstop	Special Fare
			✓ Free cancel within 24 hrs	

Fare Rules and Restrictions:

- Choose your seat
- Bring a carry-on bag

 [Cleaning and safety practices](#)

[Hide flight and baggage fee details](#)  [Departure](#) [Hide flight and baggage fee details](#)  [Return](#)

 7:15pm - 10:50am	8h 35m	 12:55pm - 3:30pm	9h 35m
From O'Hare Intl. (ORD) To Zurich (ZRH)	United 9727 Operated by Swiss International Air Lines Business (P) Airbus A340 Meal Breakfast View seats	From Zurich (ZRH) To O'Hare Intl. (ORD) United 9728 Operated by Swiss International Air Lines Business (P) Airbus A340 Meal Snack or Brunch View seats	
Total distance 4,433 mi	Total distance 4,433 mi		

Roundtrip Flight
Chicago (ORD) to Zurich (ZRH)
Thu, Aug 26 - Fri, Sep 3
Departure: Arrives on Fri, Aug 27. Your hotel check-in reflects this arrival.
2 Tickets: 2 Adults

 **Kameha Grand Zurich, Autograph Collection**
Opfikon
Fri, Aug 27 - Fri, Sep 3
1 Room: 7 nights

 [Add transportation to and from your hotel for more trip savings](#)

Starting price	\$10,329.39
Trip savings	-\$3,959.99
Total due today:	 \$6,369.40
Pay as low as \$576/month	
Due at hotel	\$39.01

Round trip · 2 · Business Class

Chicago ↔ Zürich \$8,709

 Thu, Aug 26 · 7:15 PM – 10:50 AM* SWISS · United	8 hr 35 min	Nonstop	
 Fri, Sep 3 · 12:55 PM – 3:30 PM SWISS · United	9 hr 35 min	Nonstop	

KAMEHA GRAND ZURICH, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Stay Dates Fri, Aug 27, 2021 - Fri, Sep 3, 2021 Total for Stay 2,216.60 CHF Room(s) held for: 14:42 CONTINUE

Review Reservation Details



Junior Suite, 1 King
ROOM DETAILS
Check in: Friday, August 27, 2021
Check out: Friday, September 3, 2021
Room(s): 1
Guest(s) per room: 2
EDIT

Choose Room Features Not Guaranteed Room 1: Early check-in.
Room Accessibility & Bed Type Not Guaranteed Room 1: Late check-out
Summary of Charges 311.66 CHF Avg./night + 35.00 CHF Taxes and fees 2,216.60 CHF Subtotal

You can find more package deal goodness in this chart.

You can find more package deal goodness in this chart.

Airline	Route	Air Only (Lowest Advance Fare)	Hotel Price	Air Ticket + Hotel Booked Separate	Package Price (Air + 7 Nights Hotel)	Supplier	Hotel	Savings
American	Dallas - Rome	\$10,027	\$3,987	\$14,014	\$9,793	AA Vacations	St. Regis	\$4,221 30%
American	Philadelphia - Athens	\$11,110	\$2,938	\$14,048	\$9,618	AA Vacations	Marriott Academias Autograph	\$4,430 32%
Delta	New York - Venice	\$10,490	\$1,934	\$12,424	\$7,141	Delta Vacations	Hilton Molino	\$5,283 43%
United	Chicago - Zurich	\$8,709	\$2,467	\$11,176	\$6,408	Orbitz	Marriott Kameha Grand Autograph Collection	\$4,768 43%
United	San Francisco - Munich	\$8,596	\$5,490	\$14,086	\$10,426	United Vacations	Mandarin Oriental	\$3,660 26%

Booking packages online is easy using these links: [AA Vacations](#), [Delta Vacations](#), [United Vacations](#), [Orbitz](#).



FCF's Europe Guide to Gouge- and No-Gouge Routes

June 2021

Strap yourself in for some scary price differences.

FCF's motto is to book while the booking is good. We *hate* telling you that you could have purchased flight X last month at half the price it is now. It's much better to stay ahead of the curve.

But we think it's always good to be reminded because it makes for better "upgrade mindset thinking" (where upgrade means flying cheaper and/or in more comfort).

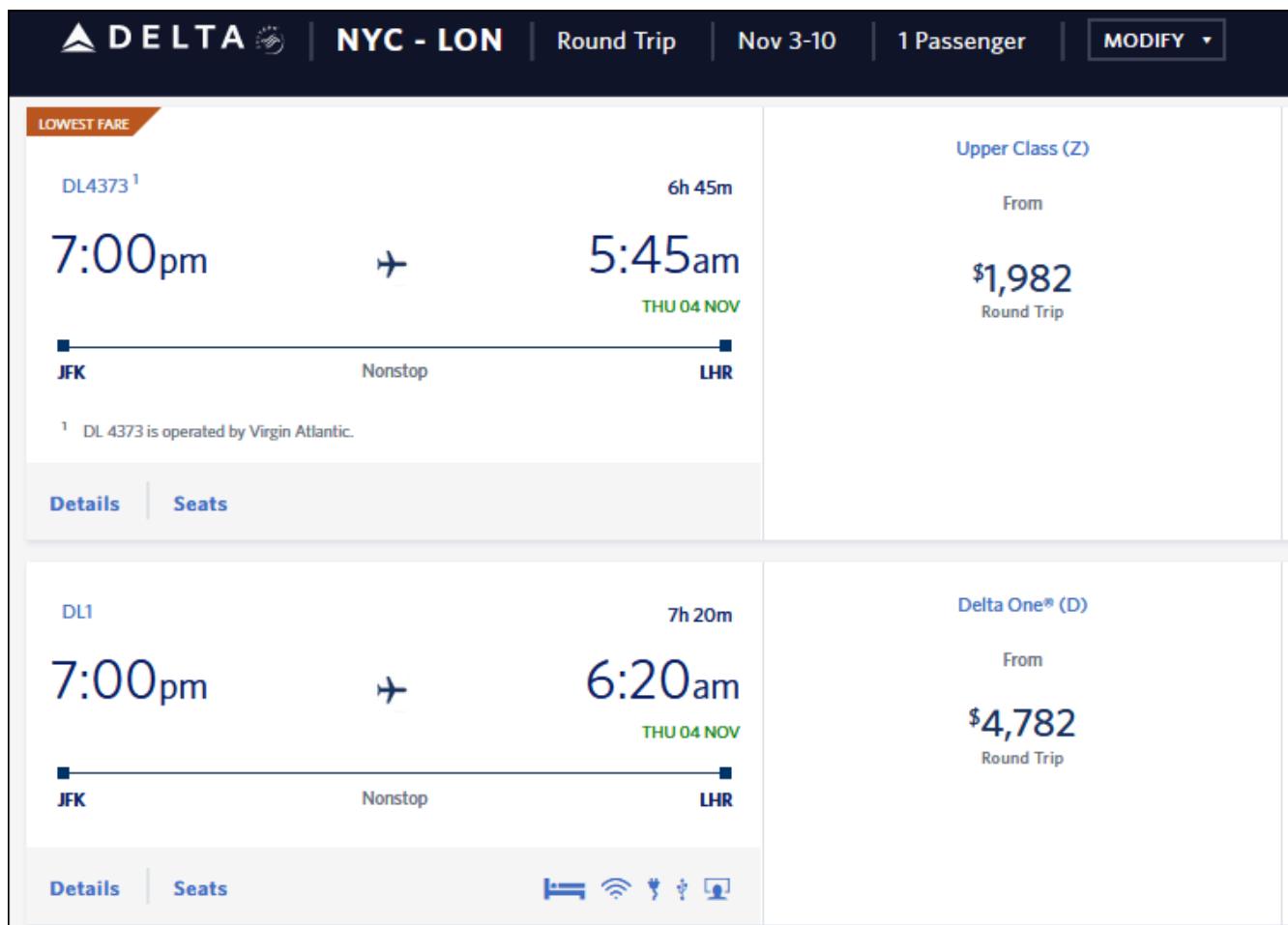
Most leisure travelers book around 90 days in advance. But hey, guess when the fares are often through the roof? For travel 90 days out. To get you motivated to fly, airlines have lower fares 60 days out, higher for 90

days out, and if you are an advance planner, at 120 days out, they're just plain gouging, for those that feel the need to lock in very far in advance. Security is often costly. See more on that [here](#).

Ah, and the cost of loyalty. If you're locked into one airline, you have a high probability of *really* getting stung, and the airlines know it.

DELTA.COM CHARGES HALF PRICE FOR BUSINESS CLASS FLIGHTS ON VIRGIN. SAY WHAT?

Delta clearly thinks that flying on Delta's own aircraft is worth significantly more than flying on their partner Virgin Atlantic's aircraft. So Delta.com is selling seats on Delta flights for \$4,782 round-trip, and selling Virgin's flights for \$1,982 round-trip. Is the difference in product that much better?! Not really.



Flight Details	Class	Price
DL4373, 7:00pm JFK to LHR, Nonstop, THU 04 NOV	Upper Class (Z)	\$1,982 Round Trip
DL1, 7:00pm JFK to LHR, Nonstop, THU 04 NOV	Delta One® (D)	\$4,782 Round Trip

PRE-JUMP PRICES

Most fares jump for travel in October and beyond. Here are the best European fares we found for travel in July, August and September.

Oneworld Alliance Non-Stop

Under \$2,000				
New York	July	August	September	October
Barcelona		\$1,841	\$1,841	
Milan	\$1,849	\$1,849		
Dallas				
Madrid	\$1,912	\$1,912	\$1,912	
Rome		\$1,864		

STAR Alliance Non-Stop

Under \$2,000				
New York	July	August	September	October
Barcelona	\$1,841	\$1,841		
Milan	\$1,849	\$1,849		
Vienna	\$1,864	\$1,864	\$1,864	

Here are the routes where you won't find any deals.

Oneworld Alliance Non-Stop

\$3,501+				
Boston	July	August	September	October
London			\$3,791	\$3,791
Madrid				\$3,896
Charlotte				
Dublin			\$4,688	\$4,688
Frankfurt			\$4,890	\$4,890
London			\$5,389	\$5,389
Madrid			\$4,495	\$4,495
Munich				\$4,327

\$3,501+

Chicago

Athens	\$7,856	\$5,556	\$5,406	\$5,406
Dublin	\$5,289		\$3,689	\$3,689
London			\$4,291	\$4,291
Madrid				\$4,096
Rome			\$4,614	\$3,864

Dallas

Amsterdam			\$4,511	\$4,511
Frankfurt			\$4,091	\$4,091
London			\$4,791	\$4,791
Madrid			\$4,096	\$3,646
Paris	\$3,954	\$5,104	\$4,304	\$4,304
Rome				\$5,164

Los Angeles

London			\$4,791	\$4,791
Madrid			\$5,196	\$5,196
Paris	\$7,854	\$5,104	\$4,604	\$4,604

Miami

Barcelona				\$3,891
London			\$4,291	\$4,291
Madrid				\$3,896

New York

Barcelona				\$3,703
Athens	\$4,156	\$4,006	\$3,656	\$3,506

Philadelphia

Amsterdam			\$4,411	\$4,411
Athens		\$5,406	\$5,406	\$5,406
Barcelona				\$4,241

\$3,501+

Dublin			\$4,339	\$4,186
London			\$4,491	\$4,491
Madrid			\$4,096	\$4,096
Paris			\$4,304	\$4,304
Rome			\$4,314	\$5,914

SkyTeam Alliance Non-Stop

\$3,500+

Atlanta	July	August	September	October
Amsterdam	\$4,061		\$4,461	\$3,961
Athens	\$6,406	\$5,456	\$5,556	\$4,406
Barcelona			\$3,841	\$5,141
Dublin				\$3,886
Frankfurt		\$3,791		\$4,041
London				\$4,291
Madrid		\$4,396	\$4,546	\$3,896
Munich			\$4,029	\$4,029
Paris		\$4,754	\$4,254	\$4,754
Rome	\$6,714	\$5,664	\$6,164	\$7,414

Detroit

Amsterdam	\$4,111	\$3,511	\$5,111	\$3,961
London		\$4,481	\$4,081	\$5,821
Paris		\$3,804		\$4,754

Los Angeles

Amsterdam	\$6,111	\$3,811	\$4,811	\$4,461
London	\$6,291	\$4,591	\$5,691	\$4,941
Paris		\$4,104	\$3,854	\$4,604

\$3,500+

Rome		\$8,839	\$5,514	
Miami				
London			\$4,391	\$4,591
Rome		\$4,914	\$7,414	\$5,664
Minneapolis				
New York				
Amsterdam		\$3,511		\$3,961
London			\$4,971	\$5,621
Paris	\$8,170	\$3,804	\$4,254	\$4,254
Athens		\$4,156	\$4,956	\$4,156
Barcelona	\$4,494			\$4,503
Dubrovnik		\$4,651	\$4,901	\$3,601
Frankfurt		\$3,651	\$3,651	\$3,651
London			\$3,541	\$3,541
Milan	\$3,799		\$4,549	
Nice	\$7,274	\$3,524		
Reykjavík	\$4,089	\$3,889	\$3,889	
Rome			\$6,962	
Venice	\$4,571			
Zurich			\$3,953	\$3,953
Salt Lake City				
Amsterdam		\$3,811		\$4,811
San Francisco				
Paris	\$9,556	\$4,504	\$4,454	\$4,454
Amsterdam	\$3,611		\$5,311	\$4,461
Seattle				
Amsterdam			\$4,461	\$4,961
London			\$4,291	\$4,291

\$3,500+

Paris			\$7,079	\$7,079
-------	--	--	---------	---------

Washington, DC

London				\$3,991
--------	--	--	--	---------

Paris	\$3,504			
-------	---------	--	--	--

STAR Alliance Non-Stop

\$3,500+

Chicago	July	August	September	October
---------	------	--------	-----------	---------

Dublin			\$3,889	\$3,836
--------	--	--	---------	---------

Frankfurt	\$3,941	\$3,941		
-----------	---------	---------	--	--

London			\$4,291	\$4,291
--------	--	--	---------	---------

Munich	\$3,929	\$3,929		
--------	---------	---------	--	--

Paris	\$4,054		\$4,054	
-------	---------	--	---------	--

Reykjavík	\$5,304	\$5,154	\$5,249	
-----------	---------	---------	---------	--

Vienna	\$3,719	\$3,719		
--------	---------	---------	--	--

Zürich	\$4,205	\$4,205	\$3,605	\$3,605
--------	---------	---------	---------	---------

Denver

Frankfurt	\$4,141	\$4,141	\$3,991	\$3,691
-----------	---------	---------	---------	---------

London			\$3,891	\$3,891
--------	--	--	---------	---------

Munich	\$4,129	\$4,129	\$3,679	\$3,529
--------	---------	---------	---------	---------

Houston

Amsterdam		\$3,511	\$3,511	\$3,511
-----------	--	---------	---------	---------

Frankfurt	\$4,141	\$4,141	\$3,541	\$3,541
-----------	---------	---------	---------	---------

London			\$4,191	\$4,191
--------	--	--	---------	---------

Munich				\$3,679
--------	--	--	--	---------

Los Angeles

Frankfurt	\$5,041	\$4,141	\$3,841	\$3,541
-----------	---------	---------	---------	---------

\$3,500+				
London			\$4,791	\$4,791
Munich	\$5,029	\$4,129	\$3,829	\$3,679
Zürich	\$4,355	\$3,905		
New York				
Athens	\$4,006	\$4,006	\$3,656	\$4,881
Barcelona				\$3,824
Berlin				\$4,160
Dubrovnik	\$4,839	\$3,839	\$3,789	
Edinburgh		\$4,150	\$3,996	\$3,996
Frankfurt	\$3,651	\$3,651	\$3,651	\$3,651
Lisbon	\$3,951	\$3,951	\$4,101	\$3,851
Milan			\$3,999	
Munich	\$3,929	\$3,929		
Reykjavík			\$3,935	
Rome		\$4,164	\$6,314	\$4,014
Zürich	\$4,705	\$4,301	\$3,805	\$3,805
San Francisco				
Frankfurt	\$4,141	\$4,141	\$3,691	\$3,541
London			\$4,491	\$4,491
Munich	\$4,129	\$4,129	\$3,679	\$3,529
Paris				\$3,654
Zürich	\$4,955	\$4,055	\$4,205	
Washington, DC				
Athens	\$5,606	\$4,856	\$5,706	
London			\$3,991	\$3,991
Frankfurt	\$3,941	\$3,941		
Vienna	\$3,719	\$3,719		
Munich	\$4,829	\$3,929		

\$3,500+

Zürich

\$3,705

\$3,705

Round trip 1 Business

Chicago ORD → Athens ATH

Wed, Sep 8 → Wed, Sep 15

1 stop or fewer Airlines Bags Price Times Connecting airports Duration More

 3:15 PM – 10:55 AM ⁺¹ Air Canada - United - Operated by Air Canada Express - ...	11 hr 40 min ORD-ATH	1 stop 42 min YUL	\$3,954 round trip
 1:25 PM – 7:50 AM ⁺¹ American - Finnair, British Airways	10 hr 25 min ORD-ATH	Nonstop	\$5,406 round trip

Here are the routes where you can find a deal on some airlines, or if you're willing to make a stop:

Round trip 1 Business

Atlanta ATL → Frankfurt FRA

Sun, Sep 5 → Sun, Sep 12

1 stop or fewer Airlines Bags Price Times Connecting airports Duration More

 7:35 PM – 12:05 PM ⁺¹ United - Operated by Mesa Airlines DBA United Express	10 hr 30 min ATL-FRA	1 stop 40 min IAD	\$2,802 round trip
 5:55 PM – 8:55 AM ⁺¹ Delta - Air France, KLM, Virgin Atlantic	9 hr ATL-FRA	Nonstop	\$3,692 round trip

Round trip 1 Business

Miami MIA → Paris CDG

Fri, Aug 13 → Fri, Aug 20

1 stop or fewer Air France +1 Bags Price Times Connecting airports Duration More

 2:15 PM – 7:45 AM ⁺¹ United	11 hr 30 min MIA-CDG	1 stop 1 hr 24 min EWR	\$2,452 round trip
 7:40 PM – 10:35 AM ⁺¹ Air France	8 hr 55 min MIA-CDG	Nonstop	\$4,214 round trip

Round trip 1 Business

New York JFK → Dublin DUB

Fri, Aug 13 Fri, Aug 20

1 stop or fewer X SkyTeam X Bags Price Times Connecting airports Duration More

 4:50 PM – 9:50 AM* Delta · KLM · Operated by Republic Airways Delta Conn...	12 hr JFK-DUB	1 stop 4 hr 11 min BOS	\$2,978 round trip
 4:30 PM – 8:05 AM* Air France · Delta · Operated by HOP!	10 hr 35 min JFK-DUB	1 stop 1 hr 15 min CDG	\$2,993 round trip
 6:40 PM – 10:25 AM* KLM · Delta	10 hr 45 min JFK-DUB	1 stop 2 hr AMS	\$2,998 round trip
 9:35 PM – 9:15 AM* Delta · KLM, Air France	6 hr 40 min JFK-DUB	Nonstop	\$5,813 round trip

THE PRICE OF LOYALTY

Here are some comparison prices for identical routes:

For the very same nonstop route, both with lie-flat seats, American's fare is \$1,864 while booking with Delta will cost you \$1,250 more (\$3,114). If it's comparing apples with apples, you'd think one must taste waaaaay better, but that's not really the case.

Round trip 1 Business

New York → Rome FCO

Tue, Aug 10 Tue, Aug 17

Non-stop X American +1 X Bags Price Times Connecting airports Duration More

 4:50 PM – 7:15 AM* American	8 hr 25 min JFK-FCO	Nonstop	\$1,864 round trip
 7:35 PM – 10:35 AM* Delta	9 hr JFK-FCO	Nonstop	\$3,114 round trip



A \$4,200 DIFFERENCE FOR THE SAME ROUTE?

Again, for the same nonstop route, and both with lie-flat seats, British Airways' fare is \$2,590, while booking with American will cost you **\$4,268 more**, or **\$6,858**. That's a massive price difference for the same exact route.

Flight Details	Duration	Nonstop	Fare
4:55 PM – 11:35 AM+1 British Airways - American, Finnair	10 hr 40 min LAX-LHR	Nonstop	\$2,590 round trip
6:45 PM – 1:15 PM+1 American - British Airways, Iberia, Finnair	10 hr 30 min LAX-LHR	Nonstop	\$6,858 round trip

Another identical route (New York-Milan): Alitalia's fare is \$2,124 while Delta will cost you \$975 more. Or are you content to stay loyal to one airline and book whatever it gives you? From our perspective, that doesn't make sense. After all, you're the one being loyal and the airline is just taking advantage of that.

Round trip 1 Business

New York  Milan MXP

Tue, Aug 10 Tue, Aug 17

Non-stop SkyTeam Bags Price Times Connecting airports Duration More

 8:30 PM – 10:40 AM ⁺¹ Alitalia · Delta, Air France	8 hr 10 min JFK-MXP	Nonstop	\$2,124 round trip
 5:30 PM – 7:45 AM ⁺¹ Delta · Alitalia	8 hr 15 min JFK-MXP	Nonstop	\$3,099 round trip



Feel like you're stuck with an airline when all the other kids are out playing?

If you're feeling lucky, you could roll the dice with Delta. In the example below you have just a 3% chance of getting the lowest fare in July. Delta is notorious for offering one day or only a handful of days a month with a teaser fare and the rest of the month you'll pay big. In the example below, you pay \$1,150 to \$9,109 more depending on your [level of flexibility](#).

Round trip Business

Atlanta ATL Frankfurt FRA

Non-stop Delta Bags Price Times

July							July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 \$3,941	2 \$3,941	3 \$2,791					1	2	3
4 \$3,941	5 \$3,941	6 \$3,941	7 \$3,941	8 \$3,941	9 \$5,241	10 \$5,391	4 \$11.9K	5 \$7,441	6 \$7,441	7 \$7,441	8 \$7,441	9 \$7,591	10 \$2,791
11 \$5,241	12 \$5,241	13 \$5,091	14 \$5,091	15 \$5,091	16 \$5,241	17 \$5,391	11 \$3,941	12 \$3,941	13 \$3,941	14 \$3,941	15 \$3,941	16 \$4,091	17 \$4,091
18 \$5,241	19 \$5,241	20 \$5,091	21 \$5,091	22 \$5,091	23 \$5,741	24 \$5,391	18 \$3,941	19 \$3,941	20 \$3,941	21 \$3,941	22 \$3,941	23 \$4,091	24 \$4,091
25 \$4,741	26 \$4,741	27 \$4,591	28 \$4,591	29 \$4,591	30 \$4,741	31 \$4,891	25 \$3,941	26 \$3,941	27 \$3,941	28 \$3,941	29 \$3,941	30 \$4,591	31 \$4,091

FINAL THOUGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pay cash now when fares are \$1,800 to \$2,500, more or less. With the [free change](#) policy, it can only get better.
- Use your miles for fares in the \$4,000+ range.
- If you're somewhere in the middle, take a look at [our report on when to use miles or cash](#).
- High holiday fares took the year off in 2020. We are starting to see them again, but because they're high, now is not the time to buy them.



Jab or No Jab: Here's the Hot Caribbean Islands You Can Visit Right Now

June 2021

Some are making it even easier to enter if you've been vaccinated.

Ah, the Caribbean. Velvety trade winds rustling the palms. Bathtub-warm water lapping at your toes. Powdery-soft sand beneath your feet. And the soul-warming sun to lift your spirits. There's nothing quite like a Caribbean beach vacation to put the lockdown behind us. Indeed, there's no better time to reward yourself with a relaxing tropical escape.

The good news is that the Caribbean is wide open for business and the welcome mat is out for U.S. tourists everywhere. Even the French islands of Guadeloupe, Martinique, and St. Barts will open up on June 9 when France finally lifts its U.S. visitor restrictions. But while all the islands are eager to see American tourists again,

about half are making it even easier for those who have been fully vaccinated by waiving or reducing their testing and quarantine requirements.

TWO-TRACK ENTRY PROTOCOLS: VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED

But it's complicated. To help you sift through all the entry complexities, we've identified which islands have adopted "two-track" arrival requirements for vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers. They are:

- Anguilla
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Bermuda
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Puerto Rico
- Saba
- Eustatius
- Kitts & Nevis
- Lucia
- Martin
- Vincent & the Grenadines
- S. Virgin Islands

Each one takes a somewhat different approach to how they welcome those who have been jabbed and those who haven't. The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, and Puerto Rico, for example, have waived Covid tests for vaccinated travelers to ease their entry, while the rest continue to require tests among other restrictions — even for those who have been inoculated. (See island-by-island requirements below.)

A few islands, meanwhile, are moving to accept *only* fully vaccinated travelers. Turks & Caicos started accepting only those who've been jabbed on May 29. St. Barts will start on June 9, and Anguilla, on July 1.

NEGATIVE COVID TESTS, APPROVED ACCOMMODATIONS, AND INSURANCE

Apart from the Dominican Republic, all the islands require proof of a negative Covid test prior to arrival (unless you've been vaccinated). But they vary widely in their other requirements.

Many, like Anguilla, Aruba, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and Turks & Caicos, require visitors to stay only at Covid-approved lodging.

Islands like Aruba, Bahamas, British Virgins, Cuba, Curacao, Grenada, Saba, Sint Maarten, and Turks & Caicos require medical/travel insurance that covers Covid. And virtually all request some type of travel authorization to enter.

SOME COUNTRIES REQUIRE QUARANTINE, WHICH CAN BE AT AN OPULENT RESORT'S BEACH

Half of the islands oblige you to quarantine upon arrival unless you've been vaccinated. It can range from 24 hours to a whopping 14 days. This may seem like a huge deterrent to some. After all, who wants to be locked in for days after arriving in your tropical paradise. But you can quarantine in your resort and enjoy all the on-property dining and sports facilities — not to mention the lovely beach — until the quarantine ends. That may be worth it if it's just for a few days.

Still, if quarantining is just too much for you, consider islands that don't make it mandatory at all. They are:

- Antigua & Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Bonaire
- Curacao
- Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Puerto Rico
- Saba
- Barts
- Maarten

HOTELS OFFER COVID TESTS FOR RETURN TO THE U.S.

Keep in mind that all passengers flying into the U.S. from the Caribbean (except from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) will need to provide proof of a negative Covid test received no more than 72 hours before boarding their flight.

But to facilitate this, many hotels in the Caribbean are now offering their guests pre-travel testing on site — some of them even for free. They include big chains like Marriott, Meliá, Sandals, Hyatt, Playa, and Karisma, as well as many individual hotels.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

We've pulled together all the complex entry requirements for every island. Here is what you need to know right now before you book your trip. But as you plan your visit, be sure to check your destination close to departure time as conditions are fluid and requirements can change quickly. (Note: All references to "vaccinated travelers" below refer to those who have received all required doses more than two weeks prior to travel.)

ANGUILLA

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination. Starting July 1, unvaccinated travelers will **not** be allowed to enter.

Covid test required: All travelers must submit a negative PCR test three to five days before travel and be tested upon arrival. Unvaccinated travelers must also be tested on Day 14 of their stay.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers must quarantine for seven days, but unvaccinated travelers for 14 days.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must apply for an official travel authorization certificate at least seven days prior to travel for a fee of \$300-\$400 per person, which covers two tests.

Covid-approved lodging required: Travelers must stay at a Safe Environment Certified Accommodation.

More information: escape.ivisitanguilla.com/the-process/

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Vaccinations: Not specified.

Covid test required: Travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR test taken within seven days of travel.

Quarantine required: No.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must complete a Health Declaration Form and receive medical screening on arrival.

Covid-approved lodging required: Travelers must stay at a Certified Accommodation.

More information: visitantiguabarbuda.com/travel-advisory/

ARUBA

Vaccinations: Not specified.

Covid test required: Travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR test taken 72 hours before travel or opt to take the test upon arrival at the airport for \$75.

Quarantine required: Only travelers who opt to be tested upon arrival must quarantine for up to 24 hours.

Medical insurance required: Travelers must buy the Aruba Travel Insurance within 72 hours prior to arrival for \$30 per person.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must fill out an Embarkation/Disembarkation card within 72 hours prior to travel.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: visitaruba.com/traveling-to-aruba/entry-requirements-and-visas/aruba-travel-restrictions-covid-19/

BAHAMAS

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination. Accepted vaccines are AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer.

Covid test required: Vaccinated travelers are exempt from Covid test for entry. Unvaccinated travelers must submit a negative PCR test within five days of travel and take a rapid antigen test on Day 5 of their stay.

Quarantine required: No.

Medical insurance required: Insurance is included in the price of Bahamas Travel Health Visa.

Travel authorization required: A Bahamas Travel Health Visa is required.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: bahamas.com/travelupdates

BARBADOS

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination. Accepted vaccines are AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer, and Sinopharm.

Covid test required: All travelers must submit a negative PCR test taken within three days prior to travel. Vaccinated travelers must also have a Covid test done upon arrival, and unvaccinated travelers must also have a test done five days after arrival.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers must quarantine for one to two days, but unvaccinated travelers for five to seven days.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must complete the online Immigration and Customs form 24 hours prior to arrival.

Covid-approved lodging required: Travelers must stay at an approved accommodation during their quarantine.

More information: visitbarbados.org/covid-19-travel-guidelines-2020

BERMUDA

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must show proof of vaccination status.

Covid test required: All travelers must submit negative Covid test taken no more than four days before travel. They also must take a Covid test upon arrival and on Day 4, 8, and 14 of their stay.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers must quarantine until receiving the results of their arrival Covid tests (usually 24 hours or less). Unvaccinated travelers must quarantine for up to 14 days.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must complete the Bermuda Travel Authorization process online within 48 hours of travel. The \$75 fee includes all on-island Covid testing.

Covid-approved lodging required: Unvaccinated travelers must stay at one of three designated hotels during their quarantine.

More information: gotobermuda.com/covid-19-travel-protocols

BONAIRE

Vaccinations: Not specified.

Covid test required: Travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR test done within 72 hours of travel and take an antigen test within 24 hours of arrival.

Quarantine required: No.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must complete an online health declaration before arrival.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: tourismbonaire.com/health-and-safety

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination. Accepted vaccines are AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer.

Covid test required: All travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR test taken within five days of travel and take a PCR test upon arrival.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers must quarantine for one day, pending a negative PCR test done upon arrival. Unvaccinated travelers must quarantine for seven days.

Medical insurance required: Travelers must have insurance that covers Covid.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must register online 48 hours prior to departure to obtain the Traveler Authorization Certificate for \$105.

Covid-approved lodging required: Travelers must stay at an Approved Gold Sealed Accommodation.

More information: bvitourism.com/reopening

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must show proof of vaccination status.

Covid test required: Vaccinated travelers are exempt from Covid test for entry but must be tested on arrival and on Day 15. Unvaccinated travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of travel and be re-tested on arrival and on Day 15.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers must quarantine for 10 days and unvaccinated travelers for 14 days when they must submit proof of a negative PCR test.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must apply and be approved to enter.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: exploregov.ky/faqs/covid-19-inbound-travel

CUBA

Vaccinations: Not specified.

Covid test required: Travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR test done within 72 hours of travel and take a free test upon arrival.

Quarantine required: Travelers must quarantine for five days at approved accommodations after which they must provide proof of a negative PCR test.

Medical insurance required: Travelers must have travel insurance that covers Covid.

Travel authorization required: No.

Covid-approved lodging required: Travelers must use approved accommodations during their quarantine.

More information: garda.com/crisis24/news-alerts/474861/cuba-covid-19-related-travel-protocols-and-domestic-restrictions-in-force-as-of-may-4-remain-largely-unchanged-update-21

CURACAO

Vaccinations: Not specified.

Covid test required: Travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of travel and take a rapid antigen test on Day 3 of their stay.

Quarantine required: No quarantine is required unless you test positive for Covid during your stay.

Medical insurance required: Travelers must have travel insurance.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must complete a Digital Immigration Card up to one hour prior to arrival and the Passenger Locator Card.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: curacao.com/en/article/travel-updates

DOMINICA

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination. Accepted vaccines are AstraZeneca, Janssen, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer, and Sinopharm.

Covid test required: Vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers must submit a negative PCR test taken within 24-72 hours of travel. Vaccinated travelers must be tested on Day 2 and unvaccinated on Day 5.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers must quarantine for two days and unvaccinated travelers for five to seven days.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: All travelers must complete an online health questionnaire at least 24 hours prior to arrival and be cleared to enter.

Covid-approved lodging required: Travelers must stay in a government-operated quarantine facility or a Safe in Nature-certified property during their quarantine.

More information: discoverdominica.com/en/travel-advisory-for-dominica

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Vaccinations: Not specified.

Covid test required: No.

Quarantine required: No.

Medical insurance required: Through June 12, all travelers will receive temporary free health insurance that covers Covid.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must fill out an online Traveler's Health Affidavit prior to arrival.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: godominicanrepublic.com/newsroom/coronavirus/

GRENADE

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination. Accepted vaccines are AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer, and Sputnik.

Covid test required: All travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR test done 72 hours prior to travel and take a Covid test upon arrival for a fee of \$152.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers must quarantine for 48 hours, pending a negative PCR test taken upon arrival. Unvaccinated travelers must quarantine until cleared by health officials.

Medical insurance required: Travelers must have insurance that covers Covid.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must apply for a Pure Safe Travel Certificate no later than 48 hours prior to travel.

Covid-approved lodging required: Travelers must have a confirmed reservation at an approved accommodation for a minimum of two nights.

More information: covid19.gov.gd/travel-covid/

GUADELOUPE

Status update: As an Overseas Department of France, Guadeloupe follows its entry protocols. Starting on June 9, France will begin allowing U.S. travelers to visit as long as they can present proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test taken within 72 hours of travel. Other details were still being defined at the time of publication and were not yet available.

More information: guadeloupe-islands.com/reopening/; bb.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/

HAITI

Vaccinations: Not specified.

Covid test required: Travelers must submit a negative PCR or antigen test result done 72 hours prior to arrival. Travelers who had Covid and recovered can skip testing and instead show their previous positive test, along with a doctor's note stating they recovered.

Quarantine required: No.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: No.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: <ht.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

JAMAICA

Vaccinations: Not specified.

Covid test required: Travelers must submit a negative PCR, NAA, RNA, or antigen test taken within three days of travel.

Quarantine required: Only travelers staying outside of the Resilient Corridors on the north and south coasts must quarantine for 14 days.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must complete the online Travel Authorization within seven days prior to travel.

Covid-approved lodging required: Travelers must remain in the Resilient Corridors and must stay at a Covid Protocol Compliant Approved accommodation.

More information: <visitjamaica.com/travelauthorization/>

MARTINIQUE

Status update: As an Overseas Department of France, Martinique follows its entry protocols. Starting on June 9, France will begin allowing U.S. travelers to visit as long as they can present proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test taken within 72 hours of travel. Other details were still being defined at the time of publication and were not yet available.

More information: us.martinique.org/discover/travel-alerts; bb.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/

MONTSERRAT

Vaccinations: Not specified.

Covid test required: Travelers must submit a negative PCR test result within seven days prior to travel and be tested at the end of their quarantine.

Quarantine required: Travelers must quarantine at their home for 14 days or at a designated facility for six days.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Only U.S. travelers who own a home on the island are permitted to visit. They must complete the online Access Declaration Form at least 72 hours prior to arrival.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: gov.ms/covid-19/

PUERTO RICO

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination. Unvaccinated travelers can receive a Johnson & Johnson vaccine in Terminal B of Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport upon arrival.

Covid test required: Vaccinated travelers are exempt from Covid test for entry. Unvaccinated travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR or antigen test done 72 hours prior to travel.

Quarantine required: Unvaccinated and untested travelers must quarantine for 14 days or until they provide proof of a negative PCR or antigen test taken on the island.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: All travelers must apply for a Travel Declaration Form online.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: discoverpuertorico.com/info/travel-guidelines

SABA

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination.

Covid test required: Travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR or antigen test taken 72 hours before arrival. Unvaccinated travelers must also take a rapid antigen test on Day 5.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers are not required to quarantine, but unvaccinated travelers must quarantine for five days.

Medical insurance required: All travelers must have medical insurance that covers Covid.

Travel authorization required: All travelers must apply for a Saba EHAS entry application.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: sabatourism.com/travel-requirements

ST. BARTS

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination. Starting June 9, unvaccinated travelers will not be allowed to enter.

Covid test required: All travelers must submit a negative Covid test taken within 72 hours of travel.

Quarantine required: After June 9, vaccinated travelers will not be required to quarantine.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: No.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: bb.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/

ST. EUSTATIUS (STATIA)

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination.

Covid test required: All travelers must submit a negative Covid NAAT test taken within 72 hours of travel. Vaccinated travelers must be tested on Day 5 and unvaccinated ones on Day 10.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers are exempt from quarantine, but unvaccinated travelers must quarantine for 10 days.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must submit an online travel questionnaire 12-48 hours before travel.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: statiagovernment.com/key-topics/covid-19/entry-policy

ST. KITTS & NEVIS

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination. Accepted vaccines are AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer.

Covid test required: All travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR test done 72 hours prior to travel. Vaccinated travelers must take a PCR test on Day 9 and unvaccinated ones, on Day 7 and 14.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers must quarantine for nine days, but unvaccinated travelers for up to 14 days.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must submit a KNA Travel Entry Form no later than 24 hours prior to travel.

Covid-approved lodging required: Travelers must stay at an International Travel Approved accommodation for the first 14 days of their stay.

More information: stkittstourism.kn/travel-requirements

ST. LUCIA

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination.

Covid test required: All travelers must submit a negative PCR test taken no more than five days before travel.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers are exempt from quarantine. Unvaccinated travelers must stay at a Covid-certified accommodation for the first 14 days and limit their movement off property.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must submit an online Travel Registration Form at least seven days prior to arrival and the Health Screening Form upon arrival.

Covid-approved lodging required: All travelers must stay at a Covid-certified accommodation.

More information: stlucia.org/en/covid-19/

ST. MARTIN (FRENCH SIDE OF ISLAND)

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination.

Covid test required: All travelers must submit a negative PCR test result taken within 120 hours of arrival at Princess Juliana Airport (SXM) in Sint Maarten (the Dutch side of the island) or within 72 hours of arrival at Grand Case-Espérance Airport (SFG) in St. Martin (the French side of the island). Unvaccinated travelers must take a PCR test on Day 7.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers are exempt from quarantine and unvaccinated travelers must quarantine for seven days.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers arriving via Princess Juliana Airport must complete an online health authorization application.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: st-martin.org/us/covid-19/terms-and-conditions-of-travel?dt=1622315824371; bb.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/

SINT MAARTEN (DUTCH SIDE OF ISLAND)

Vaccinations: Not specified.

Covid test required: U.S. travelers must submit a negative PCR test result taken within 120 hours of travel or an antigen test taken within 48 hours of travel.

Quarantine required: No.

Medical insurance required: Travelers must buy Covid insurance as part of the online health authorization application.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must complete an online health authorization application.

Covid-approved lodging: No.

More information: st-martin.org/us/covid-19/terms-and-conditions-of-travel?dt=1622315824371;
stmaartenehas.com/

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination.

Covid test required: All travelers must submit proof of a negative PCR test done no more than 72 before arrival and be tested on arrival. Unvaccinated travelers must also be tested between Day 4 and 7 of their stay.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers must quarantine for 48 hours, but unvaccinated travelers for 14 days.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must complete the Pre-Arrival Form.

Covid-approved lodging required: Travelers must stay at a Covid-approved hotel during their quarantine.

More information:

health.gov.vc/health/images/PDF/stories/SVG_Health_Services_Subcommittee_Protocol_for_Travelers_to_SVG_-06052021.pdf

TURKS & CAICOS

Vaccinations: Vaccinated travelers must submit proof of vaccination. Starting May 29, unvaccinated travelers are not allowed to enter.

Covid test required: Travelers must submit a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of travel. They must also be tested on Day 9 of their stay for a fee of \$150.

Quarantine required: Vaccinated travelers must “vacation in place” for nine days and unvaccinated for 14 days.

Medical insurance required: Travelers must have insurance that covers Covid.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must apply for the TCI Assured Travel Authorization online.

Covid-approved lodging required: Vaccinated travelers must “vacation in place” in one of seven Travel Approved hotels.

More information: visittci.com/travel-info/turks-and-caicos-coronavirus-covid-19

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Vaccinations: Not specified.

Covid test required: Travelers must submit a negative PCR test taken within five days of travel.

Quarantine required: No.

Medical insurance required: No.

Travel authorization required: Travelers must apply for travel certification within five days of travel.

Covid-approved lodging required: No.

More information: usviupdate.com/

51 Routes With Availability to Burn Miles On Europe's Grand Re-Opening Party, Up to 84% Off

June 2021

The cheapest mileage deals to Europe start at 68,000 round-trip

Half of you are vaccinated and half of you don't want the vaccine... but that's all water under the bridge now. These days, countries can't open up fast enough!

We've put together a simple go-to guide for those of you itching to get out right away, those who are looking to get out this fall, or even for a second time this fall or winter.



European dreamin'

There are plenty of great routes here to spend your miles on, although some are cheaper than others.

FCF'S SWEET REDEEMS AVAILABILITY TREASURE MAP

Iberia—a points-transfer partner with American Express, Chase and Marriott—for 68,000 to 85,000 miles...

Iberia to Madrid From	Depart			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	Nov., Dec., March	Jan., Feb.		Nov. to Jan.	Jan., Feb., March	
Houston	Dec.	Jan.	Jan., Feb., March	Nov., Dec.		Jan. to March
Los Angeles	Nov.		Jan. to March	Nov., Dec.		Jan. to March

*Months in black at least one seat available; in blue at least two seats.

Delta flights--using Virgin Atlantic miles (more on [this amazing strategy here](#))--a points-transfer partner with American Express, Chase, Citibank and Marriott--for 100,000 miles...

Delta using Virgin Atlantic miles	Depart			Return		
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Boston - Amsterdam	Jan.			Jan.		
Detroit - Amsterdam	Nov., Dec.	Oct., Jan.		Dec.	Nov., Jan.	
New York - Amsterdam	Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan.	Nov., Jan.		Nov., Dec.	Jan.	
New York - Madrid	Nov., Jan.	Jan.		Nov., Jan.		
New York - Paris	Oct., Dec., Jan.			Dec.	Jan.	
New York - Rome	Oct., Dec., Jan.			Dec., Jan.	Jan.	
New York - Venice	July, Sept., Oct.	Sept., Oct.	Aug.	Aug., Nov. to Jan.		
Seattle - Paris	Jan.	Jan.			Jan.	

*Months in black at least one seat available; in blue at least two seats; in green at least four seats.

United--a points-transfer partner with Chase and Marriott--for 120,000 to 126,000 miles...

United	Depart			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 - Frankfurt	Jan.	Feb.				Jan., Feb.
Chicago - London	Nov., Dec., Jan.	Jan., March	Feb.	Dec.	Dec.	Nov., Jan. to March
Chicago - Zurich			Nov. to April			Nov. to April
Houston - London	Dec., March	Jan.	Feb.	Dec.	Jan., March	Jan., Feb.
Los Angeles - London	Feb.			Feb.		

United	Depart			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
Newark - Berlin		Dec.	Nov., Dec., Jan. to April			Nov. to April
Newark - Dublin	Jan., March	March	Feb.	Jan.	Jan.	Feb., March
Newark - Geneva	March	Nov.	Feb.			Nov., Feb., March
Newark - Lisbon	Feb.			Feb.		
Newark - London	Dec. to Feb.			Dec., Jan.		Feb.
San Francisco - Munich	Jan.	Feb., March			Jan., March	Feb.
Washington, DC - Amsterdam	Dec., Jan.	Jan., March	Feb.		Jan., March	Feb.
Washington, DC - Brussels			Feb.			Feb.
Washington, DC - Geneva	Feb., March			Feb., March		
Washington, DC - Paris	Jan., March	Feb.		Jan.	March	Feb.
Washington, DC - London	Dec.	March	Jan., Feb.			Dec. to March

*Months in black at least one seat available; in blue at least two seats; in green at least four seats.

American	Depart			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
Charlotte - Dublin		Aug.	Sept., Oct.		Oct.	Aug., Sept.
Charlotte - London	Dec., Jan., April	Aug.	Sept. to Nov., Feb.		Aug., Jan.	Aug., Sept. to Nov., Feb. to April
Charlotte - Madrid	March		Aug. to Oct., April	Sept.		Aug., April

American	Depart			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
Charlotte - Munich			Nov. to April			Nov. to April
Chicago - London	Sept.	Sept., Oct.	Aug., Nov. to April			Aug., Nov. to April
Dallas - Frankfurt	Aug., Sept., Nov., Dec., March	Aug., April	Oct.	July, March	Aug., March	Aug., Sept., Oct., April
Dallas - London	Aug, Jan., Feb. April	Aug., Jan., Feb., March, April	Sept. to Dec., Jan., March	July	April	Aug. to March, April
Dallas - Paris	Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb.	Nov.		Aug., Nov., Dec., Jan. April	Feb., March	Feb.
Dallas - Madrid	Dec., Jan.	Jan.		Aug., Feb., March, April	Aug., Dec., Feb.	March
Los Angeles - London	Dec., Jan.	Nov.	Feb. to April	Aug.	Jan., April	Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., March
Miami - London	July, Aug., Sept., Nov., Dec.	July, Aug., Sept., Nov., Feb.	Oct.	July, April	Aug., Sept., Nov.	Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan. to March
Miami - Paris	Aug., Sept., Jan.		Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb.	April	Oct., Dec., Jan.	Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., March
New York - Barcelona			Aug. to April			Aug. to April
New York - London	Sept.	July, Dec., April	July, Aug., Nov., Dec., Jan. to March	Sept.		July, Aug., Nov. to April
New York - Madrid	April	Dec., Feb.	Sept. to Nov., Jan., March			Sept. to April
New York - Paris	July, Aug., Sept., March	Sept., March	Oct. to Feb.	Sept., April	Sept., Oct.	Aug., Oct., Nov. to Jan
Philadelphia - Amsterdam	Aug., Sept., Nov., Jan. to March	Aug., Dec., March	July, Dec.	Oct., Jan., April	Sept., Nov.	July, Aug., Sept. to Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., March
Philadelphia - London	July, Jan.	July, Jan., April	Aug. to Dec., Jan., Feb., March			July to April

American	Depart			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
Philadelphia - Madrid	Aug., Sept., Oct., Dec.	Aug.		Oct., Nov., Dec., March	Aug., Sept., April	Sept., Oct.
Philadelphia - Paris	Aug., Oct. to Feb.	Oct. to Dec., Jan.	Oct. to Dec.	Aug., Sept., Oct., Jan., March, April	Aug., Sept., Nov., Feb., March, April	Sept., Nov., Dec.
Philadelphia - Zurich	Jan., Feb., March		Nov., Dec.		Jan., April	Nov., Dec., Feb., March
Phoenix - London	Aug., Sept., Oct., Jan., April	Nov.	Nov., Dec., March	Aug., Oct., Jan.	Sept., Oct., Jan.	Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. to April
Raleigh - London	Aug., Jan., Feb., April	Aug., Sept., Jan., March	Aug., Sept., Oct. to Dec., Jan	Jan., April	Feb., March	Aug. to Dec.
Seattle - London	Aug., Nov., Dec., Feb., April	Jan., March	Jan., March	Sept., Oct., Nov.	Nov.	Aug., Dec. to April

*Months in black at least one seat available; in blue at least two seats; in green at least four seats.



Best FCF Fare & Miles Alerts Still Available

June 2021

We've put together a survey of the best airfares and unprecedented mileage availability (aka "Sweet Redemptions") that we've published in the last month—on major airlines—that are still live today. So in case you missed them the first time, here they are in all their glory.

***Don't see your origin and/or destination in an alert below? [This report was made for you.](#)

FCF Special Fares

Hawaii & Mexico

[Hawaii: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$968 R/T – Major Carriers](#)

[Hawaii: New Business Class Fares from \\$957 R/T With Alaskan Airways](#)

[Cozumel: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$537 R/T](#)

Africa

[Egypt: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$2,064 R/T](#)

[Kenya: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from \\$2,302 R/T](#)

[Casablanca: New Premium Economy Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,004 R/T](#)

[Johannesburg: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from \\$2,627 R/T](#)

[Morocco: New Business Class Fares from Canada from \\$2,033 R/T](#)

Asia

[Maldives: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$2,120 R/T](#)

[Hong Kong: New Premium Economy Fares from the U.S. from \\$958 R/T](#)

Europe

[Lisbon: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,735 R/T](#)

[Scotland: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$2,057 R/T](#)

[First Class: Athens from the U.S. from \\$3,350 R/T](#)

[Venice: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$1,936 R/T](#)

[First Class: Vienna from the U.S. from \\$2,977 R/T](#)

[Madrid: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,859 R/T](#)

[First Class: Belgium from the U.S. from \\$2,968 R/T](#)

[Sweden: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,895 R/T](#)

[Barcelona: New Premium Economy Fares from New York and Boston from \\$776 R/T](#)

[First Class: Zurich from the U.S from \\$2,969 R/T](#)

[Barcelona: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,854 R/T](#)

[Malaga: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,859 R/T](#)

[Barcelona: New First Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$3,153 R/T](#)

[First Class: Budapest from the U.S. from \\$2,968 R/T](#)

[Florence: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,872 R/T](#)

[Malta: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$2,049 R/T](#)

[Moscow: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$1,761 R/T](#)

[Seville: New Business Class Fares from Chicago, New York and Philadelphia from \\$1,999 R/T](#)

[Bologna: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,875 R/T](#)

[First Class Stockholm: New Fares from the U.S. from \\$2,981 R/T](#)

[London: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,934 R/T](#)

[Rome: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$1,873 R/T](#)

[First Class: Prague from the U.S from \\$2,962 R/T](#)

[Amalfi Coast: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$1,962 R/T](#)

[Mallorca: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,957 R/T](#)

[Milan: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada to Milan from \\$1,861 R/T](#)

[Valencia: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,978 R/T](#)

[Italy / Spain: New Business Class Flash Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,865 R/T](#)

[First Class to Switzerland from the U.S. from \\$2,960 R/T on BA](#)

Middle East

[Jordan: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from \\$2,206 R/T](#)

[Dubai: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from \\$2,437 R/T](#)

[Abu Dhabi: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from \\$2,450 R/T](#)

South America

[Chile: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$1,348 R/T](#)

[Brazil: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$1,352 R/T](#)

[Rio: New Premium Economy Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$746 R/T](#)

[Peru: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$759 R/T](#)

[New Buenos Aires \\$1,660 R/Ts In Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S.](#)

[First Class: Sao Paulo from the U.S. from \\$2,540 R/T](#)

[Chile: New Premium Economy Fares from the U.S. from \\$750 R/T](#)

[Rio de Janeiro: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from *\\$1,391* R/T](#)

[Brazil: New Premium Economy Fares from the U.S. and Canada to Sao Paulo from \\$747 R/T](#)

FCF Sweet Redeems

Asia

[Handful of Cheap Amex *First Class* All Nippon Airways Seats from Chicago to Tokyo, 93,000 R/T](#)

[Handful of Cheap *First Class* All Nippon Airways from San Francisco to Tokyo, 85,000 R/T](#)

[Handful of Cheap *First Class* All Nippon Airways from New York to Tokyo, 93,000 R/T Next Month & August](#)

[First Class: Scattered All Nippon Single-Seat Discount Availability to Tokyo from Los Angeles, If you know Where to Look](#)

[Handful of Japan Airlines *First Class* Seats from Los Angeles to Tokyo, If You Know Where to Look](#)

Europe

[Very Rare: Treasure Map of 49,000 Amex Points Availability for Boston-Europe Business Class R/Ts](#)

[Europe: Business Class Flights for 61,000 Miles \(Or Amex / Chase Points\) R/T from Miami, Great Availability for Two Seats](#)

[Europe: Two Delta Routes Biz Class 77,000 Miles / Points R/T \(Four Seats\)](#)

[Three Delta Routes to Europe 77,000 Points Biz Class R/T... Think Getting 5- to 9-for-1s](#)

[Very Rare: Treasure Map of 49,000 Amex Point Availability for New York-Europe Business Class R/Ts](#)

[Handful of Dirt Cheap Europe Business Class Flights from Los Angeles 73,000 Amex Points R/T For Travel in 2022](#)

[Many United Discount Business Class Opportunities from Houston and Many Other U.S. Cities to Amsterdam](#)

[Many United Business Class Opportunities from Washington, DC and Many Other U.S. Cities to London](#)

[Many United Business Class Opportunities from Chicago and Many Other U.S. Cities to London](#)

[Unprecedented American Business Class Opportunities from Charlotte and Many Other U.S. Cities to Munich](#)

South America

[Unprecedented American *First Class* Opportunities from Miami and Many Other Cities to Brazil, for Travel in 2022](#)



Buy the Dip, Upgrade Your Trip

June 2021

Want to trade up after you've bought your ticket? There's plenty of upsides as options explode with the elimination of change fees.

There are so many ways to improve your flying experience **after you've bought your ticket**.

Most people think of just one: "I got an upgrade!" But to me, "upgrade," like love, is a many-splendored thing.

And right now, given post-lockdown travel reality, your many splendors just increased. That's good news.

TAKE A DIP, THE TEMPERATURE'S PERFECT

Ever heard of the term, "[buy the dips](#)"? It refers to buying stocks when their price drops on the presumption they will subsequently rise much higher. Makes sense, right? Now think about travel.



What if you have a stock (let's call it a plane ticket), and you spot it now pricing for a lot less? You want that lower price, right? So you offload that first ticket with no penalty, and get the cheaper one. The airline will give you a credit.

You can't do that in the stock market, but now you can in travel.

That's because airlines have, for the most part, abandoned cancellation and change fees.

But a cheaper fare is just one of the ways to fly better.

THE AFTER-LIFE: THERE'S PLENTY OF UPSIDE EVEN AFTER YOU'VE BOUGHT YOUR TICKET.

Of course anyone can pay more to fly better—you just get a more expensive ticket, cabin, airline... But now you can do it *after* you've bought the ticket, **paying no more, or even less.**

You trade up your flying experience thanks to taking advantage of fare volatility or dips.

You could, for example, “trade up” your cabin... Find a new sale fare in Premium Economy to exchange your coach ticket; a new Business fare that’s little more than the Premium Economy ticket you bought; or a First Class fare surfaces to trade up from that no-deal Business Class fare you bought.

“Up” your destination. You wanted to go to Nice in France but found a much better price to Paris, and you’re happy to take the train down to Nice. Trains are fun. But after some “dipping” now you find that Nice is about the same price as Paris. So scratch the otherwise fun train and go straight to Nice because fares dropped and there are no change fees.

“Up” your dates. You booked to fly in August but then spotted a drop in September options, which, as it turned out, suited you better anyway.

“Up” your routing. You spot a better airport option, closer to home or your destination. Think Munich or Zurich over Heathrow.

“Up” your stopover situation. You score a nonstop after a price drop instead of a one-stop or a one-stop instead of a two-stop.

Trade up. Trade up. Trade up. All these “ups” are enabled by the downs—AKA, fare dips.

All of these better options can become available after you purchase because fares are volatile and there’s no fee to make changes in most cases.

Don’t think of your ticket as the ending. Think of it as the beginning — the beginning of a beautiful “upgrade.”

IN TRAVEL, RISK IS EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATED. SO MAKE HAY AND FIND THE GOLDEN NEEDLES

Canceling or changing your ticket for free gives you a **new tool in your travel bag** because it opens up the possibility of free or low-cost upgrades more easily.

Above, we talked about ways to upgrade that didn't involve fares. Now let's get down and dirty with the dollars in familiar scenarios.

What if you bought a Business Class ticket for \$2,200, because First Class was \$3,000 at the time of purchase, but now First Class is \$2,400? That means you can upgrade your ticket to First Class for \$200 instead of \$800.

Or let's say you bought an economy ticket for \$1,000 because other people in your travel party were anxious to have their ticket in hand so they could book their cruise or hotel. Then you spot a premium economy fare sale that happens weeks later, and premium economy is now \$900. You can upgrade for what we affectionately call, in this case, "cheaper than free" — MORE value for LESS money.

Because there's no change fee now, you don't have to figure in fees which run \$200 to \$600+ depending on the type of ticket you originally bought. Oftentimes, you could get a **better ticket for less money**. Cheaper plus better. Those are my favorite kinds of upgrades.

Fare Dip Examples

Route		Dallas - Venice	Washington, DC to Naples	Orlando - Dublin
Airline		United/Lufthansa	American/British Airways	Delta
Class		Business	Business	Business
Original Booking	Purchase Date	April 28, 2021	January 28, 2021	January 28, 2021
	Fare	\$3,241	\$3,882	\$3,200
	Travel date	August 26, 2021	August 26, 2021	August 26, 2021
Dip Deal	Purchase Date	May 28, 2021	May 28, 2021	May 28, 2021
	Fare	\$2,121	\$2,133	\$2,300
	Travel date	August 26, 2021	August 26, 2021	December 23, 2021
Savings %		35%	45%	28%
Savings \$		\$1,120	\$1,749	\$900

AWARENESS. YOUR NEW FAVORITE MANTRA.

If you can change for no fee, just be aware of what your dream ticket would be, and monitor your dream ticket cost from time to time. Maybe you settled for Premium Economy or Business Class one-way only, or Business Class rather than First.

You won't get that dream ticket if you're not looking out for it.

Fares are volatile, but there are times that people book when fares aren't the lowest. That's OK because by practicing that awareness you can **flip your trip and buy on the dip**.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE AIRPORT

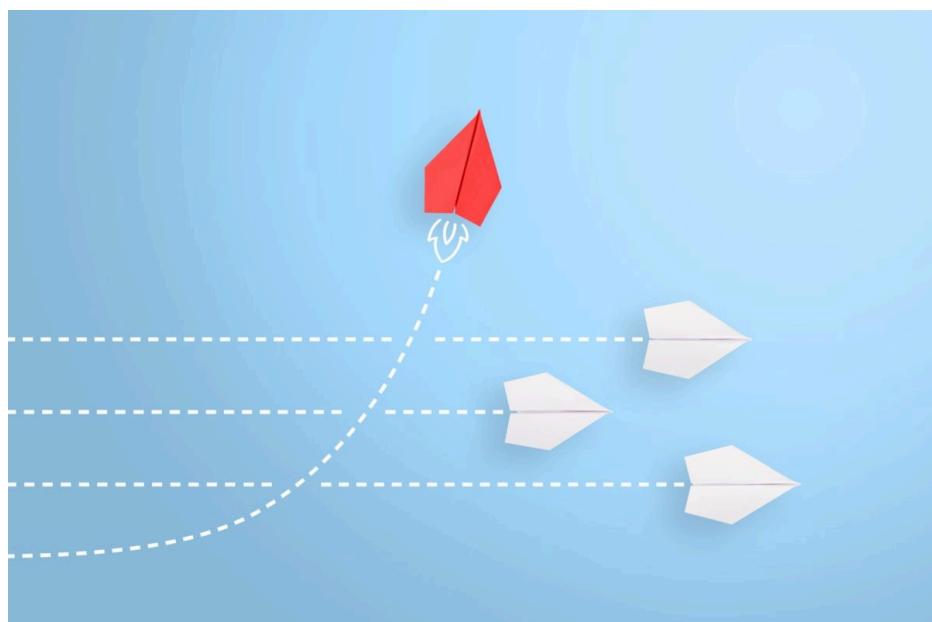
I'll leave you with this thought: comedy writers say you've got to write a thousand jokes to get a few good ones. No good writer can just reel off a stack of top-quality gags. They work really hard at it, penning a bunch of stinkers to get a few stunners.

Opal miners [dig out tons of rock](#) just to find those few precious iridescent discoveries.

Astronomers stare into the sky for endless hours hoping for that [once-in-a-lifetime find](#).

See where I'm going? You have to go wide to score the treasure. How wide? Last year I exchanged one ticket 7 times or more.

Put all this intel to work for you, be flexible — and fly high.



Put all this intel to work for you, be flexible — and fly high.



Hot Deals to Exotic Tropics— With Amex, Citibank, and Marriott Points

June 2021

Colorful underwater seascapes, white sand beaches, top-notch resorts... the Maldives has it all, and you can catch it now with our Sweet Redemptions treasure map using Emirates and Qatar flights.

Vijaya really needed to get away from it all. Tough year, work stress, you know the drill. So what better getaway than the Maldives? With more than 1,000 tropical islands and 26 colorful coral atolls to explore, the Maldives in the Indian Ocean is a destination that deserves its spot at the top of any beach-going traveler's wish list.

Oh, who's Vijaya? His visit to the Maldives was the earliest ever written about, back around 500 BC. He was King Vijaya in fact (of the Sinhalese) and he took a couple hundred followers with him.

You only need to take yourself. And with the back half of 2021 looking brighter, why not start making plans given there's plenty of Business Class availability to choose from? Pack up your sandals, sunglasses, and bathing suits and get ready to hit those white sand beaches once again.



The Maldives tourist slogan is "The Sunny Side of Life."

FLY QATAR QSUITES TO MALDIVES

FCF found Business Class award availability on Qatar Qsuites to the Maldives via Doha from Chicago, Houston, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. If you were to pay cash for the ticket, it'd easily run you between \$3,700 to \$5,500+, but now you can do much, much better than that.

A PEEK INSIDE THE QSUITE



At FCF, we're big fans of Qatar Airways' Qsuites. I mean, their sleek sliding-door Business Class offering is pretty hard to beat. And as you know, we're also big fans of saving money on luxury travel (how does a 57% discount sound?), so this deal brings it all together into a tropically sweet package.

The amazing Qsuite seat is 21.5" wide and reclines to a fully lie-flat bed 79" long. A cool feature is that the center section seats are close enough that they can conveniently become a double bed for couples or families traveling together. Talk about a romantic getaway.

QATAR PARTNERS

Qatar partners with American, Japan, and Cathay Pacific.

Qatar Qsuites to Male (via Doha) From	Everyday Miles	Qatar	American Miles	Japan Miles	Cathay Miles
Chicago	280,000	340,000	140,000	130,000	180,000
Houston				145,000	

Qatar Qsuites to Male (via Doha) From	Everyday Miles	Qatar	American Miles	Japan Miles	Cathay Miles
New York				130,000	
San Francisco				145,000	
Washington, DC				130,000	

NO MILES OR POINTS? NO PROBLEM.

If you buy (partner) American miles when on sale, often for 1.8 cents per mile, you can get a great deal on your booking. These sales appear often and can make a huge difference when you use award miles versus coughing up the full cash price. Qatar is also a transfer partner of Citibank.

Qatar Qsuites to Male (via Doha) From	Partner Miles	Cost per mile when on sale	Cost	Regular Published Fare	Difference
Chicago	American 140,000	1.8 cents	\$2,520	\$3,625	\$1,105 30%
Houston				\$3,846	\$1,326 34%
New York				\$5,805	\$3,285 57%
San Francisco				\$4,671	\$2,151 46%
Washington, DC				\$3,191	\$671 21%

Here's a relevant read that ties into this: [The Spring Qsuite for Fall – Enjoy This 66% Off Sale & More](#)

EMIRATES BUSINESS CLASS TO THE MALDIVES

FCF has found Business Class award availability on Emirates to the Maldives via Dubai from Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. These international tickets would typically run you \$6,600 to \$11,000 if you bought a normal ticket.

EMIRATES PARTNERS

Emirates Business Class can also be booked using Japan and Alaska miles:

Emirates Business Class to Male (via Dubai) From	Everyday Miles	Emirates Miles	Japan Miles	Alaska Miles
Boston	235,000	170,000	130,000	165,000
Chicago				
Dallas	247,500	180,000		

Emirates Business Class to Male (via Dubai) From	Everyday Miles	Emirates Miles	Japan Miles	Alaska Miles
Newark	235,000	170,000		
New York				
San Francisco	247,500	180,000		
Washington, DC	235,000	170,000		

GETTING EMIRATES MILES

No miles? No problem. Emirates is a point transfer partner with three credit card rewards programs — Amex, Chase, and Marriott — so you can easily get the miles you need. FCF research has found that the typical transfer time from Amex and Chase to Emirates miles is instantaneous (though this shouldn't be taken as a hard-and-fast rule), while a transfer from Marriott points can take up to three days.

You can buy up to 500,000 Amex Rewards points per year and they only cost 2.5¢ each. Given that the baseline Business Class fare from New York is often \$6,600 to \$11,000 to the Maldives and that you can buy 170,000 Amex Rewards Points for about \$4,250 and that taxes with the Emirates loyalty program cost about \$400, you'd end up saving up to \$6,350 or 58%.

A LOOK AT CURRENT AVAILABILITY

FCF'S QATAR QSUITE AVAILABILITY TREASURE MAP

Qatar Qsuites to Male (via Doha) From	Depart			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	July, Aug., Sept., April	Sept.		Aug., April		
Houston	July, Oct., March, April	July, Aug., Sept.	Aug., Sept.	Aug., to Oct., April		
New York	Sept., Oct., April	April		July, Sept., Oct., April	Aug., April	
San Francisco	July, Sept., March, April	July, Aug.		July to Sept., Oct., April	Aug.	July
Washington, DC	July, Aug., Oct., April	Aug., Sept.	Sept.	July, Aug., Sept., Oct., April	Sept.	

*Months in black at least one seat available; in blue at least two seats; in green at least four seats.

FCF'S EMIRATES BUSINESS CLASS AVAILABILITY TREASURE MAP

Emirates Business Class to Male (via Dubai) From	Depart			Return		
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Boston	July, Sept., Nov., Jan.	Nov., Jan.	Sept., Jan.	July, Sept., Oct., Jan., Feb. to April	July, Sept., Dec., Feb., March	Nov., Dec.
Chicago	Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan.	July	Aug., Sept., March	Aug. to Nov., Dec. to Feb., March	Oct.	July, Sept., Nov.
Dallas	July, Sept., Nov., Jan.	July, Aug.	Aug., Sept., March	Aug., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., March	Sept., Dec., Feb., March	July, Nov., Dec.
Newark	Aug., Oct., Nov., Jan.	Nov.	Sept., March	Oct., Feb. to March	Nov., Dec., Jan to March	Nov., Dec.
New York	Oct., Nov., Jan.	July to Sept., Jan.	Sept., March	Aug., Oct., Jan., Feb. to April	July, Aug., Sept., Feb.	July, Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., March
San Francisco	July, Aug., Nov., Jan.		Sept., March	July, Sept., Oct., Jan., March	July, Sept., March	Nov.
Washington, DC	July, Sept., Nov.	Nov., Jan.	Sept., March	Aug. to Oct., Jan., Feb., March	July, Nov., Dec., Feb., March	Sept., Nov., Dec.

*Months in black at least one seat available; in blue at least two seats.

Never been to the Maldives? Time to return? Make it easy on yourself and your wallet and book while the bookings are good.