



Highs and Lows: Choose Wisely from an Amazing Range of 2021 Southern South American Business Class Fares, from \$1,232

October 2020

Which airlines are gouging now, and which is offering the lowest fares from many U.S. cities?

You know *that* guy?

The guy who can beat you, no matter what you spent. “You bought a 3D-printed carbon fiber bike for 6 grand!?", he asks. “Man, you got ripped off! I got mine for twelve hundred!”

Doncha hate that?

Well, believe it or not, that's the kind of price difference we're seeing on flights to South America right now. Imagine paying four or five times the airfare that the person next to you paid to get to Iguazu Falls on the Argentina-Brazil border, the beaches in Rio, in culture in Buenos Aires, or the Andes in Chile? You'd be kind of cranky, right? Especially if it's *that* guy telling you about it.

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF HEADING SOUTH

As our research shows, you can fly to South America as cheaply as [\\$1,232](#) or as expensively as \$8,000+, and both options are for roughly the same flight time.

If you're thinking about a big trip in 2021, you're certainly not alone. We'll show you how you can go long and far for just \$20 per flight hour more in Business Class than economy on major US carriers.

And this is NOT a story about a deal on Copa Airlines or Aeromexico. That's what you typically find on the Internet when you Google "cheap deals to South America." That's where you have to fly through Bogotá or Panama on a so-called "Business Class" seat. This report is about comfy lie-flat seats on your favorite elite status airline, at rates you won't find anywhere near this low anytime soon.

SOUTH AMERICAN TAKEAWAYS: WHAT WE FOUND

- It's amazing how much fares vary from the U.S. to South America. Business Class fares for 26 hours of flying on the major airlines range from \$1,232 to \$8,000+.
- Those \$1,232 fares shrink to ~\$900 effectively when you factor in the miles you earn.
- The lowest fares for departure to Rio de Janeiro are under \$2,000 on LATAM from Miami, United from Salt Lake City, American from New York, and Delta from New York, while fares on United from New York are over \$5,000.
- The lowest fares for departure to São Paulo are from Raleigh on LATAM for under \$2,000, and in the \$2,000-\$2,500 range on Delta from Boston, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Raleigh, Detroit, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Miami, and New York, on United from Seattle, Detroit, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and Atlanta, on American from Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Raleigh, and Minneapolis, and on LATAM from Atlanta.
- The lowest fares for departure to Buenos Aires are under \$2,000 from Miami on LATAM and in the \$2,000-\$2,500 range on Delta, United, and American from Miami.
- The lowest fares for departure to Santiago are in the \$2,700-\$2,800 range on Delta from Boston, Pittsburgh, Raleigh, Los Angeles, New York, Orlando, and Atlanta, on United from Pittsburgh, Seattle, Raleigh, Minneapolis, Detroit, and New York.
- If you are looking for low fares, forget about departing from these nine cities for less than \$3,700: Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Phoenix, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington, DC, with very few exceptions. Here are those exceptions: Delta is offering flights from Philadelphia to Rio de Janeiro from April to June and August for \$2,200. Delta is also offering flights from Washington, DC, to Rio de Janeiro for \$2,390 for travel March through June and August. And United is also offering flights from Washington, DC, to Rio de Janeiro for \$2,390 for travel in March, April, and June.

- Overall lowest fares are offered by Delta followed by American, United, and LATAM, which doesn't have as many routes.

Keep in Mind: By the time you read this, some fares will have changed. That said, we've found the trend to be fairly consistent over the last 30 days.

LOW PRICE, LOW RISK

Remember that there's no problem if you change your minds airlines are lockdown friendly, with relaxed change and cancelation policies.

Survey of New York Deal Landscape

Remember that there's no problem if you change your minds airlines are lockdown friendly, with relaxed change and cancelation policies.

To	Airline	Under \$1500	\$1,501-\$2,000	\$2,001-\$3,000	\$3,001-\$5,000	\$5,001+
Rio de Janeiro	AA	April, June	Feb., March	Jan.	May	July, Aug.
	DL	April, May		June	Jan. to March, July, Aug.	
	UA					Jan. to Aug.
	LATAM			Jan. to June	July, Aug.	
Sao Paulo	AA/DL			Jan. to Aug.		
	LATAM			Jan. to Aug.		
	UA			Feb. to July	Jan., Aug.	
Buenos Aires	AA/UA				Jan. to Aug.	
	DL/LATAM			Jan. to Aug.		
Santiago	AA					Jan. to Aug.
	DL			April to Aug.	Jan. to March	
	UA			Feb. to June	Jan., July, Aug.	
	LATAM			Jan. to Aug.		

Survey of Miami Deal Landscape

To	Airline	Under \$1500	\$1,501-\$2,000	\$2,001-\$3,000	\$3,001-\$5,000	\$5,001+
Rio de Janeiro	AA			Jan. to Aug.		
	DL			March to June., Aug.	July	Jan., Feb.
	UA			Feb. to April, June, July	May	Jan., Aug.
	LATAM	Jan. to Aug.				
Sao Paulo	AA/DL/UA				Jan. to Aug.	
	LATAM			March, April, Aug.	Jan., Feb., April to Aug.	
Buenos Aires	AA/DL			Jan. to Aug.		
	UA			Feb. to July	Jan.	Aug.
	LATAM		Feb. to Aug.	Jan.		
Santiago	AA/LATAM				Jan. to Aug.	
	DL				Jan. to April to Aug.	
	UA				Feb. to July	Jan., Aug.

Survey of Chicago Deal Landscape

To	Airline	Under \$1500	\$1,501-\$2,000	\$2,001-\$3,000	\$3,001-\$5,000	\$5,001+
Rio de Janeiro	AA					Feb. to Aug.
	DL/UA					Jan. to Aug.
Sao Paulo	AA/DL/UA					Jan. to Aug.
	LATAM					Jan. to July
Buenos Aires	AA/DL				Jan. to Aug.	
	UA				Feb. to Aug.	Jan.
Santiago	AA					Jan. to Aug.
	DL				Jan. to Aug.	
	UA				Feb. to Aug.	Jan.

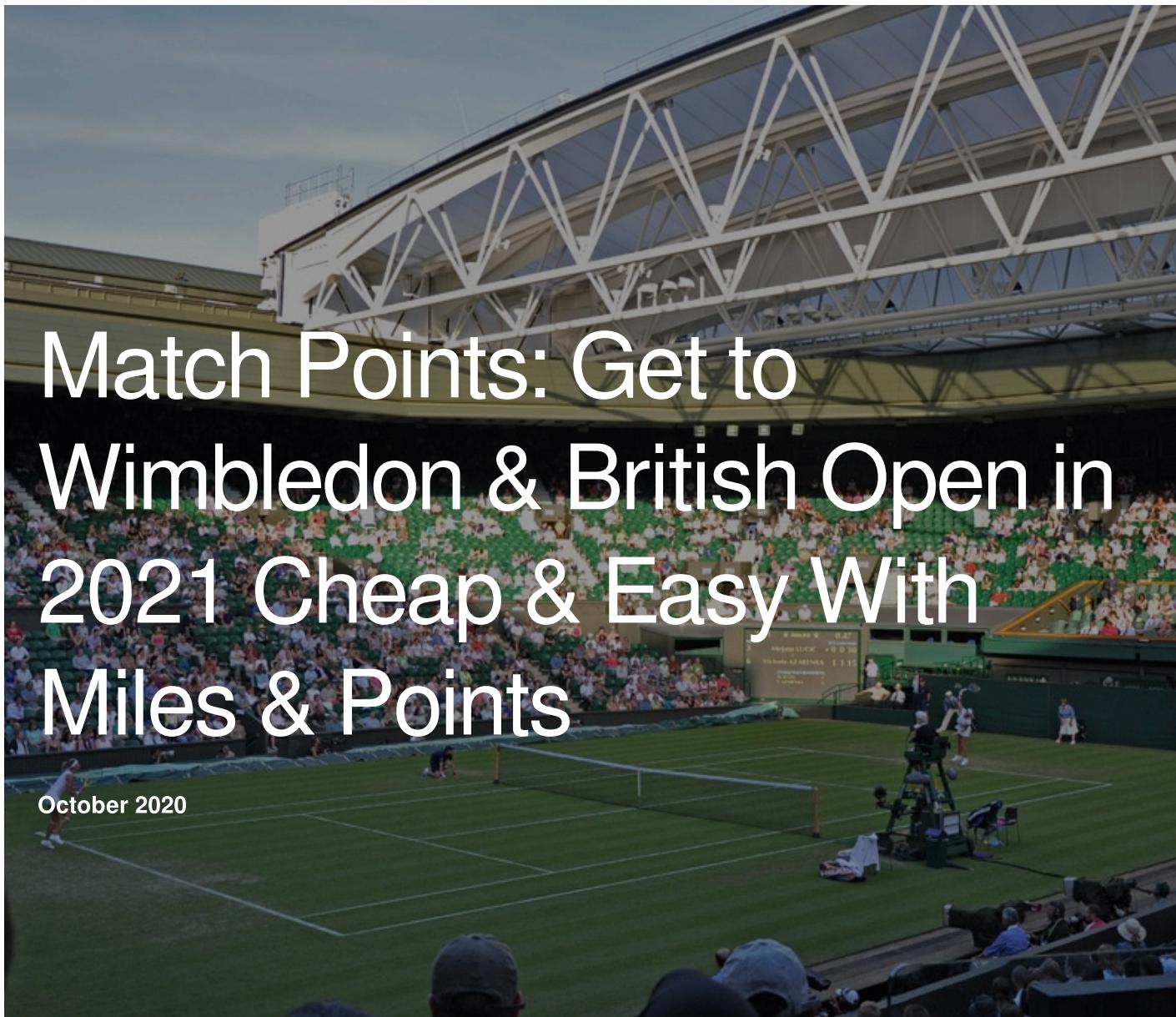
Survey of Atlanta Deal Landscape

To	Airline	Under \$1500	\$1,501-\$2,000	\$2,001-\$3,000	\$3,001-\$5,000	\$5,001+
Rio de Janeiro	DL			April to Aug.	Jan. to March	
	UA			March, April, June, July	Feb., May, Aug.	Jan.
Sao Paulo	DL				Jan.	
	UA/LATAM			March to Aug.	Jan., Feb.	
Buenos Aires	DL			May, June	Jan. to April, July, Aug.	
	UA			Feb., April to June, Aug.		Jan., March, July
Santiago	AA					Jan. to Aug.
	DL			May, June, Aug.	Jan. to April, July	
	UA				Feb. to April, June to Aug.	Jan.

Survey of Los Angeles Deal Landscape

To	Airline	Under \$1500	\$1,501-\$2,000	\$2,001-\$3,000	\$3,001-\$5,000	\$5,001+
Rio de Janeiro	AA			April to June	Feb., March, July, Aug.	Jan.
	DL			April, May, Aug.	Feb., March, June, July	Jan.
	UA			Feb. to April, June	May, July	Jan., Aug.
Sao Paulo	AA			April to June	Jan. to March, July, Aug.	
	DL			March, April, July, Aug.	Feb., May, June	Jan.
	UA			March to June	Jan., Feb., July, Aug.	
	LATAM				Jan. to Aug.	
Buenos Aires	AA/DL/UA				Jan. to Aug.	
	LATAM				Jan., Feb., April to Aug.	
Santiago	AA					Jan. to Aug.
	DL			June	Feb., April, May, July, Aug.	Jan., March

To	Airline	Under \$1500	\$1,501-\$2,000	\$2,001-\$3,000	\$3,001-\$5,000	\$5,001+
	UA/LATAM				Jan. to Aug.	



Match Points: Get to Wimbledon & British Open in 2021 Cheap & Easy With Miles & Points

October 2020

Eventful times: Use miles and points now for bucket list events later

A Booking.com [study showed that booking and planning travel makes us happier](#) than having a baby, landing a dream job, or, gulp, even getting married. I'll let you decide how true that is, and share that information at your discretion. But there's no doubt that travel – even just looking forward to future travel – lights up our brain's happy zones like the 4th of July.

I could have told you that decades ago but hey, it's nice to see the science catching up.

Want a Slam...?

So you've been to the US Open for tennis and golf how many times now? PGA: tick. Augusta: tick. Or maybe you've ventured farther afield as I have from time to time, to somewhere like the Australian Open. Or what about the big UK events like Wimbledon or the British Open Golf tournament? Are any of those rising on your bucket list?

With both being canceled this year, we sports lovers will be thankful enough to settle for the US Open golf and tennis and the French Open on TV.



THEN SLAM THIS OPPORTUNITY

So here's our return volley for you: Use those miles and points you've been accumulating to smash juicy opportunities to the UK for dates that coincide with these big world events. London is an awesome city to visit. Being there AND seeing tennis at Wimbledon is like a match made in heaven.

Bear in mind that if you're trying to find mileage award space on American or United, you can pretty much forget about it. However, the news is much brighter if you're looking to use miles or points to upgrade, as our research shows. We also found awards available on Delta Business Class (using Virgin Atlantic miles, an Amex partner), and Virgin Atlantic Business Class.

2021 MINDSET: START NOW

If we've only learned one thing from 2020, it's that we shouldn't procrastinate on the things we want to do. This cheat sheet is for anyone who thought about going to the big sports events, but couldn't make it this year, or anyone who doesn't want to put it off any longer.

The tables below show all the details. And if you're wondering about how difficult or easy it is to get tickets, know that StubHub is the safe (and relatively cheap) option. Click [here](#) to check availability. Wimbledon tickets will be much cheaper next year on Stubhub, and readily available as always.

Wimbledon June 28-July 11, 2021 - For travel June 15-July 21, 2021 - Availability

American Economy to Business Class Upgrade	Outbound			Return		
4 Seats				4 Seats		
Days Available	13+	9-12	4-8	13+	9-12	4-8
New York to London	June	July		July		
Chicago to London	June		July	July		
Philadelphia to London	June		July			
Miami to London		June			July	
Los Angeles to London	June		July	July		

Wimbledon June 28-July 11, 2021 - For travel June 15-July 21, 2021 - Cost

American Economy to Business Class Upgrade	Economy Class Fare				Sample Business Class Fare	Savings	
Cost	Fare	Co-Pay	Total	Miles			
New York to London	\$1,173	\$700	\$1,873	50,000	\$3,671	\$1,798	49%
Chicago to London	\$1,333	\$700	\$2,033	50,000	\$3,821	\$1,788	47%
Philadelphia to London	\$1,133	\$700	\$1,833	50,000	\$3,821	\$1,988	52%
Miami to London	\$1,123	\$700	\$1,823	50,000	\$3,821	\$1,998	52%
Los Angeles to London	\$1,173	\$700	\$1,873	50,000	\$4,221	\$2,348	56%

Wimbledon June 28-July 11, 2021 - For travel June 15-July 21, 2021 - Availability

United Economy to Business Class Upgrade				Outbound		Return			
4 Seats						4 Seats			
Days Available				13+	9-12	4-8	13+	9-12	4-8
Newark to London				June		July	July		
Los Angeles to London				June		July		July	
Washington, DC to London				June		July		July	
Houston to London				June		July		July	

Wimbledon June 28-July 11, 2021 - For travel June 15-July 21, 2021 - Cost

United Economy to Business Class Upgrade	Economy Class Fare				Sample Business Class Fare			Savings	
Cost	Fare	Co-Pay	Total	Miles					
Newark to London	\$1,042	\$1,100	\$2,142	40,000	\$3,460		\$1,318	38%	
Los Angeles to London	\$1,142	\$1,100	\$2,242	40,000	\$4,067		\$1,825	45%	
Washington, DC to London	\$1,002	\$1,100	\$2,102	40,000	\$3,467		\$1,365	39%	
Houston to London	\$1,302	\$1,100	\$2,402	40,000	\$3,567		\$1,165	33%	

British Open July 16-19, 2021 - For travel July 5 - July 31, 2021 - Availability

United Economy to Business Class Upgrade				Outbound		Return			
4 Seats						4 Seats			
Days Available				13+	9-12	4-8	13+	9-12	4-8
Newark to London					July			July	
Los Angeles to London					July			July	
Washington, DC to London					July			July	

British Open July 16-19, 2021 - For travel July 5 - July 31, 2021 - Cost

United Economy to Business Class Upgrade	Economy Class Fare				Sample Business Class Fare		Savings	
Cost	Fare	Co-Pay	Total	Miles				
Newark to London	\$927	\$1,100	\$2,027	40,000		\$3,467	\$1,440	42%
Los Angeles to London	\$992	\$1,100	\$2,092	40,000		\$4,067	\$1,975	49%
Washington, DC to London	\$823	\$1,100	\$1,923	40,000		\$3,467	\$1,544	45%

Wimbledon June 28-July 11, 2021 - For travel June 15-July 21, 2021

Virgin Atlantic Award	Business Class Cost Round-Trip				Outbound		Return		
4 Seats						4 Seats			
Days Available					9-12	4-8	13+	9-12	4-8
Washington, DC to London	95,000/115,000				June	July			
New York to London	95,000/115,000				June			July	
Los Angeles to London	135,000/155,000				June	July			
Miami to London	95,000/115,000				June		July		
Seattle to London	135,000/155,000				June				July
San Francisco to London	135,000/155,000				June		July		

Delta Airlines Using Virgin Atlantic Award Miles	Business Class Cost Round-Trip				Outbound		Return		
4 Seats						4 Seats			
Days Available					9-12	4-8	13+	9-12	4-8
Atlanta to London	95,000/115,000				June	July			
Boston to London	90,000/115,000						July		
Detroit to London	95,000/115,000				June				July

Delta Airlines Using Virgin Atlantic Award Miles	Business Class Cost Round-Trip	Outbound	Return
Minneapolis to London	95,000/115,000	June	July

British Open July 16-19, 2021 - For travel July 5 - July 31, 2021

Virgin Atlantic Award	Business Class Cost Round-Trip	Outbound	Return
4 Seats			4 Seats
Days Available		9-12	4-8
Washington, DC to London	95,000/115,000	July	July
New York to London	95,000/115,000	July	July
Los Angeles to London	135,000/155,000	July	July
Miami to London	95,000/115,000	July	July
Seattle to London	135,000/155,000	July	July
San Francisco to London	135,000/155,000	July	July

Delta Airlines Using Virgin Atlantic Award Miles	Business Class Cost Round-Trip	Outbound	Return
4 Seats			4 Seats
Days Available		9-12	4-8
Atlanta to London	95,000/115,000	July	July
Boston to London	95,000/115,000	July	July
Detroit to London	95,000/115,000		July
New York to London	90,000/115,000		July
Minneapolis to London	95,000/115,000		July

For seasonal information using Virgin Atlantic miles flying on Virgin go [here](#) and Delta go [here](#).

Tell us: What event-focused travel opportunity are you interested in, whether sports or cultural? Stay tuned for more here at FCF soon.



Shiny West Coast Needle Found in Rare European Haystack—Nonstop First Class

October 2020

**A lockdown-ending celebration for West Coasters
longing for a euro fix in comfort.**

One of our researchers put it bluntly:

"We haven't seen availability from the West Coast to Europe on nonstop flights for a very long time. We're constantly checking. Nothing!"

And then a flash of First Class gold caught our eye like a flare on a moonless night: American Airlines' miles availability in First Class for poor, typically-overlooked West Coasters.

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1849

This all comes about in the tumult of airline lockdown antics. When covid came onto the radar the airlines got super generous. Then they backtracked. [Lately](#), good opportunities have been drying up faster than morning dew in the Arizona sun.

And the West Coast is even tougher. There aren't many West Coast-Europe nonstop flights to begin with. Most have connections for obvious reasons. East Coasters enjoy up to 30+ nonstop flights a day between New York and London alone. So to find availability using miles on a nonstop flight in First Class, AND from the West Coast, is like tripping over a pure gold nugget on the sidewalk.

WHAT KIND OF SEAT SEEKER ARE YOU?

Do you require only the best available? Do you think about the seat quality based on how long your flight is? Check out the table below and see where you stand. It'll affect how you look at this American deal-up to 51% off—from the West Coast to Europe.

Seat Seeker Matrix

West Coast to Europe Traveler				
Flight Length	Spoiled Traveler	Average Premium Traveler	Humble Premium Traveler	Budget Traveler
10+ hours	Gotta be First Class if possible.	Good Business Class is OK.	OK with above-average Premium Economy.	Coach is fine.
7-10 hours	Good Business Class is required.	Decent Business Class is OK.	Ok with average Premium Economy.	Coach is fine.

AVAILABILITY. THAT'S RARE.

Before we get TOO excited, American's First Class is a little dated these days. But compared to its new Business Class, it's way more spacious. Privacy is a big bonus, and the seats are nice and wide. That said, with the overall steady decline in demand for a First Class cabin, you can only find it on routes to London from Dallas, Miami, New York, and Los Angeles.

Calendar



Mon, May 3
LAX to LON
76.5K

Tue, Jun 8
LON to LAX
76.5K

Round trip (per person) from
153K miles
+ \$323.65

Nonstop only

First

76.5K Lowest price this month

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 215K	2 83K	3 83K	4 93.5K	5 96.5K
6 86.5K	7 90K	8 76.5K	9 76.5K	10 76.5K	11 86.5K	12 96.5K
13 90K	14 86.5K	15 76.5K	16 76.5K	17 76.5K	18 86.5K	19 96.5K
20 100K	21 90K	22 76.5K	23 117K	24 76.5K	25 90.5K	26 143K
27 266K	28 176K	29 76.5K	30 76.5K			

Although there are just a handful of dates each month, we have seen the cost for this opportunity as low as 153,000 American miles, round-trip, or just 76,500 one way. This is typically **available with four seats** for three days each month and with two seats for seven days each month (on average). But any number is good because there's often nothing available. So given that the dates are looking like prime post-lockdown timeslots, we say this is a red-hot opportunity. When lockdown ends, people will be jumping on opportunities like this. You can do it right now.

First Class Outbound Availability

1 Seat	2 Seats					4 Seats				
Days Available	13+	9-12	4-8	13+	9-12	4-8	13+	9-12	4-8	
Los Angeles - London	May	June, July				April, June, July		March, May		

First Class Return Availability

1 Seat	2 Seats					4 Seats				
Days Available	13+	9-12	4-8	13+	9-12	4-8	13+	9-12	4-8	

First Class Return Availability

Los Angeles - London

April, June

May

March

SPECIAL NOTES TO KEEP IN MIND

The Web Special price is 153,000 miles vs 251,500. A Web Special booking cannot be modified BUT it can be canceled and the miles reinstated with no fee through Dec. 31, 2020. This allows for rebooking if your plans change. However, if you do cancel and rebook, all segments will be subject to available inventory upon rebooking.

First (X)

 **Web Special - First award**
Only available on aa.com

Trips that include a Web Special award cannot be changed once ticketed. You can cancel your trip and reinstate miles, but fees may apply.*

Round trip (per person)

153,000 miles
+ **\$325.75**

Confirm

First award

Changes are allowed (fees may apply*).

Round trip (per person)

251,500 miles
+ **\$325.75**

Choose

*Fees do not apply if you're an Executive Platinum member and use miles from your account.

AVAILABILITY: A DAY-TO-DAY PROPOSITION

We checked availability about two weeks ago on American Airlines and found a decent amount of space. We checked again the following Monday and space was still there. Then we checked a few days later and space was completely gone! Not one seat. And now, just before publication, space is back again. So the lesson is clear: **if you don't see space, keep checking** as availability on American is a roller coaster ride at the moment.

NO AMERICAN MILES? NO WORRIES.

Simply buy miles when they're on sale. Sales come up often and they can cost as low as 1.7 cents each. So, for the 153,000 needed here, it will cost you \$2,601 for the miles and \$326 in taxes. Given the normal Los

Angeles-London round-trip fare is \$6,000, you save \$3,073 / 51%.

AMERICAN AIRLINES FIRST CLASS



7 REASONS TO BOOK FLIGHTS TO LONDON FOR 2021

1. Wimbledon – June-July 2021
2. The Chelsea Flower Show – May 2021
3. You can get free connecting flights on AA partners all over Europe from London
4. The British Open – July 2021
5. Paris is 2 hours away
6. The Royal Ascot Races – June 2021
7. Attend a live soccer game



Long Jump: How You Can See Next Year's Olympics in Tokyo—or Many Other Asian Hotspots—in Affordable First Class Style

October 2020

Well, that's what we have in store for you using your Amex Membership Rewards points. For just 110,000 points you can get to Asia in style and comfort with a First Class seat flying All Nippon Airways, a United Star Alliance partner. And wouldn't you know it, Tokyo has moved their Olympics ahead one year just so you can do it (OK, there may be other reasons).

What's even better than First Class? When you have someone else find rare hidden availability served up on a silver platter. Make that gold. Given the small size of a First Class cabin, availability is like finding hen's teeth with gold fillings. We found availability from Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC.

FUN AND GAMES

Book now for [the Olympic Games in Tokyo](#): July 23-Aug 8, 2021. You just know the Japanese will make these Games to remember.

U.S.-Tokyo > First Class > Availability Cheat Sheet

To Tokyo From:	Miles/Points	# Required	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
New York*	ANA/Amex	150,000	Dec., July	Aug.	Sept.
	United	220k/400k			
	LifeMiles	180,000			
	Aeroplan	210,000			
	Virgin	120,000			
Washington, DC	ANA/Amex	150,000	April	May, Sept.	June to Aug.
	United	220k/400k			
	LifeMiles	180,000			
	Aeroplan	210,000			
	Virgin	120,000			
Chicago	ANA/Amex	150,000	Jan., Feb., March, Sept.	Nov., Dec., Aug.	Jan., Feb., April to Sept.
	United	220k/400k			
	LifeMiles	180,000			
	Aeroplan	210,000			
	Virgin	120,000			
Los Angeles	ANA/Amex	150,000	Dec., March, April , June , July	June, July, Aug. , Sept.	Jan. , Feb. , Sept.
	United	220k/400k			
	LifeMiles	180,000			
	Aeroplan	210,000			
	Virgin	110,000			
San Francisco	ANA/Amex	150,000	July , Sept.	Dec., March, Aug.	Jan., Feb., April to Sept.

To Tokyo From:	Miles/Points	# Required	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
	United	220k/400k			
	LifeMiles	180,000			
	Aeroplan	210,000			
	Virgin	110,000			

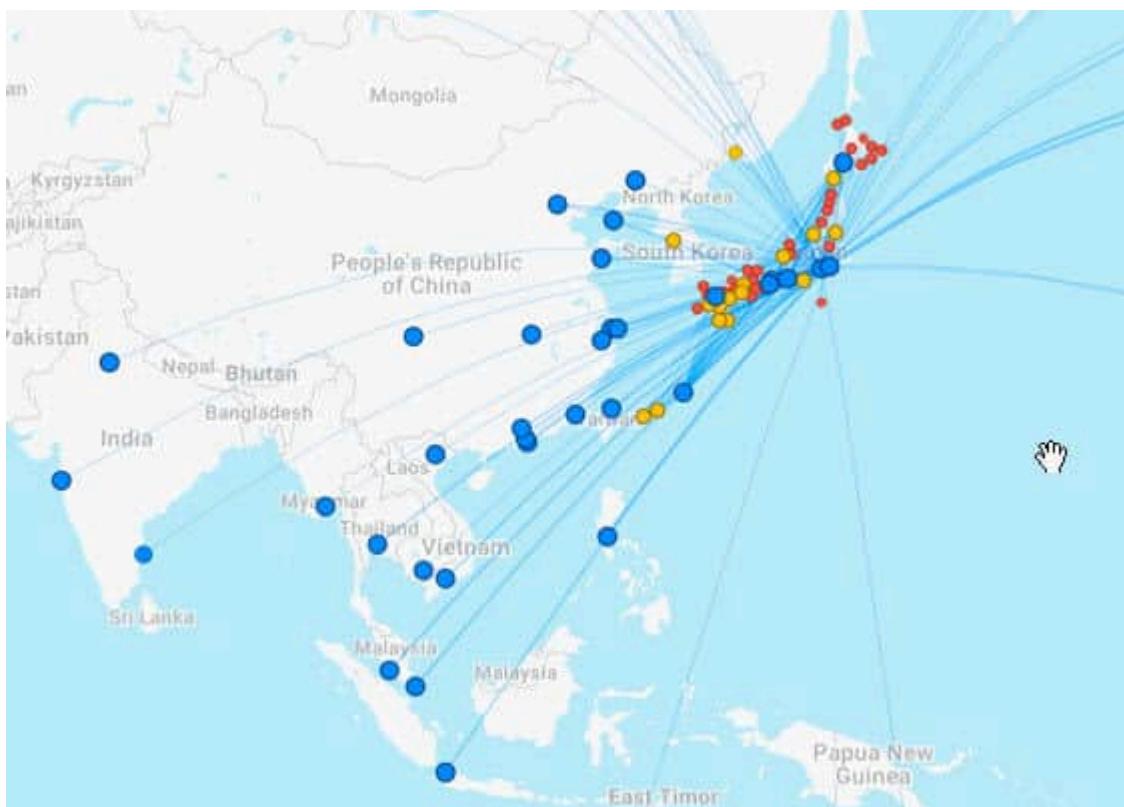
*Offers New All Nippon First Class Seat **Months in black at least one seat available; in blue at least two seats.

What do you do if only one seat is available? You read [this special report](#).

NOT INTERESTED IN TOKYO? NO PROBLEM.

If you're not thinking of Tokyo, no problem. For just 15,000 more miles you can add flights to Shanghai or Taipei. For just 45,000 more miles you can see the sights of Kuala Lumpur or eat sambal in Jakarta.

All Nippon Airways [Route Map](#) on FlightConnections.com



ALL NIPPON'S NEW FIRST CLASS SEAT OFFERED FROM NEW YORK



All Nippon First ClassTHE Suite

ALL NIPPON'S FIRST CLASS SEAT OFFERED FROM CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO, AND WASHINGTON



All Nippon First Class

How to Check All Nippon First Class Availability in Minutes

1. Go to [Complete Search Form](#)
2. Review Available Dates
3. Explore and Select Dates
4. Select Flights
5. Pay for Your Ticket

1 Flight Search 2 Passenger Information 3 Payment Method 4 Complete

Book Flights **Award Reservation**

Round trip **Multiple cities/Mixed classes**

Round trip | [Open-jaw](#)  

From:   To:  

Departure date:  Return date: 

Compare seat availability +/- 3 days

Class: 

Passengers:  

16+ years: <input type="text" value="1"/>  	12-15 years: <input type="text" value="0"/>  	2-11 years: <input type="text" value="0"/>  
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Check when logged in user will not be traveling

Search 

Important Information

- Members must complete the application by themselves. For the various conditions that may apply, please refer to the Guide to Using Awards ([ANA Awards](#)  / [Partner Airline Awards](#) ) before applying. Application for [Vanilla Air Flights Awards](#)  can be made only from the Vanilla Air website.
- [[Award User Registration](#) ] is required for persons other than the member to use Award tickets in advance.

Additional charges will apply for [baggage exceeding free allowance](#).

Depart

Previous 7 days		Houston → Tokyo(All)			Next 7 days		
Aug 29 (Sat)	Aug 30 (Sun)	Aug 31 (Mon)	Sep 1 (Tue)	Sep 2 (Wed)	Sep 3 (Thu)	Sep 4 (Fri)	
Seats available <input type="radio"/>	Seats available <input type="radio"/>	Seats available <input type="radio"/>	Seats available <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Seats available <input type="radio"/>	Seats available <input type="radio"/>	Seats available <input type="radio"/>	

Return

Previous 7 days		Tokyo(All) → Houston					
Jun 17 (Thu)	Jun 18 (Fri)	Jun 19 (Sat)	Jun 20 (Sun)	Jun 21 (Mon)	Jun 22 (Tue)	Jun 23 (Wed)	
Seats available <input type="radio"/>	Seats available <input type="radio"/>	Seats available <input type="radio"/>	Seats available <input checked="" type="radio"/>				

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Hidden Low 2021 Premium Fares from Canada to Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East and South America

October 2020

Major long-haul routes, the world over, from USD \$1,256 to \$2,720

I love Canadians. They're laid-back, friendly, welcoming. Actually, hold that thought. We've got more exciting Canadian news to share. Our research team found welcoming opportunities to Africa, Asia, Hawaii, Middle East, South America, and Europe from Canada, making that trip very attainable **for Canadians—and Americans** happy to stop or connect via Canada on the way—through 2021. All of it served up with a smile, of course.

We've seen fares as low as \$1,280 USD, from Toronto to Ponta Delgada in the Azores, off the coast of Portugal. There have also been a bunch of Business Class fares to Europe in the \$1,600 to \$1,800 range.

Business Class to Asia is pricing as low as \$2,168. Toronto to Sao Paulo for \$1,589.

This is really worth considering. Why not step over to Canada for a few days on your way overseas (as in the [Canadian Two-Step](#))? Don't think of it as a stop-off, think of it as a vacation add-on. Although Americans are currently restricted from entering Canada due to covid, those restrictions are likely to be lifted in 2021.



Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal

Canadian Two Step's Best Moves - Fares in USD\$

Airline	Route	Fare	Typical Fare	Savings
United	Vancouver to Kauai	\$901	\$1,525	\$641 / 41%
TAP	Toronto to Lisbon	\$1,256	\$2,826	\$1,570 / 56%
TAP	Toronto to Ponta Delgada	\$1,280	\$3,511	\$2,231 / 64%
Delta	Toronto to Sao Paulo	\$1,589	\$3,339	\$1,750 / 52%
TAP	Montreal to Amsterdam	\$1,746	\$2,889	\$1,143 / 40%
Air Canada	Vancouver to Beijing	\$2,168	\$3,792	\$1,624 / 43%
American	Montreal to Tokyo	\$2,176	\$3,323	\$1,147 / 35%
EI AI	Toronto to Tel Aviv	\$2,257	\$3,325	\$1,068 / 32%
Qatar	Montreal to Johannesburg	\$2,304	\$3,831	\$1,527 / 40%

Airline	Route	Fare	Typical Fare	Savings
Air Canada	Toronto to Tokyo	<u>\$2,324</u>	\$3,348	\$1,024 / 30%
Air France/KLM	Toronto to Dubai	<u>\$2,720</u>	\$4,232	\$1,512 / 36%



Calling All American and United Elites Thinking About Europe in 2021

October 2020

You can't use miles for free tickets because there are barely any around, and we have you covered with the best published airfares. So what about mileage upgrades?

While the lockdown *initially* created harvest time for free award travelers — see our reports [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) — it has now largely dried up, as you can sadly see [here](#).

“So what!” American and United elites say because no elite credit can be earned on non-paid fares anyway. Then isn’t it time to look at upgrade opportunities, instead? **Delta travelers are left out of these juicy**

upgrade options due to inflated coach fares they face in order to have the “privilege” of upgrading with their miles. That makes it pointless to do because you end up not saving anything.

But, the question remains, what’s upgrade availability like with American and United? Before the lockdown (you remember those days, right?) American and United were **notoriously stingy** with *actual* availability.

So, most elites would just get on the waitlist — and sweat bullets — waiting to get that upgrade to process. And usually wind up in coach (sweating even more bullets) because the waitlist for those upgrades generally exceeded the number of seats available. That is, after their *preferred* airline sold those Business Class seats at [flash-sale pricing](#). Sheesh.

SO WHAT’S AN ELITE TO DO?

It seems like every week there is an article in a major publication on, “What’s the Best Time to Book a Flight?” You know the story: Fridays, Mondays, X days before a flight’s departure, the first day of the month, last day of the tax-year quarter’s end, when a black dog howls after midnight, et al. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

No!

The best time to book flights is when fares are *relatively* very low. C’mon! So now you know something very few do, in *practice*, anyway. And, you’re about to know something even fewer do:

The time to book your favorite ticket type is now, Mr. or Ms. Elite.

Yeah, I told many of you to book free awards several times earlier this year, and many of you did. Thank goodness for that. And there are [still some deals to be had](#), but they’ve dried up compared to before.

BOOK NOW, DECIDE LATER

The two arguments I hear most often: 1) “I’m not going to fly until there is a vaccine,” and 2) “I’d never take a vaccine for something I had a 99% chance of surviving.” Take your pick, both are fine with me.

But neither one should stop you from booking now and enjoying the many pleasures of having something to look forward to. I’m *not* talking about looking forward to elite credit. Rather, I’m talking about booking a trip for that special event, anniversary, sporting event, a big birthday, or a school reunion, now. As we’ve reported before, research shows that people who have a trip booked are happier than those who don’t. And why wouldn’t they?

WHEN ARE ELITES HAPPIEST?

I’ve pretty much given this one away:

When they have a trip booked
+
it's on a *confirmed* mileage upgrade!

I don't mind if you saw that one coming.

Here's the big takeaway that my analysts have spotted recently, which is a trend that will be gone before long.

AMERICAN AIRLINES UNPRECEDENTED MILEAGE UPGRADE AVAILABILITY

American Airlines first (they start with an "A"), United up next. And yes, I do love words that start with "U."

American Upgrade Headlines:

- Upgrades are wide open from many U.S. cities to London through July 2021 with the exception of Phoenix, which has both directions in December and January only, and Charlotte, which still has plenty of availability through May for four travelers in both directions.
- Upgrades to Paris for four travelers both directions from New York, December through May, from Miami in April, and from Dallas in December.
- Upgrades to Rome for four travelers both directions from New York and Chicago in April.
- For those traveling from Philadelphia, the best upgrade option is to London, as availability is slim to none to Manchester, Paris, Rome, and Venice. Availability is also scarce from New York to Milan.
- See our cheat sheet below for details.

AAdvantage Elites, Here's the Drill:

- Upgrades from the U.S. to Europe cost 50,000 miles + \$700 round-trip.
- Upgrades can be used one-way at half the miles plus a surcharge; not a bad play if you're on a budget. You can upgrade the overnight flight and fly Premium Economy on the day flight home.

UNITED AIRLINES UNPRECEDENTED MILEAGE UPGRADE AVAILABILITY

There are no more sweating bullets for MileagePlus opportunists (at least for now), as our research shows:

MileagePlus Upgrade Headlines:

- Upgrades are wide open from many U.S. cities including Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Newark, and Washington, DC, to London through July 2021 with the exception of San Francisco, which still has lots of availability through April for four travelers in both directions.

- If traveling from the West Coast, opt for San Francisco to London, which has much more availability than San Francisco to Paris through April.
- Newark and Washington, DC, to Paris have plenty of availability for four travelers through May 2021.
- Newark to Rome has minimal availability outbound, so think about Milan instead, which has heaps of availability for four travelers through July 2021.
- A Newark-to-Venice-and-Naples service begins May 27, 2021, but no upgrade seats have been found from May through July.
- See our cheat sheet below for details.

MileagePlus Elites Drill Down:

- Upgrades from the U.S. to Europe go for 20,000 miles + \$550 each way with W/S/T/L/G/K fares; \$475 each way with V fares; \$425 each way with H/Q fares; and \$300 each way with M/E/U fares.
- Upgrades can be used one-way at half the miles plus the surcharge. Again, it's a reasonable budgeting idea – upgrading the overnight flight and flying Premium Economy on the day flight home.

American Airlines Economy to Business Class Upgrade Availability

Route	Outbound			Return		
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Miami to London		April, May	Dec. to March, June, July		May, June	Dec. to April, July
Los Angles to London		Feb.	Dec., Jan., March to July			Dec. to July
Charlotte to London		Dec., Feb.	Jan., March to May		April	Dec. to March, May
New York to Milan	April, May, June, July			May, June, July		April
New York to Paris	March, May, June	Feb.	Dec., Jan., April	May	Feb.	Dec., Jan., March, April
New York to London			Dec. to July			Dec. to July
New York to Rome	May		April	May		April
Dallas to Paris	Feb.	Dec.		Jan., Feb.	Dec.	

Route	Outbound			Return		
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Dallas to London			Dec. to July	July		Dec. to June
Dallas to Rome			April	April		
Raleigh to London		Feb.	Dec., Jan., March, April to June		Feb.	Dec., Jan., March, April to June
Phoenix to London	Feb., March, April to June		Dec., Jan.	May	April	Dec. to March, June
Philadelphia to Manchester	April, May, June	July		May		April, June, July
Philadelphia to Venice	June					
Philadelphia to Paris						April
Philadelphia to London	Feb.		Dec., Jan., March to July		Feb.,	Dec., Jan., March, April, May, June, July
Philadelphia to Rome				June		April
Chicago to London			Dec. to July			Dec. to March, April, May, June, July
Chicago to Rome			April		April	
Miami to Paris			April			April

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

United Economy to Business Class Upgrade Availability

Route	Outbound			Return		
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Newark to Rome	Dec. to Feb.			May, Aug.		Nov. to April

Route	Outbound			Return		
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Newark to Milan		May, June, Aug.	Nov. to April, July		June, July	Nov. to May, Aug.
Washington, DC to Paris	June, Aug.	May	Nov. to April, July	July, Aug.	Nov.	Dec. to June.
San Francisco to Paris	Nov., March to June, Aug.	Dec. to Feb., March, May, July		Dec. to Feb., March, April, May	May	June
Newark to Paris	June to Aug.	July	Nov. to May	July, Aug.		Nov. to June
Chicago to Paris	Dec., Feb. to May, July	Dec., Jan., Feb., April		July, Aug.	Jan., May, June	Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. to April
Denver to London	Nov. to May, July	June			July	Nov. to June, July
Newark to London		Aug.	Nov. to July			Nov. to Aug.
Houston to London	Aug.		Nov. to July		July	Nov. to July
Los Angeles to London			Nov. to July	Aug.	Nov., Jan., June, July	Dec., Feb. to May
Washington, DC to London	Aug.		Nov. to July	Aug.		Nov. to July
San Francisco to London	May, July		Nov. to April	June, July		Nov. to May

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

Relish Related Readings

[The Mixed-Cabin Seesaw Strategy: Business Class One Way to Europe, Premium Economy the Other](#)

[Ten Reasons Why I'm the Biggest Fan of Mileage Upgrade Awards—and Why You Should Be Too](#)

[Bargain Basement. How to Choose Between a Flash Low-Cash Fare and a Discount Mileage Deal?](#)

[Troubleshooting Lucrative United Upgrade Opportunities with Connecting Flights](#)

[Don't See Your Origin and/or Destination in an FCF Headline? This Report Was Made For You.](#)

alendar

Mon, Mar 1
JFK to LAX
20K

One way (per person) from
20K miles
+ \$5.60

Nonstop only

Business / First

20K Lowest price this month

March 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

What Does 14, 21, 25, 26
and 27 Have In Common?

Day	Price
1	20K
2	20K
3	20K
4	20K
5	20K
6	20K
7	20K
8	20K
9	20K
10	20K
11	20K
12	20K
13	20K
14	26K
15	20K
16	20K
17	20K
18	20K
19	20K
20	20K
21	26K
22	20K
23	20K
24	20K
25	36.5K
26	44K
27	44K
28	20K
29	20K
30	20K
31	20K

**The ONLY 5 Days of ANY Month American Won't Allow
LAX-JFK Premium Travelers a Great Deal**

The New Caledonian Owlet-Nightjar, according to Wikipedia, is "highly territorial and nests in holes in trees." One hasn't been seen since a 1998 expedition, "Which saw a large nightjar foraging for insects at dusk in Rivière Ni Valley. That report suggests that the species still survives in small numbers, but that the total population is likely smaller than 50 and declining."



New Caledonian owlet-nightjar

Makes me think of something else not spotted since 1998 (if ever). And, the consistency of this rare bird is also extremely remarkable. Take a look:

IF YOU'VE SEEN ONE MONTH (LOADED WITH CHEAP TRANSCON AVAILABILITY) YOU'VE SEE THEM ALL

Calendar

Mon, Mar 1
JFK to LAX
20K

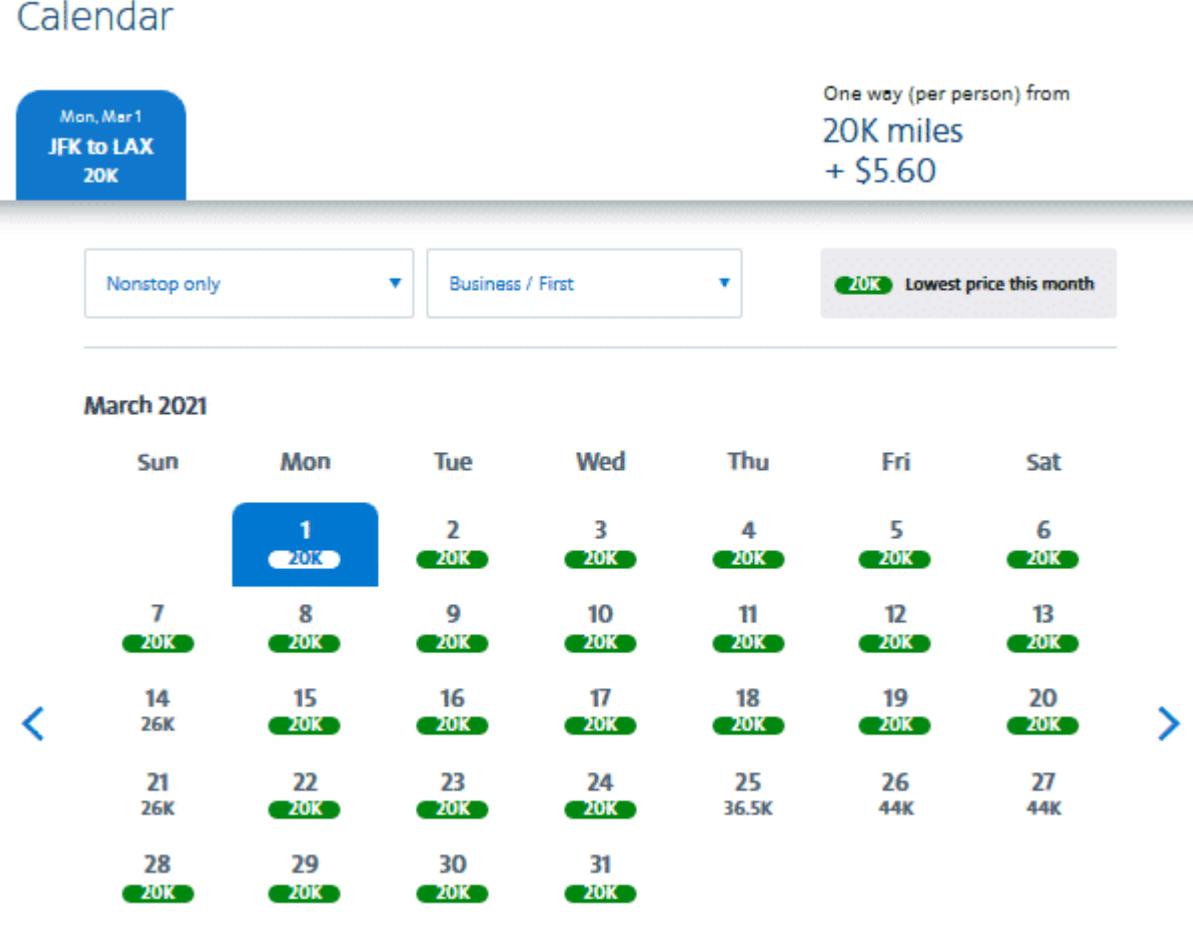
One way (per person) from
20K miles
+ \$5.60

Nonstop only ▾ Business / First ▾ **20K Lowest price this month**

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 20K	2 20K	3 20K	4 20K	5 20K	6 20K
7 20K	8 20K	9 20K	10 20K	11 20K	12 20K	13 20K
14 26K	15 20K	16 20K	17 20K	18 20K	19 20K	20 20K
21 26K	22 20K	23 20K	24 20K	25 36.5K	26 44K	27 44K
28 20K	29 20K	30 20K	31 20K			

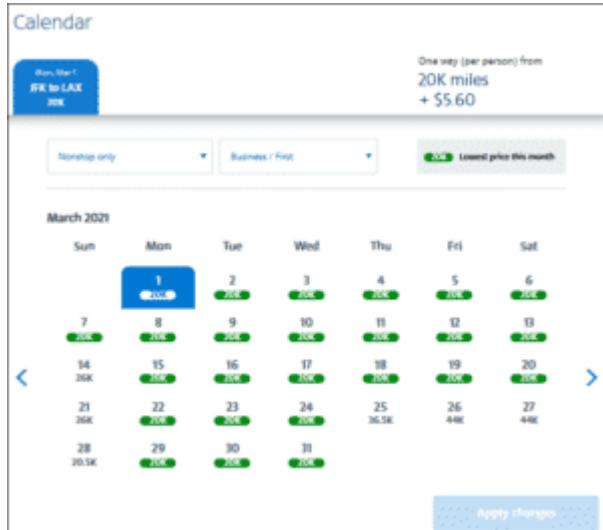
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Conveniently enough, FCF need not prepare any fancy table showing availability by month, because it's the same, every month, through August 2021. **A rare bird indeed.**

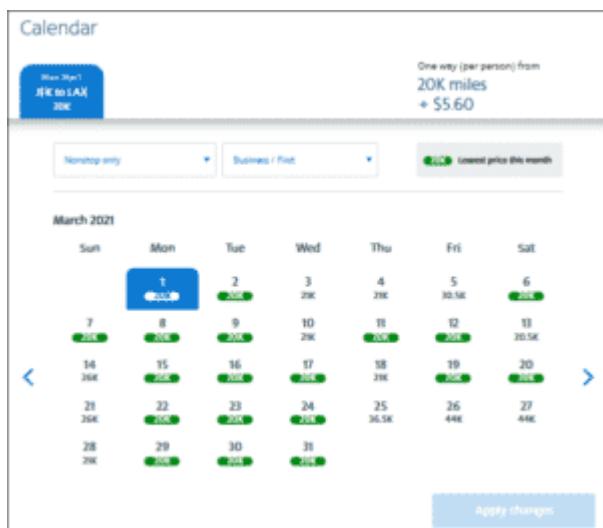
NEED FOUR SEATS? HERE'S THE PICTURE ALL YEAR LONG

The news stays great. The only days you can't fly on for this low cost are the 14th, 21st, 25th, 26th, 27th, or 28th. **Another rare sighting.**



NEED SEVEN SEATS? HERE'S THE PICTURE ALL YEAR LONG

Okay, so there are only 12 days in the month you can score cheap-wide-open availability.



CHEAP, CHEAP, CHEAP, OR CHIRP, CHIRP, CHIRP?

That's for you to decide, although I'm delighted to tell you this lie-flat, Business Class round-trip flight--of 5+ total hours--is just 20,000 to 22,500 American AAdvantage miles. This bird not only wants to be found but captured! Oh, and the taxes? \$5.60. The normal published fares range from ~\$500 to \$900+ each way.

Your trip summary

Business
One way (per person)
20,000 miles
+ \$5.60

Total (all passengers)
140,000 miles + \$39.20

Includes taxes and carrier-imposed fees
[Price and tax information](#)

Web Special rules and restrictions

This trip includes a Web Special award and cannot be changed once ticketed. You can cancel your trip and reinstate miles, but fees may apply.*

*Fees do not apply if you're an Executive Platinum member and use miles from your account.

[Bag and optional fees](#)

DEPART

New York, NY to Los Angeles, CA

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

8:00 AM → 10:59 AM 5h 59m Nonstop Business

AA1 32B - Airbus A321 (Sharklets)



[Details](#) | [Change](#)

You can book, though it's not as great a deal, with Cathay Pacific at 60,000 or British Airways miles at 77,500 round-trip. If you have Amex points (a Cathay Pacific or British Airways points-to-miles transfer partner) to burn, you might consider this catch too.

COMPARE WITH DELTA'S TRANSCON ONE-WAY PRICING...

SUN		MON		TUE		WED		THU		FRI		SAT	
58,500 +\$6	24	58,500 +\$6	25	LOWEST 57,000 +\$6	26	58,500 +\$6	27	58,500 +\$6	28	58,500 +\$6	29	58,500 +\$6	30
58,500 +\$6	31	58,500 +\$6	1	58,500 +\$6	2	58,500 +\$6	3	58,500 +\$6	4	Depart 58,500 +\$6	5	58,500 +\$6	6
62,000 +\$6	7	58,500 +\$6	8	LOWEST 57,000 +\$6	9	58,500 +\$6	10	77,500 +\$6	11	84,500 +\$6	12	78,000 +\$6	13
62,000 +\$6	14	82,500 +\$6	15	58,500 +\$6	16	LOWEST 57,000 +\$6	17	58,500 +\$6	18	58,500 +\$6	19	62,000 +\$6	20
58,500 +\$6	21	58,500 +\$6	22	LOWEST 57,000 +\$6	23	58,500 +\$6	24	58,500 +\$6	25	58,500 +\$6	26	61,000 +\$6	27

NO MILES? NO PROBLEM.

Simply buy miles. Doing this when they are on sale, can cost as low as 1.7 cents each. Do it now, and they cost 1.8 cents each during the current promotion. Yet another way to save big.

BOOK NOW, DECIDE LATER (A BIRD IN THE HAND, ETC.)

If you want to grab these opportunities but haven't sorted out dates, vacation plans, etc., you can hold the award seat for five days for no additional charge. You can also hold more than one date, and then cancel the ones you don't need. There's no charge for the mileage award hold. For more details go [here](#).

AMERICAN'S TRANSCON BIZ CLASS SEAT





Aussie Gold Found In Business Class. Fill Your Bucket Now, With Miles Or Points, At 86% Off.

October 2020

Get while the getting's good and you'll be sitting pretty in this bucket list hotspot when the lockdown ends.

Business Class fares to Down Under can cost you way over. I'm talking \$6,000 to \$10,000 prices that most will balk at. And many won't fly anywhere in coach, especially that far, unless a chiropractor is tagging along. So what's the happy middle ground (that's not in the middle of the Pacific Ocean) when you won't pay 8 grand and won't fly in coach?

What's more, when considering miles, you're usually looking at a double or triple mileage award to get to Australia. I'm talking in the 352,000 to 390,000-mile price range. Starting to get the picture, mate?

This report is for those of you who are thinking beyond the lockdown, to a day where the sun shines bright again in a place where there's a lot of sun shining and with funny-looking animals hopping about, and to [book it at up to 57% off](#).

[aside headline="An Aussie on Oz" alignment="aligncenter" width="big" headline_size="big"]I asked our FCF guy in Sydney for his favorite things to do in Australia. He said:

- A ride on a Sydney Harbour ferry to Manly Beach
- The Melbourne Laneways
- The MONA art museum in Hobart, Tasmania
- Ayers Rock/Uluru in Central Australia
- Wine country north of Adelaide



Sydney Harbour at Twilight

WHY WOULD YOU WALLABY ANYWHERE ELSE AT THESE PRICES?

We did a survey of Qantas, Air Canada, American, Delta, and United to Australia from the U.S. and Canada on non-stops, and discovered a goldmine on Qantas from Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco to Brisbane and from San Francisco to Sydney; and on Air Canada from Vancouver to Brisbane and Sydney. Study our tables below and start planning today because **these deals won't last**, as we've repeatedly pointed out. Studies show that planning and booking travel even makes us happier people, so who am I to argue with that!?

Remember, you can always cancel your ticket for no fee. Book your trip now and when the sun does come out again, you'll be ahead of the flock flying south for the winter (or summer or spring or fall).



Tick the Bucket Before You Kick the Bucket: FCF's Survey of Cheap Business Class to Australia in 2021 > Availability

Airline	Route	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Qantas	Chicago to Brisbane	April through June	April	May, June	May, June	April, May	May, June
	Los Angeles to Brisbane	April, July	April, May	May, June	May, June, July	June, July	June
	San Francisco to Brisbane	April, July	April, May, June		April, June, July	May, June	
	San Francisco to Sydney	April, July	July	April, May, June	May, July	April, June	June
Air Canada	Vancouver to Brisbane	Feb. through April, May, June, July	March		Feb, March, May, June	Feb., July	

Airline	Route	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
	Vancouver to Sydney	Feb., April, May	June, July		June, July		

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

Tick the Bucket Before You Kick the Bucket: FCF's Survey of Cheap Business Class to Australia in 2021 > Savings

Airline	Route	Discount Price / Miles Program	Normal Price	Savings
Qantas	Chicago to Brisbane	160,000 / American Miles	390,000	58% / 230,000 miles
	Los Angeles to Brisbane	160,000 / American Miles	390,000	58% / 230,000 miles
	San Francisco to Brisbane	160,000 / American Miles	390,000	58% / 230,000 miles
	San Francisco to Sydney	160,000 / American Miles	390,000	58% / 230,000 miles
Air Canada	Vancouver to Brisbane	160,000 / Aeroplan Miles	1,186,300	86% / 1,026,300
	Vancouver to Sydney	160,000 / Aeroplan Miles	1,186,300	86% / 1,026,300

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