



FCF'S Secret Side Hustle: Bag a Bucket List Destination by Adding It to Your Europe Trip for Nothing or Nearly Nothing

January 2020

How to add Business Class flights to Cairo (Pyramids), Johannesburg (Safari), St. Petersburg (White Nights), and Casablanca (Marrakech) all for free, Israel for just \$89, and Delhi (Taj Mahal) for just \$200—with Star Alliance airlines when traveling to Germany and Switzerland.

So your business or leisure trip to Europe went well and now it's time to pack your bags and return home...

Not so fast!

It's time to see the Great Pyramids of Giza, enjoy the White Nights Festival in St. Petersburg, experience a safari in the Serengeti, or visit the legendary Taj Mahal.

"As if!" you say, "I can't afford to do all that."

Yes you can, dear FCF reader, and thanks to FCF's Stopover Loophole Strategy (**SLS**), bucket lists across the nation are shrinking before our very eyes.

This is a stunner of a strategy, tailor-made for European business and leisure travelers because for many of these great destinations, **you're halfway there already**.

And here's the real kicker: **In terms of cost, you're already there** with your Europe fare investment.

Let's look at how the strategy works, then dive into the fares and opportunities.

THE STOPOVER LOOPHOLE STRATEGY (SLS) IN A NUTSHELL

Most people have never heard of a "stopover allowance" but savvy flyers know it can be an absolute deal maker under the right circumstances.

A stopover is a planned stop of more than four hours (domestic) or 24 hours (international) between flight segments on a trip. But here's the thing—these stopovers are sometimes allowed for free (or a very small fee). Even better than that, **you can have a stopover that lasts a day or even weeks**, which is key for business travelers who also moonlight as vacationers, adventurers and bucket list busters.

That's because the stopover can be a mini (or full-sized) vacation if you're on a business trip (or a second vacation if you're already traveling for pleasure). You could end up visiting a great add-on destination for a fraction of the price.

And on top of that, your flight to your original European destination can sometimes be even much less. Hard to beat that.

THIS MONTH: HOW IT WORKS ON TRIPS TO GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND WITH LUFTHANSA AND SWISS

Last month we looked at how this works on [British Airways to Africa, Asia, Europe, India and the Middle East via London](#). This month we look at the SLS with Star Alliance airlines Lufthansa and SWISS, which opens up a whole range of destinations all over the globe from your original trip to Germany or Switzerland.



ROAR OFF TO A SAFARI

"I saw many impala, kudu, zebras, wildebeests, elephants, giraffes, and hippos, as well as a hyena, a baboon, a few monkeys, and even A LION!" AJ J, TripAdvisor

Europe + Africa SLS Example: Say you're flying Los Angeles to Zurich (non-stop on SWISS) September 9 to 23 for the lowest Business Class fare of \$3,301 round-trip. Okay. Now, why not **add flights to Johannesburg, South Africa** (the jumping off point to the hottest safari destinations in Africa including Botswana, or South Africa's Kruger National Park) **for \$180 less** (\$3,121) for the whole trip?



Los Angeles to Zurich for \$3,301 screenshot:




Round trip · 1 · Business Class

Total price from
\$3,301

Los Angeles Zürich

Selected flights

	Wed, Sep 9 · 7:20 PM – 3:15 PM^{*1} SWISS · United	10h 55m LAX–ZRH	Nonstop	▼
	Wed, Sep 23 · 1:10 PM – 4:20 PM SWISS · United	12h 10m ZRH–LAX	Nonstop	▼

	Book with SWISS LX 41, LX 40	\$3,301	Select
	Book Lufthansa on Google LX 41, LX 40	\$3,301	Select
	Book with United Marketed as LX 41, UA 9730	\$3,301	Select




Los Angeles to Zurich to Johannesburg for \$3,121 screenshot:


1 · Business Class

Total price from
\$3,121

Multi-city trip

Selected flights

	Wed, Sep 9 · 7:20 PM – 3:15 PM^{*1} SWISS · United	10h 55m LAX–ZRH	Nonstop	▼
	Wed, Sep 23 · 10:40 PM – 9:10 AM^{*1} SWISS · South African	10h 30m ZRH–JNB	Nonstop	▼
	Tue, Sep 29 · 7:00 PM – 1:05 PM^{*1} Lufthansa · Brussels Airlines, United	27h 5m JNB–LAX	1 stop 4h 55m FRA	▼

	Book with United Marketed as LX 41, LX 288, UA 9139, UA 8845	\$3,121	Select
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Or add flights to Nairobi, Kenya (a jumping off point for safaris in Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania's Serengeti National Park), to your Los Angeles-Zurich itinerary on SWISS **for \$109 less**. Don't do that safari and Europe separately, do them both together. You've already packed your bags and are on the road. Talk about a thriller!

While some will say that blending two trips in one can be overwhelming and less memorable, not me. In fact, it was customary for global explorers before commercial air travel became pervasive.

With FCF's SLS strategy, it's as easy to get on a flight to another hot place as it is to get on a flight home. You're on the move anyway, so just leverage it.

And it's not just convenience. Consider that your return on investment goes way up for ticking a bucket list destination off your list as part of the same trip. Hey, you're not just a traveler, you're now a smart "investor" too.

THE EASIEST TIME TO TAKE A TRIP... IS WHEN YOU'RE ALREADY ON ONE.

SPEND A FEW SHORT NIGHTS IN ST. PETERSBURG

"Long regarded as the country's premier cultural hub, St. Petersburg offers an endless array of artistic thrills that span over 200 museums (including the Hermitage and the Russian Museum) and world-class ballet, opera and classical music." The Telegraph

Europe + Russia SLS Example: Say you're flying non-stop on Lufthansa New York to Munich on June 2 to 16 and the lowest Business Class fare is \$3,315 round-trip. Why not **add St. Petersburg**, Russia, and the [White Nights Festival](#) for a week for \$3,118, or **\$197 less?**

The spectacular White Nights Festival in St. Petersburg takes place between May and July and celebrates the season of the midnight sun when the sun doesn't slip beyond the horizon all night long.



OF ALL THE GIN JOINTS, IN ALL THE TOWNS, IN ALL THE WORLD

"Casablanca... is the entry point to exotic Morocco, a country of dizzying diversity. Here you'll find epic mountain ranges, ancient cities, sweeping deserts – and warm hospitality." Lonely Planet

Europe + Morocco SLS Example: For a non-stop flight on Lufthansa from Miami to Frankfurt from May 24 to June 7, the lowest Business Class fare is \$4,152 round-trip. So add Casablanca, Morocco, for a week for even less, because you pay \$3,775 for the whole trip from Miami to Frankfurt and Casablanca. Here's looking at you, kid.



PYRAMID SCHEME

"Giza Pyramids are one of the highlights of my life. And to top it off I got to ride a camel." Barbara R, TripAdvisor

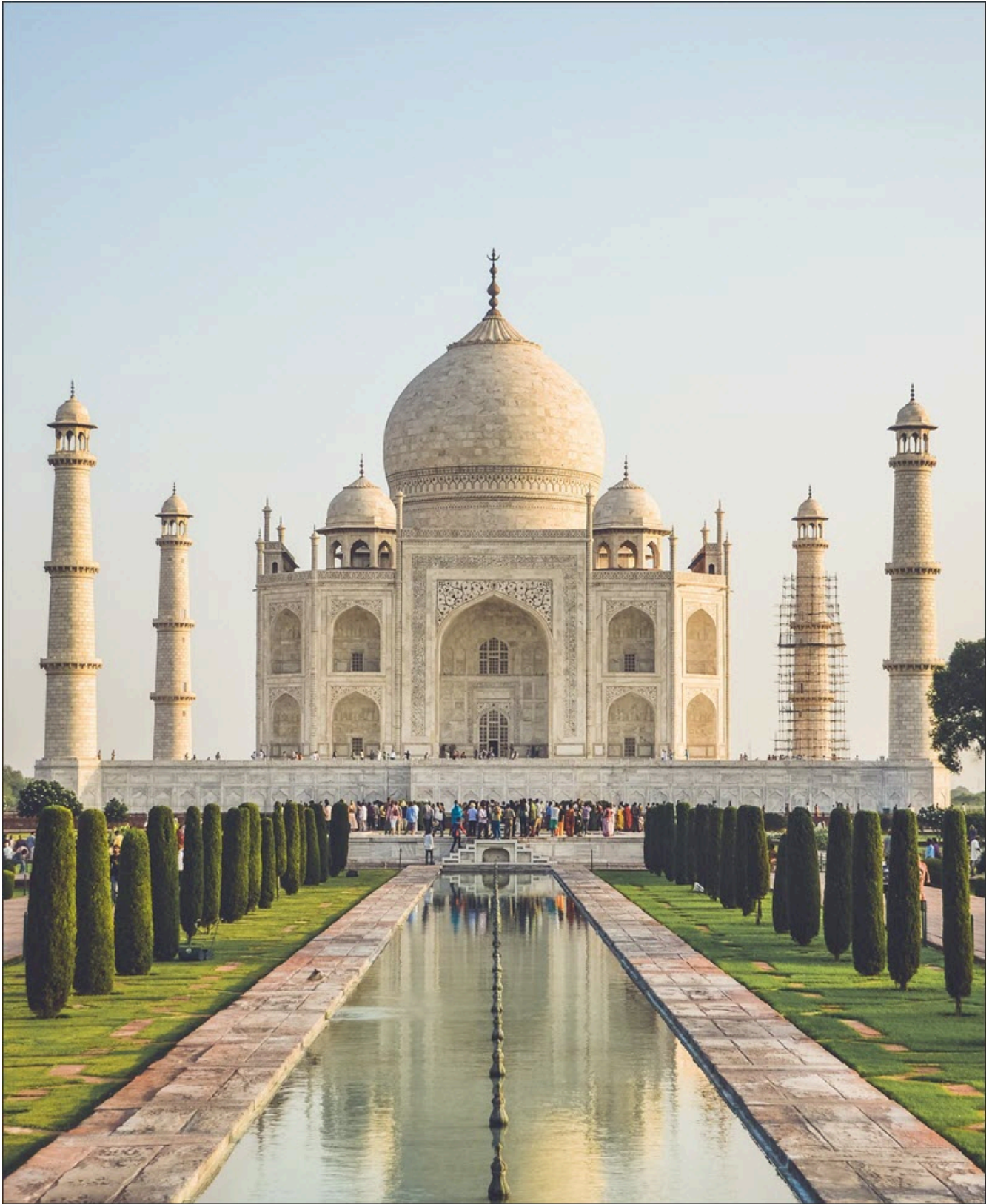
Europe + Egypt SLS Example: Flying non-stop on Lufthansa Dallas to Frankfurt from July 7 to July 22 costs \$3,736 round-trip. But you can **add Cairo for cheaper than free**, because the whole trip is \$3,247, or **\$489 less**. Don't leave Egypt for another time; do it now and save while you're at it.

ISRAEL? IS REAL!

"With interlacing histories, clashing cultures and constant reinvention, Jerusalem is an intense, multisensory experience." Lonely Planet

Europe + Israel SLS Example: Flying non-stop on Lufthansa, Los Angeles to Frankfurt, on April 7 to 21 costs \$3,529 round-trip, the lowest Business Class fare. But you can **add Tel Aviv, Israel, for just \$89 more**.

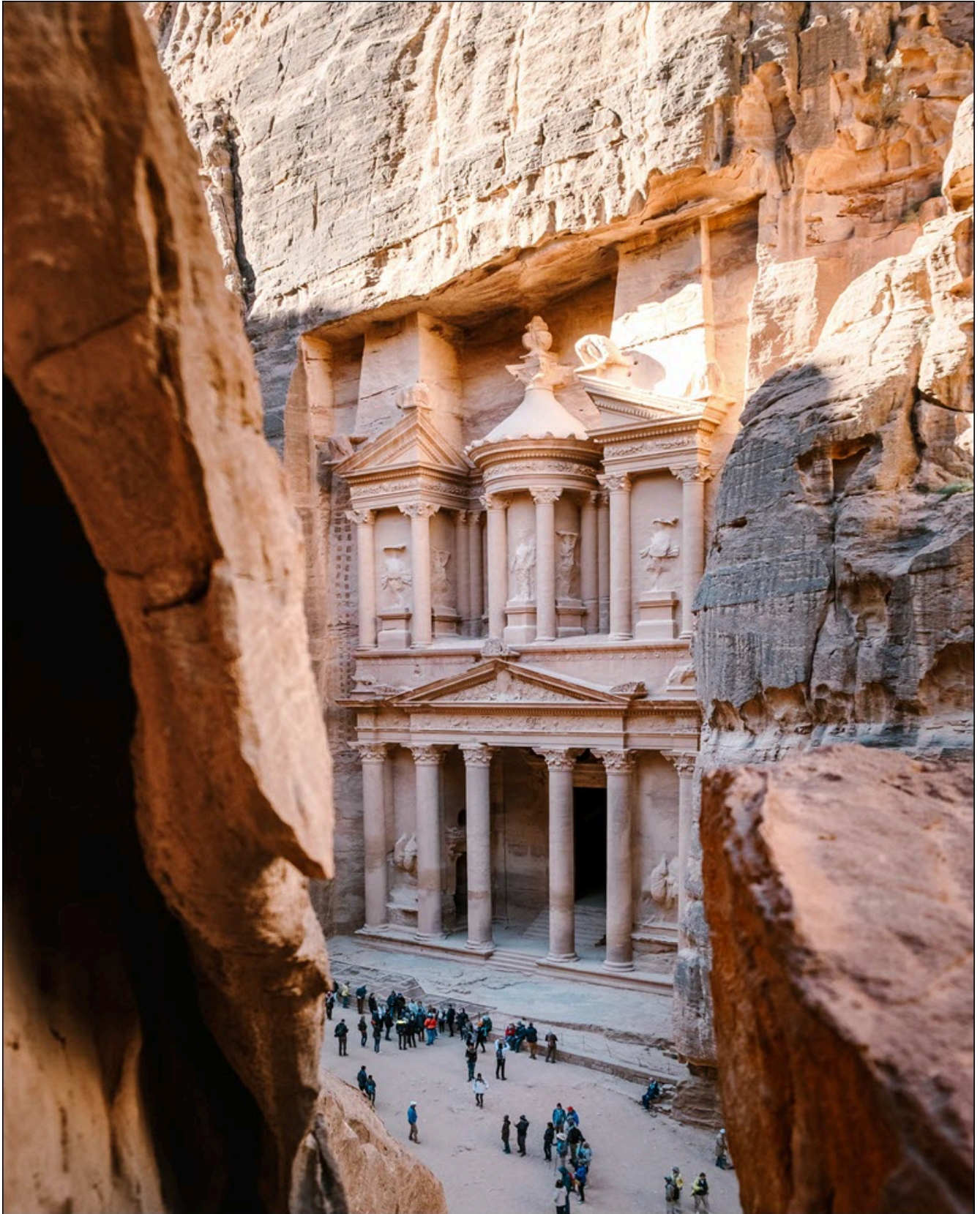
In other words, you can spend Easter in Jerusalem, less than an hour from Tel Aviv, for next to nothing, and visit the Garden Tomb, the Via Dolorosa, Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem and countless other fascinating places.



GIVE YOUR FAVORITE PARTNER A TREAT

"One of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage." UNESCO

Europe + India SLS Example: Fly non-stop on Lufthansa from Los Angeles to Frankfurt March 4 to 17 for \$3,509 round-trip for the lowest Business Class fare. Why not tack on New Delhi and the **Taj Mahal** for just \$206 more?



AMMAN? OH MAN!

"Jordan is an enchanting country to visit in the Middle East. It has some of the most exciting things to see like the ancient city of Petra, the Dead Sea, Wadi Rum and so much more!" The Planet D, TripAdvisor

Europe + Jordan SLS Example: Fly non-stop on Lufthansa New York to Frankfurt May 24 to June 2 and the lowest Business Class fare is \$2,679 round-trip. However, you can add Amman, Jordan, for \$556 more, totalling \$3,235 for the whole trip from New York to Frankfurt and Amman.

NOT PLANNING ON A TRIP TO GERMANY OR SWITZERLAND ON LUFTHANSA OR SWISS?

Had your heart set on Paris instead? No problem. Travel within Europe is cheap. Fly, drive, bicycle, balloon or take the train between these countries. Consider this: Paris is only about an hour's flight from Frankfurt and Zurich (that's closer than Chicago is to Minneapolis). In fact, many famed European cities are much closer than most imagine.

STAR ALLIANCE BONUS

But wait, there's more: Most of these great deals can be **booked as code-share flights with United**, so United elites and non-elites earn miles, while earning elite status credit as well.

Third bird with the same stone.



FCF Premium Special Fares Monitor

January 2020

Here's a survey of the best special airfare deals we've published in the last month—on major airlines—that **remain live**. In case you missed them, forgot about them, or are just now ready to pounce, have at 'em...

AFRICA

[Africa Business Class Fares from \\$3,073 from Los Angeles, Portland, and San Francisco \(Star, Sky, and Oneworld Alliance Airlines\)](#)

ASIA

[Business Class Los Angeles to Beijing and Shanghai \\$1,609 with Hainan Airlines](#)

[Business Class to Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta \\$2,932 \(Major Airlines\)](#)

EUROPE

[Chicago and Miami Non-stop Summer 2020 Business Class Fares to Europe Starting at \\$1,989 \(All Alliances\)](#)

[Dallas and Houston Non-stop Summer 2020 Business Class Fares to Europe Starting at \\$2,103 \(All Alliances\)](#)

[Los Angeles and San Francisco Non-stop Summer 2020 Business Class Fares to Europe Starting at \\$1,993 \(All Alliances\)](#)

[Sub-\\$2,000 Business Class Summer Fares from New York to Many Cities in Europe](#)

[Special \\$2,039 Non-stop Business Class Fares to London from the East and West Coast \(Major Airlines\)](#)

SOUTH AMERICA

[\\$1,906 Brazil Business Class Fares Found from the East Coast \(Major Airlines\)](#)

SOUTH PACIFIC

[39% Off to Tahiti in Business Class from All Over the U.S. with United](#)

[Premium Economy Fare to the Cook Islands with Air New Zealand \\$1,642](#)

[37% Off to New Zealand Business Class from West Coast with Hawaiian Airlines](#)

A close-up photograph of a Whack-a-Mole game. Several colorful, translucent plastic mallets (red, green, orange, and silver) are positioned over the holes of the game. The background is a vibrant, abstract pattern of yellow, blue, and red geometric shapes.

How to Play the Fun and Lucrative Game of Whack-a-Fare for Unplanned Destinations—Plus an Introduction to FCF's 7-Minute Destination Planner

January 2020

The savvy approach to nabbing amazing premium fares in their tracks, such as a recent example of Business Class to Brazil for \$1,200 R/T.

Do you know the game of Whack-a-Mole?

It's the arcade game where moles (not real ones) stick their heads through holes at random times and you have to whack them with a mallet before they disappear.

But we want to talk about the fun travel game of **Whack-a-Fare**--*this time to a unique destination you haven't considered going to*—where amazing low fares stick their heads up and you have to grab them before they quickly disappear.

FIRST: WHY PLAY WHACK-A-FARE?

Simply put, it's just another way to win at the upgrade game. And by “upgrade” we mean any way to travel better than your default way. So, “traveling better” might mean upgrading to the next cabin for not much more, or finding a great low fare, or making your miles stretch much farther, or any number of other ways found by being open-minded, if not flexible. We believe in [Opportunity Travel](#) and being prepared to maximize your opportunities, and believe me, great opportunities come up all the time.

BRAZIL EXAMPLE: PUT THE WHACK TO WORK WITH ~\$1,200 R/T BUSINESS CLASS FARES

How great are the opportunities? In November and December we found an incredible Business Class deal for New York to Rio de Janeiro for just \$1,394 on Delta and American non-stop (matched by United, but with a connection in Houston). That fare came and went and then came back again in a matter of a day. Which means you had to be mallet ready to whack this fare.

Compare that to a typical economy fare starting at \$1,034. That's just \$180 more each way to upgrade to Business Class from economy, or \$18 per-flight hour.

But wait, you also earn a stack of award miles that lop the equivalent of another ~\$200 off the fare, lowering it from \$1,394 to ~\$1,200.

Holy whack-a-moley!

IS YOUR MALLET READY?

Spectacular low fares come and go all the time. It's just a matter of [freezing them long enough to act on](#). For as little as zero (American offers a 24-hour free lock reservation option, while Delta and many other airlines give you a 24-hour risk-free cancellation option), and not a lot more on many airlines (the cost varies from \$10 to \$20 per ticket), you can hold a great fleeting fare long enough to get yourself organized: take a breath, check the kids' vacation dates, determine your workload and so on.

You could even book two or three different dates and just keep the one that works best for your schedule and bucket list dreams, and cancel the others before the hold expires.

We call it “[Look, Lock, Book](#).”

1. **Look:** Find the amazing fare
2. **Lock:** Use a fare lock option
3. **Book:** Book based on *further research*



Further research?!

FRANK FROM PHILLY IS FRUSTRATED:

“Whoa, FCF. That’s one heck of a deal. **BUT** I’ve never even thought of going to Rio.

“**AND** here’s the thing. I’m always so busy, I don’t have time to research and book a trip like this. And I don’t know enough about Rio to convince my spouse that we should even do it.

“I wish I had a travel agent who could do this in a snap of a finger. But reliable, trustworthy, knowledgeable ones who would know my preferences *and* know about Rio are hard to find.

“FCF, you have an unbelievably tempting fare—but that’s not enough!

Help!”

We hear you, Frank from Philly. We know you're busy, but can you spare just seven minutes?

This month FCF is introducing a destination tool to **help you find out enough about a place to rule it in or out in a fast, fun, and frictionless way.**

So, when you see a great fare to someplace you weren't thinking about, you can **decide in a jiffy whether or not to grab that mallet!**

FCF'S 7-MINUTE (FUN AND EASY) DESTINATION PLANNER IN 7 TO 12 CLICKS:

Know Rio's highlights in minutes with links to share with loved ones (and decision makers / confirmers), so you can quickly pull the trigger or wait for the next deal with FCF's Rio Bookmarks below.

Rio, Brazil, and Regional Itinerary Ideas

[Abercrombie & Kent](#) (see the itinerary details tab), [Scott Dunn](#), [GAdventures](#), [ProjectExpedition](#), [LonelyPlanet](#).

Rio Tours & Highlights

[Viator](#), [Airbnb Experiences](#), [Tripadvisor](#), [GetYourGuide](#).

Rio Weather

[Weather Channel](#)

Rio Hotels and Resorts

[Marriott](#), [Hilton](#), [Trip Advisor](#), [Amex Fine Hotels & Resorts](#), [Airbnb](#), [Andrew Harper Rated](#), [LHW](#), [Hyatt](#).

Rio Food!

[Brazil's traditional cuisine](#), [Michelin rated restaurants in Rio](#), [Andrew Harper \(membership\)](#), [Yelp](#).

Rio Top Wikipedia Searches

[Copacabana Beach](#), [Iguazu Falls](#), [Christ the Redeemer \(statue\)](#), [Rio Carnival](#), [Barra da Tijuca](#), [Ipanema](#), [Maracanã Stadium](#), [Sugarloaf Mountain](#), [Amazon rainforest](#), [Favela](#).

Rio Events (Sports/Concerts/Shows)

[Stubhub](#), [Viator](#), [Songkick](#), [Viagogo](#), [Bandsintown](#), [Eventful](#).

Rio Adventure Travel and Extreme Experiences


[Tourradar](#), [Rio Adventures](#), [Rio Xtreme](#), [Urban Adventures](#), [Viator](#), [Brazil Adventure Tours](#), [Daytours4u](#), [Adventures Within Reach](#), [Tripadvisor](#).

Not Sure About Rio, and Wondering What's Nearby?

Spend 15 seconds here to see all the non-stops you can tack on to Rio in the blink of an eye, [RIO \(non-stops\)](#), where this deal is from and [Rio \(SDU non-stops\) regional airport here](#).

Now you're ready to whack a hot Rio fare—or not—fast.

P.S. Have some links you'd like us to add to a destination widget we're working on, please email us at [info @ firstclassflyer.com](mailto:info@firstclassflyer.com)



2020 Vision: What 2019 Taught Us and What FCF Sees for the Year Ahead

January 2020

FCF's annual look at where Premium Travel has been and where we think it'll go this year.

Happy New Year, FCF members, and welcome to 2020 and to more dynamic and ever-changing premium travel conditions, if 2019 taught us anything.

This is our annual look back at what happened last year, what surprised us, and what didn't, as well as what our crystal ball (and 24 years of industry immersion) tells us about what's ahead—with the goal of giving you tangible ammunition to fly best in 2020.

I'm bullish on the opportunities available for ambitious travelers eager to fly in premium seats for much less than rack rates, as long as they're informed and thinking a bit ahead.

LOOKING BACK: 2019

There was a lot of [tactical fare](#) action last year. Tactical fares are low fares on specific routes, regions, seasons, you name the reasons. Airline computers are getting more powerful so they can crunch the numbers to a fine grind, squeezing out every dollar of profit possible. **Airlines are pricing every seat to sell by its departure date.** (More on this in a minute.)

That means savvy travelers win when they **know about the seats that are most vulnerable to going unsold.** They are the ones that get slashed nowadays, by a lot.

That's your ticket to flying premium for little more than coach.

At the same time, many FCF members scored big in 2019 with **loyalty program strategies.** Knowing the right **airline partnership opportunities and loopholes made all the difference.** They never get old.

For example, airlines offered sales on buying miles in 2019 with much greater frequency. So the idea of saving up to 90% on high-end tickets became much more obvious. Consequently, more and more FCF members are getting courageous with their buy- and transfer-miles strategies.

WHAT DIDN'T SURPRISE US ABOUT 2019

The value of **elite status programs continuing to decline** came as no surprise. Airlines are requiring increasingly higher spending to earn elite status while selling the finite supply of perks to anyone on the street or with a co-branded credit card. Airlines made it increasingly clear on this point: money talks and [loyalty can walk.](#)

The continued **decline of U.S. mileage programs in general** also came as no surprise (another reason not to chase elite status *and* domestic airline miles). This is particularly true with American and United joining Delta's dynamic-award pricing approach (charging whatever they want, often exorbitant rates). In other words, **the value of U.S. airline miles for free premium award travel took a major hit in 2019.** And we used to think mileage-award chart increases were bad. Time to get out of these currencies if you haven't already, spend down your balances, and **only earn U.S. airline miles by flying** from now on. That's it.

WHAT DID SURPRISE US IN 2019

WHERE TACTICAL FARES APPEARED

The increased precision with which airlines were willing and able to price premium seats wasn't a surprise, but where it manifested was.

For example, huge summer discounts to Europe in premium cabins were predictable for years, and generally were available for travel June to August. In 2019, you could still buy tickets for huge summer 2020 savings but, what changed in 2019 is that the airlines have divided the summer into low and high Business Class fare months.

That seemed to come out of left field at the time, but it makes sense, as airline's predictive models are more precise, knowing what travel months are slow and when premium seats might go unsold at the higher rates they're really after.

And the fare differences were not small, either. San Francisco to Milan in Business Class, for example, for travel in August 2020 runs just \$2,032, compared to the June fare of \$3,987 to \$5,408. That's a difference of \$1,955 to \$3,376 (49% to 62%).

That's extraordinary for a two-month difference in the same summer travel season, which may be only 40 days apart.

*See San Francisco-Milan Business Class Pricing,
Six Weeks Apart:*

Trip Summary

Outbound

DL8599¹, DL8311¹
SFO • MXP

Thu, Aug 6

FRI, AUG 7
3:35pm - 2:50pm

1 stop, 14h 15m
Business

Return

DL9519¹, DL9380¹
MXP • SFO

Thu, Aug 20

6:40am - 11:45am

1 stop, 14h 5m
Business

Changeable / Nonrefundable

Trip Total

Currency Calculator

1 Passenger

Flights

Taxes, Fees & Charges

Amount Due

\$1,907.00

\$124.75

\$2,031.75 USD

Trip Summary

Outbound	DL8599 ¹ , DL8311 ²	SFO ▶ MXP	Sat, Jun 27	SUN, JUN 28 3:35pm - 2:50pm	1 stop, 14h 15m Business	▼
Return	DL9519 ³ , DL9380 ⁴	MXP ▶ SFO	Sat, Jul 11	6:40am - 11:45am	1 stop, 14h 5m Business	▼

Changeable / Nonrefundable

Trip Total

Currency Calculator

1 Passenger

Flights\$5,160.00

Taxes, Fees & Charges\$124.75

Amount Due\$5,284.75 USD

VERY LOW BUSINESS CLASS FARES TO SOUTH AMERICA

It started in June with American offering Business Class fares to Córdoba, Argentina, starting at \$1,437 from Miami, followed in July with \$1,537 to Buenos Aires from Miami. But Delta put the icing on the cake by offering Business Class fares starting at \$1,394 to Rio de Janeiro from New York in November. “Knock me over with a feather,” is one way to describe that.

In 2019 we were also delighted to discover...

EAST COASTERS ARE NO LONGER FAVORED WHEN FLYING TO EUROPE

Like never before, the gap between West and East Coast Business Class fares were closing for travel to Europe. Many fares are now the same from either coast. This applied even to non-stop prime routes.

For example, just last month, both Los Angeles to London (5,437 miles) and Miami to London (4,426 miles) [were priced the same: \\$2,266](#). This shouldn't come as a surprise, however, as the local economies aren't really different enough to warrant different pricing. In fact, one could argue it's more painful to get to Europe from the West Coast because of the extra distance, so pricing should reflect some incentivization for those on the West Coast.

Something else we hadn't seen before was that:

PREMIUM ECONOMY FARES OFTEN COST LITTLE MORE THAN COACH

On non-stop routes, Premium Economy fares started at ~\$747 with Delta on the Los Angeles-to-Shanghai route for about 26 hours of round-trip flying, which is only about \$10 more per-flight hour than coach. Now, these kinds of Premium Economy fares of \$750 to \$900 might come to mind when flying to Europe, but we hadn't seen these kinds of low fares to Asia much before.

This is great when you compare similar routes to Asia on United, such as Los Angeles to Tokyo (about 22 hours of round-trip flying), go for \$1,470 in Premium Economy.

FOUR 2019 PREMIUM AIRFARE TAKEAWAYS

Takeaway #1: What you paid in the past is no indication of what you'll pay in the future. IOW: Fares are always changing—get used to it.

Takeaway #2: Maybe I'm splitting hairs here, but airlines shifted away from pricing seats as high as they could to generate as much revenue as possible, to pricing them more strategically, and often on a flash-sale basis, to **sell ALL seats**. They saw less value in leaving unsold seats at a high price or by "giving" them to loyalty programs members via good mileage availability instead of rotting like tomatoes, as they have in the past.

Now, instead, they sell them for cash and are increasingly shameless about **undercutting themselves**, even while releasing increasingly fewer premium mileage seats.

So what does this mean for you? Essentially, it means airlines are changing your behavior by enticing you to book dates *they* want you to book, so all the seats get sold. According to this approach, the August shift for discounts to Europe that we saw in 2019 makes sense. If they discount all summer months equally, they'll have many seats left over in August. So, they price June fares highest, July a bit less, and August cheapest. Lower demand means lower price. The result? They sell all their seats.

If you take away nothing else, remember this: Fly when the airlines want you to fly and you can save 50%+ off.

Takeaway #3: Look for fares to be increasingly counterintuitive, such as those to Europe we discussed above that are priced the same from both coasts.

Takeaway #4: Expect flash Premium Economy fares to be little more than coach.

SO WHAT?

The more you know, the more informed and open-minded you are. The more open-minded you are, the more opportunity will reveal itself to you.

As the saying goes, “*When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.*” The same holds true for the premium traveler: *When the [Opportunity Traveler](#) is ready, opportunities will appear.* If only because airlines are now willing to do **whatever it takes to sell all their seats**, even if they have to undercut themselves significantly.

It’s simple, really: Just follow the money to fly in comfort for less.

So much for history; 2019 is *so* last year. Let’s look at what we think might happen in 2020.

2020 VISIONARIES. WHAT WE THINK WILL HAPPEN AND HOW YOU CAN WIN

BUSINESS CLASS IN 2020

FCF predicts that the **only** way you’ll be able to use miles with American and United in Business Class in 2020 is to upgrade—unless you want to pay triple or even more miles for a free award ticket, that is.

The old days are over when Delta was the only one charging three times the amount of miles for free awards. But not to worry; you already know that FCF has a secret workaround for Delta, which we’ve covered over no less than seven special reports on the Delta-Virgin Loophole, the most recent one being in [November](#).

HOW TO BURN POINTS IN 2020

So, if you don’t want to pay triple the price for free awards with U.S. airlines, then use your points with airline points-transfer partners which offer much better availability at normal or discount prices. Namely, Air France, All Nippon, Asiana, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, Emirates, Iberia, KLM, Qantas, Singapore, and Virgin Atlantic have more low-cost mileage award space for many months, routes, and seats.

Here’s our new year’s resolution for you: Get a credit card that transfers to most of these airlines if you don’t already have one. We suggest an American Express card, as points can be transferred from its program,

Membership Rewards, to 10 out of the 11 airlines mentioned above.

Whatever you do, don't use an American, Delta, or United co-branded credit card! Keep an eye out for more on our favorite cards for 2020 next month.

Obviously, the best time to use miles is when airfares are high. So always check published fares as new low tactical Business Class fares often appear that offer a better alternative. Stay flexible and keep your eyes open. We'll help you there.

FCF predicts that in 2020 we will see a lot more **tactical Business Class mileage award flash sales** on U.S. airlines. Yes, that means mileage awards discounted on certain dates and routes, and offered only on a flash-sale basis, with perhaps a similar frequency and breadth of flash airfare sales, its half brother.

In other words, I envision yield management departments (the fare setters) and award-availability departments will collaborate closely in 2020.

FCF'S OLD FAITHFULS STILL APPLY

Our **buy-miles-to-fly-in-style strategy** is still one of the best ways to get Business Class tickets inexpensively to high-fare destinations such as the South Pacific or high-fare airlines like Cathay Pacific or Emirates. Just jump on a miles sale when they come up (as they often do) or, better yet, kick back and follow FCF's alerts and we'll tell you when sales become available, along with their companion, good availability to use them.

CASH IS KING WHEN AIRLINES GET TACTICAL

If 2019 is any indication of 2020 fares, then there are probably lots more surprises in store, such as new [tactical fare](#) travel seasons and destinations.

In other words, airlines will drop the prices of their Business and First Class fares during certain months and to certain destinations to remain competitive or to sell unsold seats much more often in 2020. The Opportunity Traveler (that's you) will win big by going when and where those tactical Business Class fares become available—**often to prime destinations and travel seasons**.

That's because the tactical fares we saw in 2019 can, and most likely will, change in 2020 as they're an ever-moving target.

So, **keep a generous bucket list handy** and hit the destinations first that offer Business or First Class vacations for little more than coach.

HOW TACTICAL WILL AIRLINES GET?

No one knows, but I can reveal that I was at an industry conference in October and one (very) large airline's revenue/yield manager said that his airline is **"as aggressive as ever to sell unsold seats."**

"Unsold seats" are the magic words. It tells me that everything is on the table: months, destinations, even days. FCF alerts and articles will capture and share the trends with you.

LOST AND NOT FOUND DEPARTMENT: MILEAGE PROGRAM VALUE

Look for devaluation to continue in 2020 with the big three U.S. airlines—American, Delta and United—whose mileage programs are in free fall when it comes to charging miles for a ticket. This year will only get worse. The airlines can get away with this because most travelers aren't knowledgeable or passionate enough to protest sufficiently to slow or stop the trend, like they used to be. Domestic loyalty programs will lose 25% to 50% of their value in 2020. One of the many reasons you don't want to earn and save miles with American, Delta, or United co-branded credit cards.

For example, even though American Airlines has an "official" award price chart, it charges whatever it darn well likes for an anytime award nowadays. Going by the chart, the highest rate for Los Angeles to Sydney in Business Class should be no more than 195,000 miles one-way. But in reality, American charges as much as 480,000 miles one-way. Talk about "off the charts."

FCF predicts that fares and miles management will align like never before, and that you'll only see low awards when you see low fares. **That's good if you're flexible, horrible if you're not.**

FIRST CLASS IN 2020

FCF predicts that British Airways will continue to be the price leader when offering First Class tickets with cash, compared to other airlines such as Lufthansa or Emirates. That said, we expect to see this on First Class flights to many regions, not just Europe, but Africa, India, and the Middle East as well.

Moreover, this will inevitably compel other airlines to lower fares to some degree, so **look for the lowest First Class fares you've seen in decades, this year.**

UP YOUR FIRST CLASS GAME

When it comes to using miles for low-cost First Class award space, look to international airlines. Keep this in mind: Fly All Nippon or Cathay Pacific to Asia and Emirates to the Middle East and even onward to Africa. And watch for rare First Class award space on Qantas to Australia and Singapore to Asia, which does come up from time to time. (If you're flexible, don't forget that **you can bank on 'rare' deals.**) We'll keep you in the loop so that can happen.

CONCLUSION

To win in 2020, you might need to reset your travel flight path to “manual” instead of “autopilot.” As the famed military strategist Sun Tzu said, **“In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity.”**

So expand your worldview. Get out your atlas and find new places to go. Some idea starters are [here](#) and [here](#). And don't give your heart away to any one airline. The more places you'd like to go, the more opportunities will fall in your lap.

Embrace the challenge—and enjoy 2020!



Embrace the challenge—and enjoy 2020!



When All Else Fails: A Quick Look at Domestic Premium Economy Upgrades

January 2020

How to Score a Free Upgrade on American to Hawaii Plus a Low-Cost United Option for Transcon Flights.

Dorothy Lambert's friend Gwynneth is always bragging about how thrifty she is. "Oh, you *don't* have your own herb garden?" or, "You *don't* unplug your appliances at night to save money on electricity leakage?!"

"No, Gwynneth, I don't," says Dorothy, "but I am flying in Premium Economy to Hawaii for less than what I'd pay to fly in coach. Oh, and by the way, that's TRUE Premium Economy too, the same as they have on international flights."

That sure stops Gwynneth in her tracks. So how does Dorothy do it? Lean in a little closer, we have good news regarding Premium Economy.

QUICK PHILOSOPHICAL SIDETRACK

FCF is for the FREE or LOW-COST UPGRADE. If this were an election, we'd have it embroidered on the front of our baseball cap.

We live to deliver you ways to move up a cabin without paying: A) anything more (or even paying less), or B) not a lot more. Economy class is the pits and we never want to be there. But, while we're generally all about Business and First Class, there are certain times when it just makes sense to consider Premium Economy:

- On a family vacation. (Do the kids really need to fly up front?)
- When you want to give your employees a perk.
- Business travelers: When sleep is secondary to working on your laptop or when company travel policy or client's budget forbids Business Class.

Which brings us to American Airlines.

PREMIUM ECONOMY ON AMERICAN AIRLINES

AA is leading the way among U.S. airlines in rolling out an [international Premium Economy product](#). It launched its new PE seats on its first 787-9 in October 2016, and the airline began a PE retrofit program for its other long-haul aircraft in 2017.

American only sells Premium Economy tickets with an international Premium Economy seat on three domestic routes: from Dallas to Hawaii (Honolulu, Kona, and Maui), with fares starting at around \$1,100+ round-trip from Dallas.

That's pretty good considering it's about 16+ hours of flying round-trip, and coach (main cabin) starts at \$888—so **Premium Economy upgrades come out to be only \$15 more per-flight hour**. Business Class ranges from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

Not flying *from* Dallas, and need to make a connection anyway? Consider a routing *via* Dallas.

SO WHERE DOES THE FREE UPGRADE BIT HAPPEN?

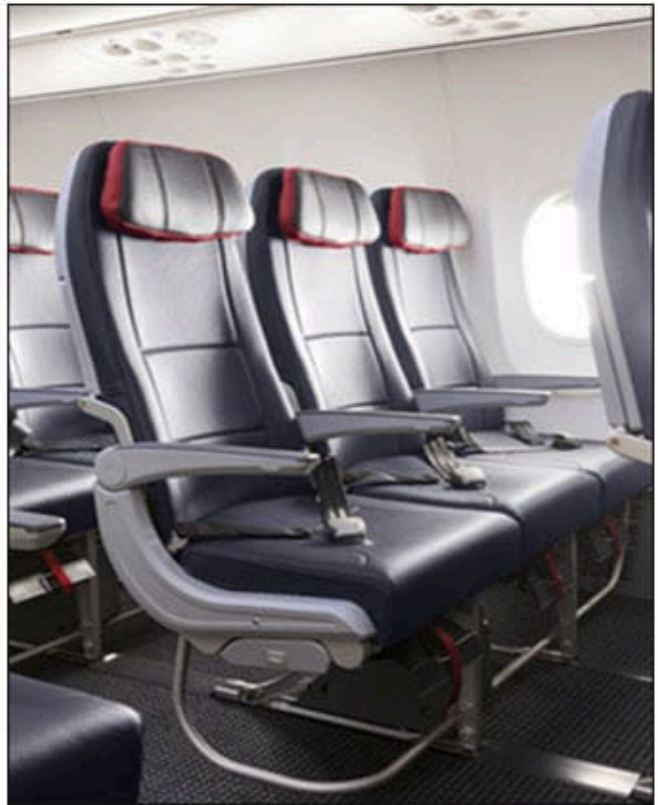
Let's look specifically at Dallas to Honolulu. The lowest Premium coach fare is \$1,128, versus Economy at \$888, a difference of \$120 one-way.

But if you add American's Main Cabin Extra for \$210 round-trip (up to 6 inches extra legroom, priority boarding, and complimentary beer and wine) to the coach fare, the price goes to \$1,098, not including a

checked bag or food (which can add another \$80 round-trip), bringing the total to about \$1,178. **So you're still in a coach seat but you're paying \$50 more than Premium Economy.** So booking the PE seat is officially a No-Brainer.



American Airlines Premium Economy



American Airlines Economy

Which brings us to United Airlines. It's not as amazingly lucrative, but still very enticing, when all else fails.

DOMESTIC PREMIUM ECONOMY ON UNITED

United is currently rolling out its international Premium Economy product, [Premium Plus](#), across its long-haul fleet and has started selling PE as of October on **some** transcontinental routes, including Los Angeles and San Francisco to Newark.


Like American, United also only sells Premium Economy tickets on domestic flights with an international Premium Economy seat, in this case the transcon routes. These PE fares start at \$815 round-trip. Compare this to United's Business Class fares, which start at \$1,200 to \$1,300, and their economy seats, which range from \$270 to \$400.

UPGRADING TO PE ON UNITED

Let's look at Los Angeles to Newark. The lowest round-trip PE fare is \$815, and coach runs \$267 round-trip. When you add United's "Bundle Offer 1" to the coach ticket (bundle offers, which vary by flight, route, and date of travel, are displayed after you select your flights in "Review trip itinerary"), you get extra amenities. When you also purchase "Economy Plus" (extra legroom and seating closer to the front) and a checked bag round-trip, the price comes to \$537, not including meals, which can add another \$20 round-trip. All of that

brings the total to about \$557. So, in this case, the difference between coach with some extras and PE is only \$129 each way.

Premium Economy on Delta: Forget about it. Delta is not offering its international PE product, Premium Select, on any domestic routes.



Argentine Route-Closure Deal; SKYPASS Deval; New BA Seat on More Flights; and AA Mile Prices Spike

January 2020

LAST CALL TO CORDOBA

FCF has published many fare alerts on American Airlines' great non-stop deal to Cordoba, Argentina from Miami. Well, it's time to grab this deal before it disappears forever because American is cutting the route as of May 6. Current Business Class fares start at [\\$1,902](#) round-trip to Argentina's second most important city.

KOREAN AIR MILEAGE PROGRAM DEVALUATION

Korean Air's SKYPASS has announced major changes to its program, including moving from a region-based award chart to one based on flight distance. In effect, it's a huge devaluation. At least the airline is giving plenty of notice before the changes take effect in April 2021.

So use your Korean miles now—or **Marriott points** via transfer to Korean—as it will cost many more miles to book after the changes go into effect next year. U.S. to Korea will go from 160,000 miles (current price) in First Class to 240,000 to 270,000 miles. Business Class will go from 125,000 miles (current price) to 160,000 to 180,000 miles. More details [here](#).

MORE FLIGHTS WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS' NEW BUSINESS CLASS

FCF wrote about [BA's new Business Class](#) seat back in [October](#), at which point the new seat could be found on select Toronto routes only. Three months later, BA will start taking delivery of four more new A350-1000 aircraft—all with the new seat. As they come on line over the coming months, all four will fly to London from Austin, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, starting on March 26, and Boston as of August 1. While most of BA's international flights will get the new seat over the next few years, the A350 is the only aircraft that will guarantee these seats. As always, during new seat and aircraft roll-out, know that the schedule is subject to change, sometimes even without notice.

AMERICAN'S AWARD PRICES SPIKE TO AS MUCH AS 960,000 MILES FOR BUSINESS CLASS

Even though American Airlines has an “official” award pricing chart, it seems to charge whatever it darn well likes for an anytime award, these days, so hold onto your hat with the examples of AA's new pricing below:

Los Angeles to Sydney in Business Class: According to AA's pricing chart, the highest rate using miles should be no more than 195,000 miles one-way (AAnytime Level 2), but in reality, American charges as much as **480,000 miles one-way**. Yes, that would be 960,000 miles round-trip. Worse: a sign of bad things to come.

Calendar

Sat, Feb 1
LAX to SYD
480K

One way (per person) from
480K miles

Nonstop only ▼

Business / First ▼

175K Lowest price this month

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 480K
2 250K	3 195K	4 175K	5 175K	6 480K	7 480K	8 480K
9 250K	10 175K	11 175K	12 195K	13 480K	14 480K	15 480K
16 375K	17 195K	18 175K	19 175K	20 437K	21 480K	22 480K
23 375K	24 175K	25 175K	26 195K	27 480K	28 480K	29 480K

Dallas to Kong Kong in First Class: According to the airline's published pricing chart, the highest rate should be no more than 210,000 miles one-way (AAnytime Level 2), but American charges as much as **460,000 miles one-way**. Surely that's "UnAmerican!"

Dallas to Rome in Business Class: AA's chart shows the highest AAnytime rate at 135,000 miles one-way for Business Class, but we found it as high as **400,000 miles one-way**.



Tactical for the Practical: Fly to Asia from New York for Just \$2,068 in Business

January 2020

Plus, Los Angeles to Phuket for \$2,884 and to Kuala Lumpur for \$2,918.

Just last month in these pages FCF highlighted great Business Class fares to [Beijing and Shanghai](#) starting at \$2,004. This deal was especially tasty because low Business Class fares were **offered from many U.S. departure cities**, not just one.

So of course, just as FCF was celebrating its December Issue release party, American Airlines and Japan Airlines released a great tactical Business Class fare from New York to Taipei for \$2,068 for travel January through April. It's the lowest Business Class fare to Asia from New York right now.

WHEN AIRLINES GET TACTICAL, YOU GET PRACTICAL

Airlines release “tactical fares” for a number of different reasons. They’re low fares that cover specific dates, seasons, or holidays, or they cover specific departure or destination cities.

Occasionally, tactical fares are both origin- *and* destination-specific, meaning the deal is only offered from one departure to one destination. That’s the case with the New York-to-Taipei deal. When you spot such a tactical fare, you should jump on it like a grizzly bear nabbing a salmon.

OTHER NEW TACTICAL FARES FOUND TO ASIA

- Los Angeles to Phuket for \$2,884 on American for travel February to September.
- Los Angeles to Kuala Lumpur for \$2,918 on American for travel January to October.
- New York to Kuala Lumpur for \$2,094 on American in January and March. On this one, note that the connection time ranges from 10 to 20 hours with partner Japan Airlines in Tokyo.

That’s just enough time to make a day trip to the city for some fresh sushi at the markets and shopping in nearby Ginza.

ADD OTHER U.S. CITIES TO THE GATEWAYS OF LOS ANGELES OR NEW YORK

Don’t live in Los Angeles or New York? You can fly there with cash or miles by booking a second ticket to take advantage of these opportunities.

If you’re using miles for [short- to mid-range flights to Los Angeles or New York, British Airways](#) miles (which partners with Amex and Chase) offer great value on American flights.

TRAVEL BEYOND, TO ALL OVER ASIA

Want to vacation in another Asian city? Check out Taipei first, then [continue on to other destinations](#). Taipei to Tokyo is about a three-hour trip, Seoul and Shanghai about two hours, and Bangkok about four hours, for example.

Or check out [Phuket](#) or [Kuala Lumpur](#) first before adding other Asian destinations. Travel is cheap in economy on short flights and often in Business Class too.





The Ultimate Award Ticket Is Even More Ultimate Now With New Seats

January 2020

Amex Points Players Score Like No Others With the World's Best Round-the-World Deal; Cheaper than Most Airlines Charge for Everyday Round-Trips.

A few years ago, one of our researchers spotted a deal so unfathomably great that I still shake my head in disbelief. We called it the “Ultimate Mileage Award” because I couldn’t imagine it being surpassed.

But it has been.

In short, the original deal still exists, but now some select routes have even better seats. We'll walk you through why and how to redeem this award with your Amex Points and give you a peak at those new cushy seats.

A RECAP OF THE ULTIMATE MILEAGE AWARD

This amazing [Round-the-World](#) (RTW) deal is based on a flight distance redemption with All Nippon Airways —[an Amex points-transfer partner](#)—with tickets starting in Business Class for just 105,000 miles, or 160,000 in First Class, for **flying any Star Alliance airline(s)** for up to 18,000 flight miles for the entire itinerary.

Total Basic Sector Mileage ¹	Required Mileage		
	Economy Class	Business Class	First Class
4,001-7,000	38,000	63,000	90,000
7,001-9,000	43,000	68,000	100,000
9,001-11,000	55,000	85,000	120,000
11,001-14,000	60,000	90,000	140,000
14,001-18,000	65,000	105,000	160,000
18,001-20,000	75,000	115,000	180,000
20,001-22,000	85,000	125,000	200,000
22,001-25,000	100,000	145,000	220,000
25,001-29,000	120,000	170,000	260,000
29,001-34,000	140,000	200,000	300,000
34,001-39,000	160,000	220,000	340,000
39,001-44,000	180,000	270,000	390,000
44,001-50,000	200,000	300,000	450,000

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE

There are a few reasons people hesitate to even consider a Round-the-World ticket, though. For one, most people assume the price is out of their reach without even doing any research. We know that's not true—and now you do too. Consider that Delta charges 160,000 miles (34% more) for a simple Business Class *round-trip* ticket between the U.S. and Europe, and 170,000 miles (38% more) from the U.S. to Asia.

Also, people often don't think of Round-the-World itineraries because they seem too long or too much of a commitment. But in fact, the distance covered on a RTW itinerary is often *comparable* to a long-haul round-trip. Furthermore, you don't have to see the whole world on one of these trips. You're free to skip over destinations and stop where you want. But if you have a bucket list that needs checking, there is no better deal that I know of.

For example, you could fly:

New York > Tokyo > Seoul > Frankfurt > New York

Flight Itinerary / Payment / Benefits Type			Passenger Passport/Passenger Information		Service Seat/In-flight Meal/Assistance	
Itinerary						
	Departure/Arrival		Flight	Seat	Class	Status Service
Feb 21 Friday 14h15min	16:55	New York(JFK) Terminal: 7	NH109 ANA	==	Business	OK Lounge Meal Movie Duty Free
	21:10 +1day	Tokyo(Haneda)	77W			
Mar 13 Friday 2h40min	06:10	Tokyo(Haneda) Terminal: INT	OZ177 321 Operated by Asian a Airlines	==	Business	OK
	08:50	Seoul(Incheon)				
Mar 19 Thursday 11h50min	11:00	Seoul(Incheon) Terminal: 1	OZ541 388 Operated by Asian a Airlines	==	Business	OK
	14:50	Frankfurt				
Mar 30 Monday 8h45min	17:10	Frankfurt Terminal: 1	LH404 74H Operated by Lufthansa German Airlines	==	Business	OK
	19:55	New York(JFK)				
Payment						
Required mileage		Total				
105,000 Miles		USD 571.15				
Adult x1						

On All Nippon all for up to **65,000 fewer miles** than the cost of any one of those round-trips on American, Delta, or United.



TAKING THE ULTIMATE TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH NEW AND IMPROVED CABINS

As if this deal couldn't get any better, All Nippon is beginning to introduce new Business Class (The Room) and First Class (The Suite) on its Boeing 777-300ER aircraft on the New York (JFK) to Tokyo (Haneda) route.

The new First Class seat on the B777-300ER now offers each seat its own door and provides passengers with privacy and a 43-inch 4K monitor, and the new Business Class offers wider seats, which all come with a door, have direct aisle access, and a 24-inch 4K monitor.



New All Nippon First Class



Old All

Nippon First Class



New All Nippon Business Class



Old All Nippon

Business Class

At present, the new cabins are available on the London-Tokyo and New York-Tokyo routes. The third route is Tokyo/Haneda-Frankfurt set for February. We're told more routes are expected to be rolled out soon.

The easiest way to check whether an upcoming ANA flight has these new products is to go to ana.co.jp and under the "Award Booking" tab, search for your exact flight and cabin class. If it states "The Suite" or "The Room" for your flight (see sample screenshot below), then it has the new seat. However, keep in mind there can be last-minute equipment swaps that might mean you get the older cabin.

Depart

◀

Feb 28 (Fri)

▶

New York(JFK)

✈ Tokyo(Haneda)

New York(JFK)

16:55

Terminal: 7

NH109

77W

ANA

Business Class

THE Room

Tokyo(Haneda)

21:10 +1 day

Total travel time 14h15min

Award Type **1**

ROUND-THE-WORLD TICKET FINE PRINT

- Up to eight stops allowed
- Flights must be used to cross both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans once
- The flight direction of the itinerary must be east to west or west to east (I highly recommend east to west to avoid red-eye flights and more jet lag)
- Backtracking is not permitted
- The minimum stay is at least 10 days over the course of the trip

- Travel valid on Air Canada, Air China, Air India, Air New Zealand, All Nippon, Asiana Airlines, Austrian, Ethiopian Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, SWISS, United and more.

FOR COMPARISON: RTW MILEAGE AWARD TICKETS USING CHASE POINTS

Chase, on the other hand, does not have All Nippon as a transfer partner. The best you could do for an RTW ticket with Chase is on Singapore Airlines at 240,000 miles in Business Class (56% more) and 360,000 miles in First Class (55% more). So, in essence, with Amex Rewards, transferred to All Nippon miles, you can **get better than two tickets for the price of one** on Singapore Airlines using Chase Points, and even save some miles to boot.

Side Note: More Reasons Why Amex Beats Chase: In case you needed more convincing, Amex has more transfer partners, 19 versus 10; it runs frequent transfer bonus deals—often up to 40%; and you can buy up to 500,000 American Express Membership Rewards points ([here's a guide to how](#)) at 2.5¢ each, while with Chase you can only earn them through spending. Plus, Amex Membership Rewards also offers more and better mileage programs such as Air Canada, Alitalia, All Nippon, Avianca (LifeMiles), Cathay Pacific, Etihad Airways, and Qantas. We wrote about it in detail [here](#). More on credit cards next month.

A red pushpin is pinned to a calendar grid. The grid shows dates, with '15', '22', and '23' visible. The background is a light gray with a grid pattern.

Fareconomics: The Best Time to Visit Europe if You Can't Fly Business Class and Won't Fly Coach?

January 2020

Fly off-season and get Premium Economy for the price of coach, cheaper hotels, more interaction with locals, and avoid lines and blistering heat.

The best time of day to apply for a job? Between 6 am and 10 am. The best day to resign from a job? Monday.
The best month for new movies? May.

The cheapest time of the year to fly Premium Economy non-stop to Europe? January to March.

It may not be the obvious time to go, but Europe can be amazing in late winter, and the temperatures can be fairly mild (low- to mid-60s) in the southern regions of Italy, France, Portugal, Spain, and Greece. Lines are short at the big attractions and crowds are fewer in the cities.

Sure, if you're primarily a sunbather this isn't for you.

That said, remember: Europe is rich in "indoor culture" (museums, art galleries, palaces, cathedrals) so you'll never run out of attractions to enjoy even when the temps drop.

You'll find that pretty much everything is much cheaper in the winter, like **suites at many hotels and resorts that go for the price of normal rooms in high season.**

Into winter sports? Europe is well known for its world-class ski resorts, which also offer some notable spas. What's better than a spa treatment overlooking the Alps? Ice hotels in northern Scandinavia? The northern lights?

Winter in Europe has so much to offer, and yet this time of the year is often overlooked.

So how good are the fares at this time of year? We recently revealed [when Business Class fares are \\$1,882 to \\$2,068 to Europe](#). If that's a bit more than you want to spend, and you won't fly at all if it must be coach (you're not alone, of course), then you want to know when Premium Economy is cheap.

WHEN UPGRADES ARE FREE OR CHEAP FROM COACH TO PREMIUM ECONOMY

Low-cost PE fare times also mean free or low-cost upgrades from high-season economy fares.

Free Upgrade Sample: Fly non-stop in PE from Los Angeles to Paris for just \$1,177 round-trip on Air France and Delta in January through March, compared to flying in coach for \$1,182 in July.

The moral? **Flying in the winter months gives you a free upgrade to PE.**

Examples of When PE Costs Less than Coach

Route	Airline	Premium Economy Cost in Winter (Jan. to March)	Coach Cost in Summer (July)
Chicago - Madrid	American, Iberia	\$943	\$1,095
Houston - Paris	Air France, Delta	\$1,144	\$1,193

Route	Airline	Premium Economy Cost in Winter (Jan. to March)	Coach Cost in Summer (July)
Miami - Milan*	American	\$945	\$1,006
Los Angeles - Paris	Air France, Delta	\$1,177	\$1,182



Or, depending on the route, flying in the winter months gives you a low-cost upgrade to PE.



Examples of When Flying PE Costs Little More than Coach

Route	Airline	Premium Economy Cost in Winter (Jan. to March)	Economy Cost in Summer (July)	Cost Per-Flight Hour More
Dallas - Madrid	American	\$1,213	\$1,143	\$3
New York - Paris*	Air France, Delta	\$924	\$897	\$2
Philadelphia - Dublin	American	\$987	\$912	\$5
Washington, DC - Paris	Air France, Delta	\$977	\$940	\$2

*Other low PE routes include New York to Zurich at \$900 on Delta, New York to Milan at \$945 on American, or to Barcelona at \$889 on American.

Delta Premium Economy