

A photograph of a passenger in a Cathay Pacific First Class cabin. The passenger is seated in a large, comfortable-looking seat, looking out the window. A small table in front of them is set with a white tablecloth, a glass of water, and some food. The cabin interior is modern and well-lit.

# Hot to Trot to Asia: Cathay Pacific Ticks All the Right Boxes with Miles for First Class and Cash or Miles for Business

February 2023

## Cathay away! Click the wrong website and be prepared to pay double

**First Class Update to Asia:** Once the lockdown began, a lot of airlines removed their First Class service from many routes. On [December 12](#), Cathay Pacific announced that their First Class cabin was coming back to London, Paris, and Tokyo to/from Hong Kong.

When we saw this press release, we got excited because that meant it was only a matter of time before First Class would come back to the U.S. Well, as we anticipated in [FCF's Annual 2023 Crystal Ball](#) report, the wait is over. Cathay Pacific's Los Angeles-Hong Kong First Class service has returned *and* with **award seat**

**availability for up to two travelers.** We also expect First Class to return to New York soon and we'll be closely monitoring that.

As we previously reported, the award availability calendar “month view” is sometimes inaccurate on the [cathaypacific.com](http://cathaypacific.com) website, so don't rely on it. Instead, search by specific day, which you can then navigate by week.

Although we didn't find any free First Class award seats using Cathay partners, here's the First Class availability we did find using Cathay Pacific miles, which you can get by transferring 110,000 points each way from Amex, Capital One, and Citi.

CATHAY’S FIRST CLASS SWEET REDEEMS TO ASIA

Cathay First Class	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
Los Angeles-Hong Kong	July, <a href="#">Sept. to Dec.</a>	Oct., Dec.	<a href="#">Aug.</a>	<a href="#">May</a> , July	<a href="#">June</a>	June, <a href="#">Oct. to Dec.</a>

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

So if you're looking to score a First Class experience to Asia this year, Cathay Pacific is your best bet at the moment. We'll be keeping a close eye on First Class availability as more routes open up, so stay tuned.

*Cathay Pacific First Class...*



## WHAT'S BUSINESS CLASS TO ASIA LOOK LIKE NOWADAYS?

**Typical Fares:** For Business Class to Asia, first, **the bad news:** There's not a lot of airline joy to be found. Delta's fares are crazy-high and their mileage redemptions for premium cabin flyers are next to worthless. American and United's published fares—**apart from [traveling to Asia via Canada to save up to 54%](#)**—generally start at \$6,000 to \$8,000+. And, trying to find discount mileage award availability on those two airlines is like trying to find a straw-colored needle in a continent-sized haystack.

**Typical Miles Prices:** On American, Delta, and United: Los Angeles-Jakarta on Delta is around 910,000 miles round-trip. American is around 220,000 miles with less than a handful of dates available. United is around 198,000 to 400,000 miles.

*Cathay Pacific Business Class...*



## WHICH BRINGS US TO THE GOOD NEWS: GETTING TO ASIA WITH MILES & POINTS ON TOP-RANKED CATHAY PACIFIC

First, let's take a look at the opportunities for mileage award travel. Although we didn't find any Business Class award seats using Cathay partners, here's the free award seat availability we found on Cathay Pacific for just **140,000 miles round-trip** from the West Coast and 170,000 miles from the East Coast. Get Cathay's miles easily via points-transfer partners **Amex, Capital One, and Citi**.

## SWEET REDEEMS ON CATHAY PACIFIC BUSINESS CLASS

Cathay Business Class	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
Boston	Aug., Sept., Nov., Jan.	Jan.		Sept., Dec., Jan.		
Los Angeles	Sept., Oct., Dec.	Sept., Nov., Dec., Jan.	Oct., Nov., Jan.	June., Sept. Oct., Nov., Jan.	Dec.	Sept., Oct. to Dec.
New York	Aug., Dec.	Aug., Nov., Dec.	Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan.	June, Sept., Dec.	June, Sept., Nov., Jan.	Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.,



Cathay Business Class	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
						Jan.
San Francisco	Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan.	Dec., Jan.	Oct., Nov.	Sept., Dec.	Sept., Oct., Dec.	Oct., Nov., Dec.
Toronto	Sept., Nov., Dec., Jan.	Nov.		Feb., Oct., Dec., Jan.	Nov.	Nov.
Vancouver	Nov., Dec., Jan.	Jan.		Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan.	Dec., Jan.	Nov.

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

## GETTING TO ASIA IN BUSINESS CLASS WITH CASH

**Typical fares on American, Delta, and United:** Los Angeles-Jakarta on Delta is around \$6,543 round-trip, American is around \$7,965, and United is around \$5,260.

*Cathay Pacific is often about half the cost of American, Delta, and United...*


Round trip
1
Business

Los Angeles LAX
Jakarta CGK
Thu, Sep 14
Thu, Sep 21

All filters (2)
1 stop or fewer
American +3
Bags
Price
Times
Emissions
Connecting airports


### Booking options

How options are ranked




Book with Cathay Pacific  
CX 881, CX 777, CX 718, CX 882

\$4,004
Continue




Book with American  
Marketed as AA 8934, AA 8913, AA 8904, AA 8935

\$7,965
Continue



Book with Delta  
Marketed as DL 9045, DL 7913, DL 7932, DL 9044

\$6,543
Continue



Book with United  
Marketed as UA 7925, UA 7902, UA 7916, UA 7946

\$5,260
Continue

## CATHAY: A TALE OF TWO FARES

Cathay's Business Class fares look great – almost 50% lower than American's, its own Oneworld partner, as you can see above. But how do you find them? Here's a quick example of the easiest and fastest way to find

the lowest fares. If you go to aa.com and search for Cathay Pacific's Los Angeles-Bali fares in Business Class you'll get served up a \$7,979 fare. However, if you go to [Google Flights](#), you'll see that you can get the same flight booked through Cathay Pacific for just \$4,002 (screenshot below). This is one reason you should **never go to an airline website first**. That's a \$3,977 saving simply by not limiting yourself to checking just one website. I only say this because I've heard that many people search and book flights exclusively through their primary airline's website.

Round trip · Business Class · 1 passenger

Los Angeles ↔ Denpasar

Selected flights

Thu, Nov 9 · 10:20 PM – 3:00 PM<sup>2</sup>

Cathay Pacific · American

24 hr 40 min

LAX–DPS

1 stop

3 hr 45 min HKG

4,171 kg CO<sub>2</sub>

-6% emissions ⓘ

Wed, Nov 15 · 4:00 PM – 9:05 PM

Cathay Pacific · American

21 hr 5 min

DPS–LAX

1 stop

3 hr 15 min HKG

4,561 kg CO<sub>2</sub>

+6% emissions ⓘ

Booking options

Book with Cathay Pacific

CX 883, CX 785, CX 784, CX 880

\$4,002

Continue

Book with American

Marketed as AA 8936, AA 8915, AA 8914, AA 8933

\$7,979

Continue

EXAMPLE ASIA BUSINESS CLASS FARE COMPARISON


Save the most from Los Angeles, with many Cathay Pacific fares under \$4,000 round-trip...

From / To		Cathay Pacific	American	Delta	United
Los Angeles	Cebu	\$3,642	-	-	-
	Kuala Lumpur	\$3,678	\$5,303	\$6,678	\$5,294
	Manila	\$3,577	-	-	-
	Osaka	\$3,846	\$6,630	\$8,333	\$6,129
	Seoul	\$3,847	\$4,617	\$4,602	\$5,717
	Singapore	\$3,672	-	\$5,539	\$5,448
	Tokyo	\$3,733	\$7,154	\$7,248	\$7,152

OTHER RELATIVELY GOOD (COMPARED TO AA, DL, & UA) FARES UNDER \$5,000...

And here's the intel for sub-\$5,000 fares on Cathay Pacific. Some are barely over \$4,000 and all are well below fares we're finding on other major airlines.

From / To		Cathay Pacific	American	Delta	United
Boston	Bangkok	\$4,580	\$6,325	\$8,899	-
	Phuket	\$4,561	-	\$9,549	-
	Taipei	\$4,880	\$6,711	\$8,535	\$6,613
Los Angeles	Bangkok	\$4,495	\$5,382	\$5,427	\$5,333
	Denpasar	\$4,002	\$7,967	\$7,082	-
	Hanoi	\$4,147	\$5,043	\$6,238	\$5,043
	Ho Minh City	\$4,159	\$4,636	\$6,332	\$4,636
	Jakarta	-	\$5,261	\$5,514	\$5,259
	Kathmandu	\$4,800	-	-	-
	Phuket	\$4,477	-	\$6,327	-
	Taipei	\$4,782	\$5,861	\$4,745	\$5,213
New York	Denpasar	\$4,693	\$5,460	\$8,332	-
	Hanoi	\$4,125	\$4,535	\$6,323	\$5,021
	Ho Minh City	\$4,101	\$4,350	\$6,218	\$4,614
	Jakarta	\$4,694	\$5,839	\$6,764	\$5,837
	Kuala Lumpur	\$4,748	\$13,186	\$7,347	\$6,866
	Manila	\$4,959	-	-	-
	Sapporo	\$4,329	\$21,478	\$23,307	\$8,925
	Singapore	\$4,743	\$4,482	\$5,699	\$4,482
	Taipei	\$4,880	\$11,879	\$5,645	\$5,773
San Francisco	Nagoya	\$4,961	\$21,417	-	-
	Osaka	\$4,705	\$17,548	\$11,031	\$8,915
	Sapporo	\$4,973	\$21,476	-	\$9,424
	Seoul	\$4,770	\$6,982	\$4,822	\$5,922

A photograph of an Etihad First Class airplane cabin. The image shows a wide, comfortable-looking seat with a dark brown leather finish and a colorful geometric patterned pillow. The cabin walls are white with a subtle geometric pattern, and there are oval windows. The overall lighting is soft and warm.

# Get the Family Packing: Smart Ways to Fly Etihad First Class for Two or More Travelers from All Over the U.S. to All Over the World

February 2023

## **New First Class vacations discovered to the Middle East, India, the Maldives, the Seychelles, South Africa, and more**

Vacations are important. They give us a chance to recharge after we've been working hard in the throes of everyday life. They give us a unique change of place and offer the opportunity to explore a new perspective on life. And perhaps most importantly, they help us build connections with the people we love the most in this crazy world.



So, when FCF can get you and your loved ones off on a vacation, we take it seriously, because we know what it means to you. It applies to us too.

And a First Class vacation? Now you're talking.

## **THE ONLY PROBLEM: YOU OFTEN CAN'T FIND MORE THAN ONE SEAT WITH MILES IN FIRST CLASS!**

When you do get the chance to go on a vacation — and that's no small task of calendar massaging — you have the problem of finding seats using miles for the whole family or group. We call it the family curse. It's hard enough finding space for yourself, let alone your offspring, mate, or friends. And it can end up being very expensive.

## **SELL THE FAMILY SILVER?**

Happily, no. You now have an opportunity to get tickets using your miles at the lower price levels on Etihad, which currently operates a B787 with First Class flights from Geneva, London, and Washington, DC, to Abu Dhabi, and a B777 from Paris to Abu Dhabi. They also operate Business Class on two-class A350s and B787s (no First Class, in other words) from Chicago, New York, and Toronto to the Middle East.

## **SEAT SPOTTERS**

**Here's the big news flash: We found First Class seats for two on the Washington, DC-Abu Dhabi route using 130,000 Air Canada miles each way (which you can get via points transfers with Amex, Capital One, and Chase).** While not very cheap, we are talking First Class so at least consider it for the all-important outbound night flight. More on [Horses for Courses](#).

Meanwhile, partner American Airlines has much less availability (although cheaper price at 115,000 miles one, if you can find it) and partner All Nippon doesn't show any award seat availability.

So you're saying, "Bennett, you were just talking about families and now you're talking about two seats?" First, two can make a family, but yes, the gist of this report is more than two. The thing is, seldom do I see four First Class seats available, though British Airways is the occasional exception. Usually, you only see one First Class seat available with miles on airlines like All Nippon, Japan, Singapore, and Emirates, although there are exceptions too. So let's get strategic.

## **HOW TO HAVE A FAMILY GATHERING ON MILES**

If you need a bunch of seats, let's say four to eight, my advice is to get two in First and the rest in Business. (More on the good Business Class availability in a minute.)

When you're traveling far away and you have, say, a party of four traveling to the same destination, you could split up the party in different ways and still enjoy First Class. Here are some examples:

**Split your trip by day of travel:**

Monday: Two travelers in First Class

Tuesday: Two travelers in First Class

And say: *"See you there!"*

**Split your trip by cabin:**

Put two travelers in First Class and two in Business Class

And say: *"How's the weather back there?"*

## **ETIHAD IN FIRST**

An Etihad First Class experience starts at home with a knock on the door: "Chauffeur!" From there it's straight to the airport with priority check-in and the First Class lounge. In Abu Dhabi's First Class lounge, you can get your clothes pressed while you take a shower and relax.



Etihad B787 First Class


Don't Live in Washington or Not Flying to Abu Dhabi?

No Problem!

### Get Free Tickets to Washington, DC

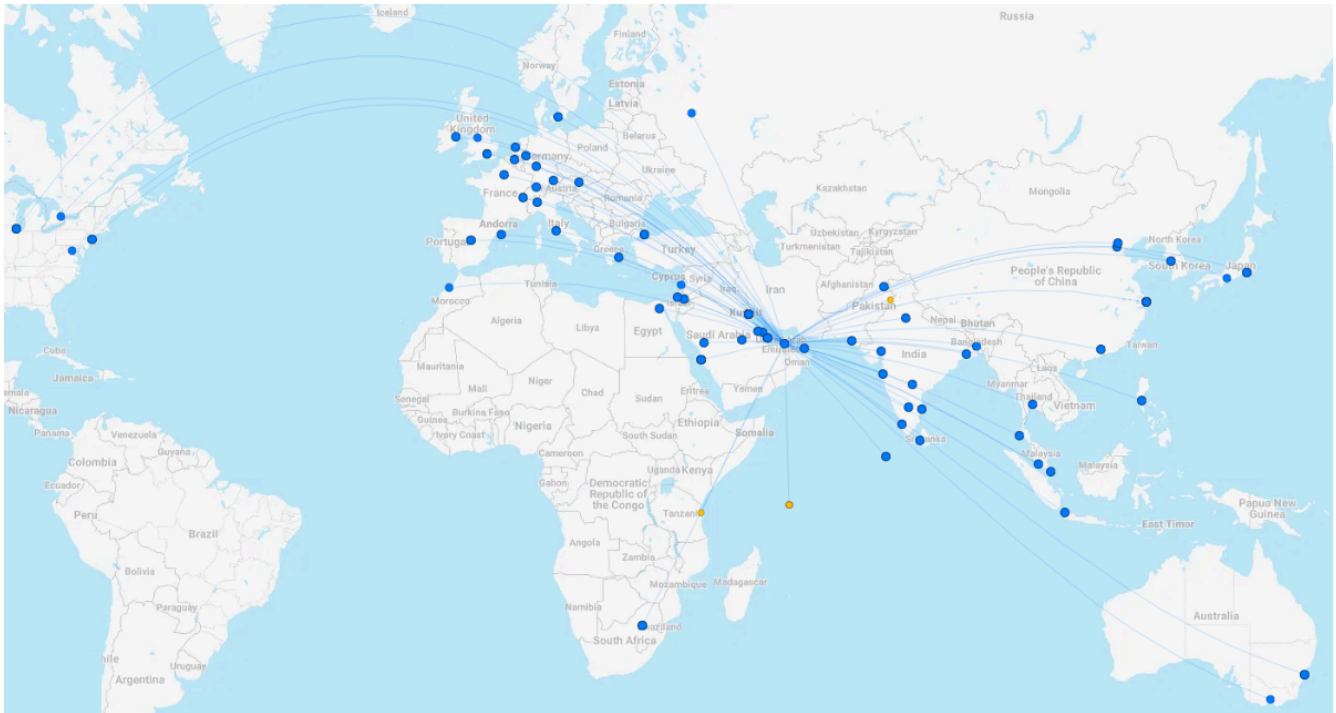
When booking Etihad flights with Air Canada or American miles, you can get free connecting flights for no more miles (connecting flights may be in economy).

*Example of a Free Connecting Flight from St. Louis:*

Tue Feb 28				
Flight results: 22 flights found			First Class	
18:00	1 stop   38hr15m +2		18:15	
St. Louis			Abu Dhabi	
Includes travel operated by Commuteair Dba United Express, Etihad Airways				
			Select seats from	
			130K	
			+ CA \$83	
			91% in First Class	
			<a href="#">Preview seats</a>   <a href="#">Details</a>	

**NOT FLYING TO THE MIDDLE EAST? NO PROBLEM...**

Etihad flies to over 60 destinations across



## NO MILES? NO PROBLEM. PART 1 TRANSFER POINTS

**Transfer your miles** to Air Canada from Amex, Capital One, or Chase; to American from Citi; to Etihad from Amex, Capital One, and Citi.

While this isn't a cheap ticket, keep in mind that these First Class tickets can often easily go for \$15,900 to \$29,308+. Oh, and something else to keep in mind...

First Class memories are priceless.

## COMPARING FIRST CLASS COST ON ETIHAD'S WASHINGTON, DC TO ABU DHABI ROUTE

Mileage Program	Cost in Miles	Taxes R/T	Transfer Points
Etihad	272,500	\$1,100	Amex, Capital One, Citi
Air Canada	260,000	\$156	Amex, Capital One, Chase
American	230,000	\$60	Citi

## NO MILES? NO PROBLEM. PART 2 BUY MILES / POINTS

As you can see in the chart below, there are several ways to get miles and points if you don't have any to transfer. You can buy Amex Points at 2.5 cents each and transfer them to Etihad or to Air Canada to get a

First Class round-trip ticket to save 50%-58%. Or save 78% when buying miles with Air Canada when on sale at their lowest 1.3 cents per mile or save up to 74% with American when its miles can be had for 1.8 cents each. Sample savings below on Washington, DC-Abu Dhabi round-trip:

Point / Mileage Program		Miles Required	Cost in \$ When Buying Miles on Sale	Potential Savings	Link to Buy Miles Page
Buy Points from Amex / Transfer to:	Etihad	272,500	\$6,813	\$7,988 / 50%	<a href="#">Amex Buy Miles</a>
	Air Canada	260,000	\$6,500	\$9,244 / 58%	
Buy from Air Canada				\$3,380	\$12,364 / 78%
Buy from American		230,000	\$4,140	\$11,700 / 74%	<a href="#">Buy Miles with American</a>

Here's a First Class availability (at the time of analysis) treasure map to get your vacation ducks in a row. Remember availability may change by the time you read this.

### First Class Availability Washington, DC to Abu Dhabi Using 130,000 Air Canada Miles, One-way (Transfer Amex, Capital One and Chase Points)

To Abu Dhabi From:	Outbound			Return		
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Washington, DC	May, June, <a href="#">Aug.</a> , <a href="#">Sept.</a> , <a href="#">Oct.</a> , <a href="#">Nov.</a> , <a href="#">Dec.</a>	<a href="#">Aug.</a> , <a href="#">Sept.</a>	<a href="#">Oct.</a>	May, June, <a href="#">July</a> , <a href="#">Aug.</a> , <a href="#">Sept.</a>	<a href="#">Aug.</a> , <a href="#">Oct.</a> , <a href="#">Dec.</a>	<a href="#">Oct.</a> , <a href="#">Nov.</a>

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

## BEYOND ABU DHABI: THE REAL DEAL

You can book Etihad First Class with Air Canada miles from Washington, DC, to Abu Dhabi for 130,000 miles each way, **or book all the way through to places like Johannesburg, the Maldives, New Delhi and the Seychelles for only 10,000 more miles, each way, though flights beyond Abu Dhabi are usually in Business Class.** While these prices aren't very competitive to the Middle East, for travel to more distant exotic destinations, you can get the most value.



## SWEET REDEEMS IN FIRST CLASS TO ABU DHABI AND BUSINESS CLASS BEYOND

Washington, DC via Abu Dhabi To:	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
Johannesburg	May, July, Aug., Oct. to Dec.	Sept., Oct.		May, July, Sept., Oct.	Aug., Oct., Nov., Dec.	
Male	May to July	May to July, Aug. to Oct., Dec.	Sept., Oct., Nov.	May, June, July, Aug., Sept.	June, Sept., Oct.	Aug., Oct., Nov., Dec.
New Delhi	May, July, Aug., Oct. to Dec.	Aug., Sept.	Sept., Oct.	Jun., July, Sept.	May, Aug., Oct.	Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.
Seychelles	Aug.			Oct. to Dec.		

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

## Etihad in Business Class

### NO MILES? NO PROBLEM. PART 1 TRANSFER POINTS

You can buy Amex Points at 2.5 cents each from Air Canada for Etihad's Washington, DC, to Abu Dhabi route and save 30%.

Mileage Program	Cost in Miles	Taxes R/T	Transfer Points
Etihad	240,000	\$1,100	Amex, Capital One, Citi
Air Canada	180,000	\$156	Amex, Capital One, Chase
American	140,000	\$60	Citi

### NO MILES? NO PROBLEM. PART 2 BUY MILES / POINTS

Get a Business Class round-trip ticket to save 62% when buying miles with Air Canada when on sale at their lowest 1.3 cents per mile or save up to 61% with American when its miles can be had for 1.8 cents each.

Sample savings using Washington, DC-Abu Dhabi round-trip:

Point / Mileage Program		Miles Required	Cost in \$ When Buying Miles on Sale	Potential Savings	Link to Buy Miles Page
Buy Points from Amex / Transfer to:	Etihad	240,000	\$6,000	No Savings	<a href="#">Amex Buy Miles</a>
	Air Canada	180,000	\$4,500	\$1,983 / 30%	
Buy from Air Canada				\$2,340	\$4,143 / 62%
Buy from American		140,000	\$2,520	\$4,059 / 61%	<a href="#">Buy Miles with American</a>

**Business Class Availability Chicago, New York, Toronto and Washington, DC to Abu Dhabi - Using 90,000 Air Canada Miles, One-way** (Transfer Amex, Capital One and Chase Points)

To Abu Dhabi From:	Outbound			Return		
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Chicago	July, Aug. to Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan.	Aug.		June, Aug., Oct., Dec.	Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov.	Sept., Nov.
New York	March, April, July, Aug., Nov., Dec.	July, Sept., Oct., Dec., Jan.	Sept., Oct.	June, July, Aug., Jan.	Nov.	Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.
Toronto	Dec., Jan.			Sept. to Nov., Dec.		
Washington, DC	March, April, May, July, Aug., Dec.	Aug., Sept., Oct., Dec.	Sept. to Nov.	May, June, July	June, Aug., Sept., Dec.	Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

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

## TRAVEL BEYOND ABU DHABI FOR LESS MILES

You can book Etihad Business Class with Air Canada from Chicago, New York, Toronto and Washington, DC for 90,000 miles, or book all the way through from Chicago to Bangkok and Jakarta; from New York to Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore; from Toronto to Bangkok, Jakarta and Mumbai; from Washington, DC to Bangkok and Jakarta for 87,500 miles each way, for example.

*Etihad Business Class Chicago to Abu Dhabi for 90,000 Miles One-way*

**AIR CANADA**

**Departure Wednesday, August 16, 2023**  
**Chicago (ORD) to Abu Dhabi (AUH)**

<

Mon Aug 14  
55K  
+ CA \$75

Tue Aug 15  
55K  
+ CA \$75

Wed Aug 16  
**55K**  
+ CA \$75

Thu Aug 17  
55K  
+ CA \$75

Fri Aug 18  
55K  
+ CA \$75

>

Stops ▾

Airlines ▾

Connection airports ▾

eUpgrade

More options ▾

Sort by: Recommended ▾

Flight results: 24 flights found

Economy Class ▾

Business Class ▾

First Class ▾

Lowest price

12:35

Non-stop | 13hr25m +1

11:00

Chicago

Abu Dhabi

Operated by Etihad Airways

[Preview seats](#) | [Details](#)

55K  
+ CA \$75

1 seat left

**90K**  
+ CA \$75

—

You can travel to other destinations beyond Abu Dhabi for just a bit more, see the chart below.

*Etihad Business Class Chicago-Abu Dhabi-Bangkok for 87,500 Miles One-way*

**Chicago (ORD) - Bangkok (BKK) | Wednesday August 16, 2023**

<

Mon Aug 14  
60K  
+ CA \$83

Tue Aug 15  
60K  
+ CA \$75

Wed Aug 16  
**60K**  
+ CA \$75

Thu Aug 17  
60K  
+ CA \$75

Fri Aug 18  
60K  
+ CA \$75

>

Stops ▾

Include: ETIHAD AIRWAYS X

Connection airports ▾

eUpgrade

More options ▾

Sort by: Recommended ▾

Flight results: 3 of 13 flights found (filtered)

Economy Class ▾

Premium Economy ▾

Business Class ▾

First Class ▾

Lowest price

12:35

1 stop | 31hr45m +2

08:20

Chicago

Bangkok

Operated by Etihad Airways

[Preview seats](#) | [Details](#)

4 seats left

60K  
+ CA \$90

—

1 seat left

**87.5K**  
+ CA \$90

—

**ETIHAD BUSINESS CLASS COST BEYOND ABU DHABI**

From / To via Abu Dhabi		Cost in Miles One-way
Chicago	Bangkok	87,500
	Jakarta	
	Kuala Lumpur	
New York	Bangkok	87,500
	Jakarta	
	Kuala Lumpur	
	Singapore	
Toronto	Bangkok	87,500

From / To via Abu Dhabi		Cost in Miles One-way
Washington, DC	Jakarta	
	Mumbai	
	Bangkok	
	Kuala Lumpur	

From / To via Abu Dhabi		Cost in Miles One-way
New York	Johannesburg	110,000
	New Delhi	
Toronto	Kuala Lumpur	
	New Delhi	
Washington, DC	Johannesburg	
	Male	
	Mumbai	
	New Delhi	
	Seychelles	

From / To via Abu Dhabi		Cost in Miles One-way
New York	Sydney	115,000
Washington, DC	Jakarta	
	Melbourne	
	Sydney	

## ETIHAD BUSINESS CLASS AVAILABILITY USING AIR CANADA MILES FROM CHICAGO

Chicago via Abu Dhabi To:	Outbound		Return		
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Bangkok	Sept., Oct., Dec.	Aug.	Sept., Oct., Dec.	Sept.	
Jakarta	Aug., Sept., Oct., Dec.		Aug., Sept. to Dec.	Oct., Dec.	Nov.
Kuala Lumpur	Aug.		Aug.		

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

## ETIHAD BUSINESS CLASS AVAILABILITY USING AIR CANADA MILES FROM NEW YORK

New York via Abu Dhabi To:	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
Bangkok	July, Sept.			Sept.		
Jakarta	Aug., Sept.	July		Aug.		
Kuala Lumpur	July, Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan.	Oct., Jan.	Sept.	Aug., Sept.	Sept., Oct. to Dec.	Dec.
Singapore	Jan.			Sept. to Nov., Dec.	Dec.	
Johannesburg	July, Sept.					
New Delhi	Sept.	July		Aug.		
Sydney	Oct., Nov.					

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

## ETIHAD BUSINESS CLASS AVAILABILITY USING AIR CANADA MILES FROM TORONTO



Toronto via Abu Dhabi To:	Outbound	Return	
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month
Bangkok	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.
Jakarta	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.
Mumbai	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.
Kuala Lumpur	Dec.	Dec.	
New Delhi	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.

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

## ETIHAD BUSINESS CLASS AVAILABILITY USING AIR CANADA MILES FROM WASHINGTON, DC

Washington, DC via Abu Dhabi To:	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
Bangkok	July, Aug., Oct., Nov.	Sept.		Sept.	Oct., Nov.	Dec.
Kuala Lumpur	Aug.			June, Aug.	Aug.	
Johannesburg	May	Sept., Oct., Nov.	Sept., Oct.		Sept., Dec.	Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.
Male	Aug., Sept. to Nov.			Aug.	Sept., Nov.	Sept., Oct., Dec.
Mumbai	Dec.	Nov.	May to Oct., Nov.			May to Dec.
New Delhi	March, May, July, Aug., Dec.		Sept. to Nov.	May, July	June, Aug.	Aug., Sept. to Dec.
Seychelles	Aug.			Aug. to Oct.	Aug., Nov.	Dec.
Jakarta	July, Oct.			Nov.	May, Aug., Oct., Nov.	
Melbourne	Nov.			Oct., Dec.	Oct., Nov.	Nov.

Washington, DC via Abu Dhabi To:	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
Sydney	Oct., Nov.					

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

Bookings are easily made on [aircanada.com](http://aircanada.com). Or, with American, which has less availability than Air Canada, where you need to call.

Bonus Tip: If or when you do call American, for some reason, Etihad's best availability is not shown on the American Airlines website — nor by its U.S.-based call center agents. So, it's best to check by calling the AAdvantage international call center. Seems weird, but we found it to work best:

- American Airlines UK: +44 207 660 2300
- American Airlines Germany: +49 69 2999 3234
- American Airlines Singapore: +65 6349 8444
- American Airlines Hong Kong: +852 3057 9197
- American Airlines Australia: +61 2 9101 1948



# Upgrade Economics 101, Part 2

February 2023

## Everyone loves upgrade economics and this month won't let you down...

Hello class, welcome to the second session of **Upgrade Economics 101** at FCF University. [Last month](#) we looked at topics including JAL upgrades from Business to First Class for a low miles cost; adding Hawaii to a West Coast trip to make it hula-whoopie; and FCF's Delta-Virgin hack to Europe. I trust you've re-read the text, memorized it, and have been upgrading all month.

Today we have new topics to cover to help you **reimagine upgrading**—so you can get the most bang for your buck.

## FEBRUARY'S UPGRADE ECONOMICS EXAMPLE #1 FLY IN BUSINESS CLASS ON IBERIA INSTEAD OF ECONOMY FOR JUST 8,000 MORE MILES R/T

For me, this is the definition of an upgrade no brainer. You could fly Iberia Airlines in economy using American miles for 60,000 miles, or fly Iberia in Business Class for 68,000 Iberia miles (transferable from Amex and Chase points). Enough said? (Why earn miles with an American Airlines credit card and be locked into a program like that?) Great, let's move on.

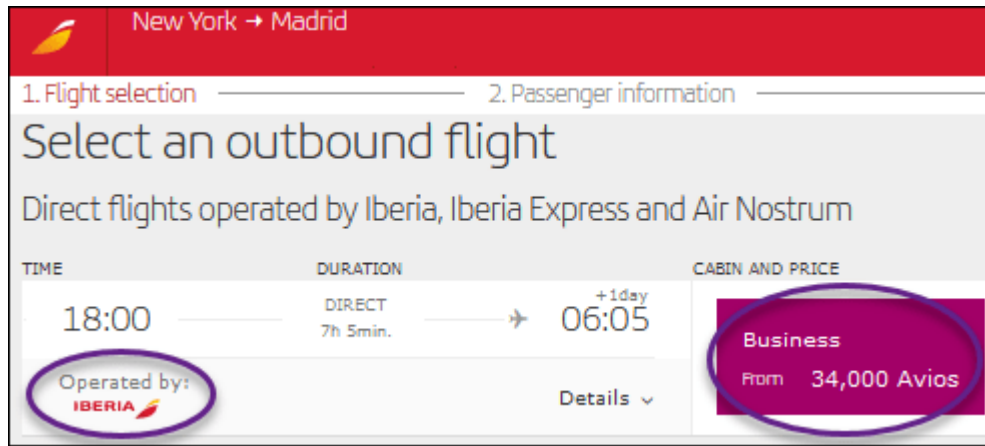
### EXAMPLE OF AWARD-CLASS UPGRADE ECONOMICS:

Operating Airline	Loyalty Program	Route	Class	Mileage R/T
Iberia	American AAdvantage	New York-Madrid	Economy	60,000
	Iberia Avios		Business Class	68,000
Upgrade Cost / Miles				8,000
Benefit			One-class Upgrade	

*Iberia Coach Class 30,000 American Miles One-Way...*

The screenshot shows the American Airlines website interface. On the left, under 'Main Cabin', the fare is listed as 'One way (per person) 30,000 miles + \$84.70'. Below this, it says 'Total (all passengers) 30,000 miles + \$84.70' and 'Includes taxes and carrier-imposed fees'. A purple circle is drawn around the '30,000 miles + \$84.70' text. An arrow points from this circle to the flight details on the right. The flight details show 'DEPART New York, NY to Madrid, Spain' on 'Monday, October 2, 2023' at '5:00 PM → 6:25 AM' with a duration of '7h 25m'. It also shows the flight number 'IB6250' and aircraft '359-Airbus A350'. Below the flight details, it says 'Operated by Iberia' and 'Overnight flight or connection'. There are links for 'Details' and 'Change'.

*Iberia Business Class 34,000 Iberia Miles One-Way...*



**No Iberia miles? No problem.** You can transfer your miles from Amex and Chase. Here are recent FCF Sweet Redeems on Iberia to Madrid from [Boston](#) and [New York](#). Here's how to get even more value from [Iberia's cheap Business Class strategy to Europe](#).

## FEBRUARY'S UPGRADE ECONOMICS EXAMPLE #2 UPGRADE TO A SUITE AT A PREMIUM HOTEL FOR \$35 LESS

While FCF seldom covers high-end hotels, this strategy is one I personally use and it's so good when it works (it doesn't always) that it deserves to be mentioned from time to time... Imagine you belonged to a secret society that, for a ridiculously small fee, bestowed wondrous magical gifts upon you. Well, a membership in the American Bar Association (ABA) gets you deals such as a "1 Bedroom Executive Suite" at The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove in Miami for \$462 (normally \$749), when it would cost you \$497 for a mere "Guest Room with King" without the membership. Abracadabra. This works with many other hotels too, as you can see in our report on [domestic hotels](#), and [Europe hotels](#). Note: Anyone can [join the ABA for just \\$150](#). See below for the basic upgrade math:

Hotel	Room Type	Cost Per Night
Ritz Carlton Coconut Grove, Miami, July 11	Normal Room	\$497
	1 Bedroom Executive Suite (with ABA membership discount)	\$462
<b>Upgrade Cost / \$</b>		<b>-\$35</b>
<b>Upgrade Benefit</b>		<b>Suite Upgrade</b>

Why would you book a regular room when you can get a suite, *and* pay less for it? [Upgrade your stay the legal way](#).


*Normal Room at The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove July 11 \$497*



**The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove, Miami**  
 3300 SW 27th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33133 USA +1 305-644-4680 4.1 409 Reviews Currency Calculator

EXCLUSIVE AMENITIES Mobile Key Digital Check-In Service Request Spa Fitness

## Review Reservation Details



**Guest room, 1 King, City view, Balcony**  
 ROOM DETAILS

Check in: Tuesday, July 11, 2023  
 Check out: Wednesday, July 12, 2023  
 Room(s): 1  
 Guest(s) per room: 2

EDIT


**440.00** + **57.20** = **497.20**  
 USD / night USD Taxes and fees USD Subtotal

[Summary of Charges](#)

Suite at The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove July 11 \$462

**The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove, Miami**  
 3300 SW 27th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33133 USA +1 305-644-4680 4.1 409 Reviews Currency Calculator

EXCLUSIVE AMENITIES Mobile Key Digital Check-In Service Request Spa Fitness



**1 Bedroom Executive Suite, 1 King, Sofa bed, City view, Balcony**  
 ROOM DETAILS

Check in: Tuesday, July 11, 2023  
 Check out: Wednesday, July 12, 2023  
 Room(s): 1  
 Guest(s) per room: 2

EDIT

**409.00** + **53.17** = **462.17**  
 USD / night USD Taxes and fees USD Subtotal

[Summary of Charges](#)

**American Bar Assoc. Rate**  
 RATE DETAILS

## FEBRUARY'S UPGRADE ECONOMICS EXAMPLE #3 UPGRADE FROM UNITED BUSINESS CLASS TO LUFTHANSA FIRST CLASS TO EUROPE FOR 40,000 FEWER MILES EACH WAY

Let's play Jeopardy. "Europe First Class for 40,000 miles **less** than Business Class, please Ken." Answer: "What is Lufthansa's hot deal right now?" Correct! Contestants can spend 155,000 United miles and just \$6 in taxes for Business Class, OR, 115,000 Lufthansa miles and \$10 in taxes for Lufthansa First Class from the U.S. to Europe. Is that a mistake, Ken? No it's not. It's **40,000 fewer miles** to jump from Business to First. Tonight's winner takes home a First Class seat. Winner, winner, *huhn* dinner (that's German for "chicken"). The Award Class-Upgrade Economics:

Route	Class	Loyalty Program	Operating Airline	Mileage O/W	Taxes
New York - Munich	Business Class	United	Any	155,000	\$5.60
	First Flex Plus	Lufthansa	Lufthansa	115,000	\$10.10

Route	Class	Loyalty Program	Operating Airline	Mileage O/W	Taxes
Upgrade Cost				-40,000	+\$5.50
Upgrade Benefit					One-Class Upgrade

\*Don't have any Lufthansa miles? No problem. You can buy them with this [New Lufthansa First Class Ticketing Strategy to Europe](#).

\*\*We used the higher figure of 115,000 miles because we wanted to compare "Flex Plus" awards, i.e., the kind with fewer taxes, so we're comparing apples to apples here.

\*\*\*Routes FCF found best Lufthansa First Class availability: [Boston](#) and [New York](#) to Munich.

\*\*\*\*Not traveling from a U.S. gateway or to Germany? It's worth checking out Lufthansa's route network throughout Europe and/or consider [positioning flights](#) – especially if you have to make a connection anyway.

Lufthansa currently operates 13 First Class Lufthansa routes: **To Frankfurt from** Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Newark, San Francisco, Washington, DC, and **to Munich from** Boston, Chicago, Miami, New York, Washington, DC.

### There goes the bell!

Thanks for following along in class. Your homework this month is to apply these three upgrade lessons however you like: Either book a flight to Europe in Business Class for just 8,000 miles more than coach; stay in a spectacular hotel room for a very accommodating price; or get First Class ticket for less than the cost of Business Class.



# February's Top 48 Mileage Awards & Special Fares Greatest Hits (Still Available)

February 2023

February is the month of Groundhogs and Upgrade Hounds. And while spring isn't here just yet, our hounds have sniffed out some blooming beautiful fare and mile finds to keep you warm. Whether you're heading to Paris or Punxsutawney, we've got you covered.

## Special Published Fares

### AFRICA

[Cairo Biz Class from \\$2,481 to \\$3,206 R/T](#)

[Kenya Biz Class from \\$3,319 to \\$3,988 R/T](#)

[Senegal Biz Class from \\$2,542 to \\$4,000 R/T](#)

[Casablanca Biz Class from \\$2,475 to \\$2,877 R/T](#)



## **ASIA**

[Osaka Biz Class from Canada from \\$2,872 to \\$3,006 USD R/T](#)

[Philippines Biz Class from Los Angeles, New York, and Washington DC from \\$3,634 to \\$3,859 R/T](#)

## **CARIBBEAN**

[St. Croix Biz Class from \\$840 to \\$1,185 R/T](#)

[Grand Cayman Biz Class from \\$872 to \\$1,184 R/T](#)

[Dominican Republic Biz Class from New York from \\$625 R/T](#)

[Turks and Caicos Biz Class from \\$814 to \\$1,186 R/T](#)

[St. Thomas Biz Class from \\$947 to \\$1,158 R/T](#)

[Antigua Biz Class from \\$971 R/T](#)



## EUROPE

[Frankfurt Biz Class from \\$2,199 to \\$2,998 R/T](#)

[London Biz Class from \\$1,995 to \\$2,505 R/T \(American, BA, United, JetBlue & More\)](#)

[Stockholm Biz Class from \\$2,425 to \\$3,029 R/T](#)

[Latvia Biz Class from Dallas, New York and Chicago from \\$2,348 R/T](#)

## HAWAII

[Maui Biz Class from \\$1,128 to \\$1,539 R/T](#)

[Honolulu Biz Class from \\$1,117 to \\$1,539 R/T](#)



## MEXICO

[Cancun Biz Class from \\$644 to \\$873 R/T](#)

[Acapulco Biz Class from \\$761 to \\$892 R/T](#)

[Cabo San Lucas Biz Class from \\$722 to \\$912 R/T](#)

[Cozumel Biz Class from \\$666 to \\$876 R/T](#)

## **MIDDLE EAST**

[Doha Premium Economy from New York from \\$1,179 R/T](#)

[Dubai Biz Class from \\$2,871 to \\$3,715 R/T](#)

[Jordan Biz Class from Canada from \\$2,929 to \\$3,234 USD R/T](#)

[Abu Dhabi Biz Class from 30%+ Off](#)

[Tel Aviv Biz Class from \\$3,005 to \\$3,625 R/T](#)



## **SOUTH AMERICA**

[Rio Biz Class from Boston and Washington DC from \\$2,400 to \\$2,990 R/T](#)

[Buenos Aires Biz Class from Toronto from \\$2,176 USD R/T](#)



[Chile Biz Class from \\$2,394 to \\$3,208 R/T](#)

[Sao Paulo Biz Class from \\$2,514 to \\$3,198 R/T](#)

[Brazil Biz Class from Canada from \\$2,107 to \\$3,007 USD R/T](#)

## **Burn Miles Easy & Cheaply**

### **ASIA**

[HOT: Scads of Cathay Pacific First Class Opportunities from Los Angeles to Asia / 2 Seats with Miles & Points](#)



Cathay Pacific First Class

[Handful of Single Seats in 2024 Japan Airlines First Class from New York to Tokyo](#)

[Handful of Single Seats in 2024 Japan Airlines First Class from San Francisco to Tokyo](#)

### **EUROPE**

[Lufthansa First Class Opportunities from New York and Many Other Cities to Munich and Beyond with Miles — or 43% Off with Cash — 2+ Seats](#)

[Spain with Miles: Single Seat Availability from New York in Business Class](#)

[Close-In United Business Class Upgrades from Chicago and Many Other Cities to Munich](#)



[Close-In United Business Class Upgrades from Los Angeles to London](#)

[Single Seat Emirates First Class Opportunities from Newark to Athens](#)

[Spain with Miles: Availability from Boston in Business Class](#)

[HOT: Lufthansa First Class from Boston to Munich with Miles / 4+ Seats \\*OR\\* 52% Off with Cash](#)

## **MIDDLE EAST**

[From New York: Qatar Qsuite Business Class Opportunities to Doha and Beyond with Miles / Points](#)

[Scads of Emirates Single Seat First Class Availability from New York to Dubai with Miles / Points](#)

[Single Seat Emirates First Class Opportunities from Washington, DC to Dubai with Miles](#)

[Many Single Seat Emirates First Class Opportunities from Chicago to Dubai with Miles / Points](#)

[Emirates Single Seat First Class from Houston to Dubai](#)



Emirates A380

## **MID-SOUTH PACIFIC**

[Close-in United Business Class Opportunities from San Francisco to Tahiti / 4+ Seats](#)



# What's the Best Way to Fly Emirates First Class After the Miles Price Hike?

February 2023

## **How FCF's Emirates price hike workaround for First Class can still save you up to 67% in cash**

Emirates has caught the inflation virus. Miles prices have risen by 20% right across the board in their Premium cabins.

Here are a couple of examples: the price from New York to Milan round-trip was 170,000 miles in First Class, now it's 204,000; the price from Washington, DC, to Dubai round-trip has climbed from 272,500 miles to 327,000 miles. The charts below document the carnage for First Class and Business. Keep in mind that taxes run about \$1,714 to Dubai, and around \$250 to Europe.

## MILEAGE INCREASE IN FIRST CLASS

First Class Route		Was	Now	Increase	
Europe	New York - Milan	170,000	204,000	34,000	20%
	Newark - Athens				
Middle East	Boston	272,500	327,000	54,500	
	Chicago				
	New York				
	Orlando				
	Washington, DC	310,000	372,000	62,000	
	Houston				
	Los Angeles				
	San Francisco				
	Seattle				

## MILEAGE INCREASE IN BUSINESS CLASS

Now let's look at the Business Class increase, even though we don't recommend their Business Class product very much, especially because of the relatively high taxes, which are about the same as First Class. I'd look elsewhere for Business Class travel unless the stars all align for some personal reason.

Business Class Route		Was	Now	Increase	
Europe	New York - Milan	90,000	108,000	18,000	20%
	Newark - Athens				
Middle East	Boston	145,000	174,000	29,000	
	Chicago				
	New York				
	Orlando				
	Washington, DC	165,000	198,000	33,000	
	Houston				
	Los Angeles				

Business Class Route		Was	Now	Increase
	San Francisco			
	Seattle			



Emirates shower spa is fun, and memorable.

**BUT BENNETT, I STILL WANT TO BRAG ABOUT FLYING EMIRATES FIRST CLASS**

The first thing we looked at to uncork this First Class bottleneck was Air Canada, since they’re often a great workaround airline to avoid high prices. And as of last year, Emirates and Air Canada became partners. What could go wrong? Well, when we looked at Air Canada’s pricing changes for Emirates flights we nearly had to take a cold shower. It seems that they’re using dirty dynamic pricing, ranging from 444,000 miles round-trip to Europe, and 585,000 to 724,000 miles round-trip to Dubai.

**WHAT KIND OF FIRST CLASS TRAVELER ARE YOU AND HOW SHOULD YOU LOOK AT THE PRICE HIKE?**

**You’re a premium traveler who’s never flown Emirates First Class:**

If you haven't done it, and you're into premium travel experiences, I say it's time to bite this (gold) bullet. While First Class is staging a mini comeback, there just aren't that many First Class options in the sky right now. Emirates is simply one of the best. You could even do it just one way. And I think the mileage hike is really insignificant when you consider that these tickets can easily run \$15,000 to Europe and \$21,000+ to Dubai. It's still a steal, relatively speaking, even if you missed flying when prices were lower. Stay tuned for FCF's ongoing availability coverage of Emirates First Class Sweet Redeems [here](#) and [here](#).

## NO MILES? NO PROBLEM. SAVE UP TO 67% OFF CASH FARES

The chart below shows the cost of [buying the miles needed through Amex](#) for these Emirates flights in First Class versus forking out the cash for the typical published airfare. Look at what you can save: nothing less than five figures. Hello, shower. If you pay those fares off the shelf, you're taking a bath.

First Class Route		Mileage Cost	Typical Published Fare	Cost of Miles @ 2.5 Cents Each Including Taxes	Savings	
Europe	New York - Milan	204,000	\$15,434	\$5,346	\$10,088	65%
	Newark - Athens		\$16,300	\$5,352	\$10,948	67%
Middle East	Boston	327,000	\$21,600	\$9,889	\$11,711	54%
	Chicago					
	New York					
	Orlando					
	Washington, DC	372,000	\$22,708	\$11,014	\$11,694	51%
	Houston					
	Los Angeles					
	San Francisco					
	Seattle					

### You're a budget First Class traveler:

Don't pay this hike. It's better to forget about it until the next industry crisis occurs (probably later this year if you [read FCF's Crystal Ball report for 2023](#)) and airlines need your business again. Unlike any other industry, airlines yo-yo from not needing your business one day to desperately wanting it the next. Right now, ever since travel has resumed since Lockdown, they don't need to beg for business. Or alternatively, **just fly Emirates First Class one way for the experience.**




### **You're a less-flexible First Class traveler with a decent budget:**

You win! Wait, *what?* This mileage increase is going to eliminate the large base of travelers who only get into Emirates First Class because they're hacking credit card sign-up bonuses. The high taxes will eliminate this crowd, along with the other crowd that the 20% mileage increase will leave out. When those travelers exit the game, more availability opens up. So, if you're less flexible with dates, your options will likely expand and the inflation could work in your favor.

### **HANKERING FOR AN EMIRATES FIRST CLASS SHOWER?**

Check out FCF's [Emirates waitlist strategy](#) for close-in travelers where the temperature is *just right*..



# Reimagining Value for Air Travel

February 2023

## What is the miles-per-gallon equivalent for flying?

Everyone thinks about *miles per gallon* for cars, but why don't we use a similar kind of value equation for consumer air travel?

We're more likely to talk about cheap travel destinations, but that's a one-dimensional view because it doesn't account for distance.

Here at FCF, we call flights that take you far away for a relatively low cost, *value flights*.



## WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO CARE ABOUT A VALUE FLIGHT?

What if your spouse or friend or your kids want to go to Disneyland, but you could also go to some exotic historical place halfway around the world – like Africa, Asia, or Europe – for little or no more cost?

Time for negotiation. I'm not saying you'll always win this battle, but it's worth considering. "Hey, why don't we go to Disneyland *next year* when Kevin is big enough to ride on Space Mountain. Because there's a deal to Asia / Brazil / Europe / Hawaii right now that will be just as exciting."



## MISCONCEPTIONS AND MYTHS

This story originates from something that's been driving me crazy: high transcontinental fares. I travel that route a lot so it's close to my heart (and wallet). As the ancient Stoics used to say, the obstacle is the way. These high prices have opened my mind to a different way of thinking. I mean, if you can get to Los Angeles and London from New York for a similar price, then why not be open to putting London on the list, or Paris, or Nairobi?

Which brings me to some common myths and misconceptions about travel. A major one I hear all the time is that **if it's far away, then it must be expensive**. Dubai, Johannesburg, Argentina? That's halfway around the world – it must cost a fortune to get there. Well, not necessarily. We've seen fares in the mid-\$2,000s round-trip even in the last couple of months that were almost the same price as a Los Angeles-New York round-trip.

**So, a mental note for travelers: Don't assume a faraway place *must* have an up-and-away price.** Get your calculator out instead. Oh by the way... I've heard Disneyland hotels can cost a fortune, too, so that's some food for thought.

If you fly the transcon, which is about 4,950 miles round-trip, it typically costs around \$2,500 in Business Class nowadays. That's about 2 flight miles for every dollar.

There are several ways you could calculate this, but for convenience we decided to take the distance in a straight line as the crow flies and divide that by the cost in dollars to come up with the flight miles per dollar.

New York to London round-trip is 6,940 flight miles and often at a similar price to the transcon — or lower when flash fares hit (making the cost about 3.1 flight miles for every dollar). So value flights are where you get to go the farthest for the cheapest. In other words, there's miles per gallon and there's flight miles per dollar.

The tables below show more value flight examples. Check out San Francisco-Johannesburg for a whopping 6 miles per dollar. Not a bad return to get you on that bucket list safari. Or have you ever been to Bali? That can be as low as 5.1 miles per dollar of value from many cities should you put it onto your radar.

And when you're considering value flights, London and Frankfurt rise-up to be noticed. Unleash some of your inner Vlad the Impaler and check out this Romanian capital city at 5 miles to the dollar in some cases.

Here's the value-per-flight-miles math:

## EXAMPLES OF HIGH-VALUE BUSINESS CLASS FLIGHTS

Flight Miles Per Dollar	Region	Airline	Route	Lowest Cost R/T	Approx Miles R/T
6.1	South America	Air Canada	Vancouver - Santiago	\$2,154	13,236
6	Asia	Zip Air	Los Angeles - Tokyo	\$1,940	11,688
6	Africa	Virgin Atlantic	San Francisco - Johannesburg	\$3,506	21,000
5.5	India	Etihad	Chicago - Kolkata	\$3,376	18,682
5.5	South America	Air Canada	Vancouver - Rio de Janeiro	\$2,574	14,084
5.3			Vancouver - Sao Paulo	\$2,570	13,748
5.3	Asia	United	Toronto - Osaka	\$2,877	15,368
5.3	South America	Air Canada	Vancouver - Buenos Aires	\$2,672	14,068
5.2		Delta	Los Angeles - Buenos Aires	\$2,655	13,890
5.1	Asia	Qatar	Boston - Male	\$3,334	17,146
5.1		Singapore	New York - Jakarta	\$3,915	20,100
5	Europe	SWISS	Los Angeles - Bucharest	\$2,731	13,608
4.9	Asia	Cathay Pacific	Los Angeles - Singapore	\$3,598	17,696

Flight Miles Per Dollar	Region	Airline	Route	Lowest Cost R/T	Approx Miles R/T
4.9	Caribbean	American Airlines	Seattle - St. Thomas	\$1,544	7,540
4.8	Middle East		Los Angeles - Dubai	\$3,677	17,772
4.5		Turkish	New York - Dubai	\$3,012	13,666
4.5	Asia	Japan	New York - Saigon	\$3,982	17,994
4.5	Africa	Swiss	New York - Cairo	\$2,963	13,354
4.3	Asia	Cathay Pacific	Boston - Phuket	\$4,398	18,790
4.1	Domestic	Delta	Boston - San Diego	\$1,250	5,160
4.1	South America		Phildelphia - Santiago	\$2,606	10,722
4	Asia	Asiana	San Francisco - Cebu City	\$3,783	15,068
4	Europe	JetBlue	Denver - London	\$2,560	10,192
3.9	Middle East	Emirates	Washington, DC - Dubai	\$5,603	22,078
3.9	Hawaii	United	San Francisco - Honolulu	\$1,218	4,796
3.4	Europe	Singapore	New York - Frankfurt	\$2,255	7,710

## EXAMPLES OF LOWER-VALUE BUSINESS CLASS FLIGHTS

Flight Miles Per Dollar	Region	Airline	Route	Lowest Cost R/T	Approx Miles R/T
1.3	South America	United	Houston - Santiago	\$7,311	9,292
1.6	Europe	American	Dallas - Venice	\$6,919	10,934
1.7	Asia	Delta	Los Angeles - Tokyo	\$7,787	12,884
	South Pacific	Air New Zealand	Los Angeles - Auckland	\$7,612	13,020
	Europe	United	Houston - Dubrovnik	\$6,788	11,852
1.8	South Pacific	Fiji Airways	Los Angeles - Fiji	\$6,275	11,038
	Asia	United	New York - Tokyo	\$8,912	16,086
	Europe	Delta	Atlanta - Prague	\$5,297	9,676

Flight Miles Per Dollar	Region	Airline	Route	Lowest Cost R/T	Approx Miles R/T
	South Pacific	Qantas	Los Angeles - Melbourne	\$8,606	15,840
2	South Africa	Delta	Atlanta - Johannesburg	\$8,576	16,878
	Domestic	American, Delta, United	New York - Los Angeles	\$2,500	4,950
2.1	South America	American	Miami - Buenos Aires	\$4,207	8,812
	Hawaii	United	Newark - Maui	\$4,647	9,878

So isn't it time to rethink the value of your air travel according to flight miles per dollar? You just might find that your far away fantasy destination is more affordable than you thought.