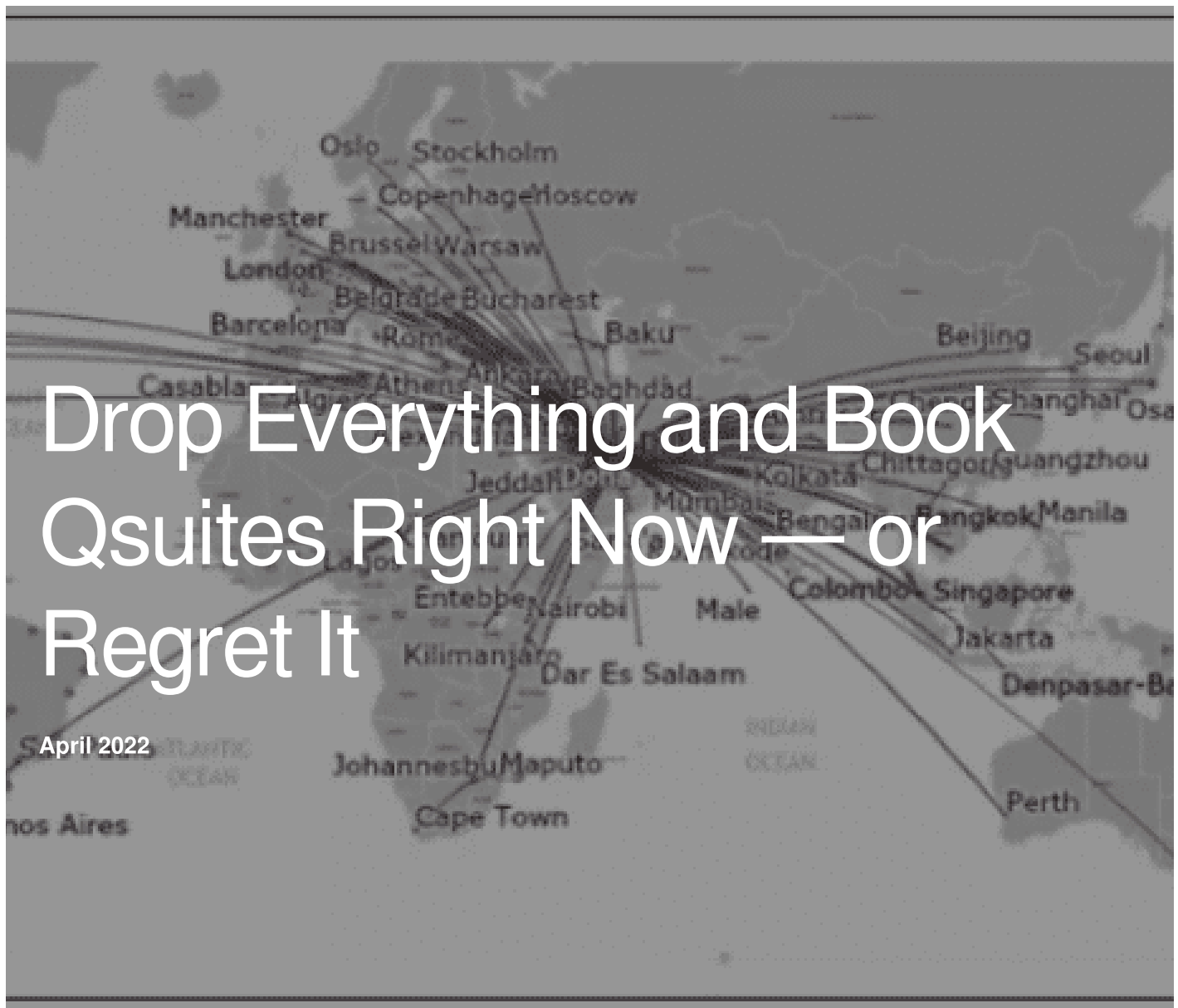




How to save up to 80% on one of the best Business Class seats in the air

Qatar Airways just made a structural change that can play into your favor. **The airline joined the British Airways currency system, Avios which also means you can now access Qatar flights via Amex points transfer partner British Airways, in a special way.**

This is welcome news because Qatar has many travelers' favorite Business Class seat, [the beloved Qsuite](#). And this new partnership opens up more affordable options to book that seat by saving big on taxes — specifically, more than \$1,000 that Qatar charges in taxes.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE TAXES

Normally, we tell you that we love British Airways miles for nonstop short-haul flights but not for long-haul flights because they charge so much in taxes for those.

But thanks to this new partnership, high-tax BA is now offering low taxes for flights booked on otherwise high-tax Qatar flights. Yes, you read that right. BA now charges low taxes for partner Qatar's flights to Doha and beyond from 13 U.S. gateways, which generally run about \$245.

But my guess is that this won't last very long.

WHY FOR A LIMITED TIME THE HOME RUN IS NOW A GRAND SLAM

This deal gets even better when you take advantage of Amex offering a 40% mileage bonus for point transfers to BA Avios. That means you can **get that Qatar Qsuite seat for just 100,000 miles round-trip** — for a ticket that can easily cost up to \$13,500 — while Amex/BA runs the transfer bonus through May 15.

Points collectors who were locked out of one of the world's top Business Class seats to 119 destinations are now literally sitting pretty.



Qatar Airways Route Map

NO AMEX POINTS?

No problem. As you'll see below, by [purchasing 100,000 Amex points](#) at 2.5¢ each for \$2,500, plus taxes of about \$245, you can save up to \$10,755. Let's look at the savings potential:

Doha To/From	Normal Published Fare	Savings Via Buying Amex Points	
Atlanta	\$8,496	\$5,751	68%
Boston	\$10,600	\$7,855	74%
Chicago	\$9,107	\$6,362	70%
Dallas	\$13,500	\$10,755	80%
Houston	\$11,400	\$8,655	76%
Los Angeles	\$11,200	\$8,455	75%
Miami	\$10,400	\$7,655	74%
Montreal	\$7,309	\$4,564	62%
New York	\$10,700	\$7,955	74%
Philadelphia	\$10,700	\$7,955	74%
San Francisco	\$9,694	\$6,949	72%
Seattle	\$9,976	\$7,231	72%
Washington, DC	\$10,800	\$8,055	75%

NO CHASE OR CAPITAL ONE POINTS?

How Anyone Can Buy American Miles and Save Up to \$10,735 On Qsuites

What if you didn't want to spend \$7,309 to \$13,500, and don't have hundreds of thousands of points?

You could be lounging back with a pretty good deal through American Airlines using 140,000 AAdvantage miles if you have them, and about \$245 for taxes. If you don't have the miles, you can buy them from American for as low as 1.8¢ when on sale, amounting to a great value at \$2,520 as you can see here:

Doha To/From	Normal Published Fare	Savings Via Buying American Miles	
Atlanta	\$8,496	\$5,731	67%
Boston	\$10,600	\$7,835	74%
Chicago	\$9,107	\$6,342	70%
Dallas	\$13,500	\$10,735	80%

Doha To/From	Normal Published Fare	Savings Via Buying American Miles	
Houston	\$11,400	\$8,635	76%
Los Angeles	\$11,200	\$8,435	75%
Miami	\$10,400	\$7,635	73%
Montreal	\$7,309	\$4,544	62%
New York	\$10,700	\$7,635	73%
Philadelphia	\$10,700	\$7,935	74%
San Francisco	\$9,694	\$6,929	71%
Seattle	\$9,976	\$7,211	72%
Washington, DC	\$10,800	\$8,035	74%

COMPARING BUY-MILES OPTIONS: ALASKA, AMERICAN, AND AMEX/BRITISH AIRWAYS

American and Amex/BA aren't the only Qatar miles partners that offer great savings. Alaska does too. The chart below compares buying miles with these three partners on Qatar's Boston-Doha route and the savings you would score. Check 'em out, they're big.

Loyalty Program	Miles Required	Taxes	Approx. Cost To Buy Miles When on Sale		Normal Published Fare	Savings	
American	140,000	\$62	1.8 cents	\$2,520	\$10,600	\$8,018	76%
Alaska	170,000	\$87	1.3 cents	\$2,210		\$8,303	78%
*British Airways (Amex points purchase / transfer to)	100,000	\$246	2.5 cents	\$2,500		\$7,854	74%

*Factoring in Amex 40% transfer bonus

QSUITE: THE WORLD'S BEST BUSINESS CLASS?

Many say so. Although the sliding doors make me feel a bit claustrophobic and boxed in, closing them is optional. Either way, Qatar Airways' Qsuite, is, I repeat, sweet.



The seat is 21.5 inches wide and reclines to a fully lie-flat bed 79 inches long. The center quad section on some aircraft are set close together and can conveniently become a double bed for couples or families traveling together, or an ideal place for socializing or business meetings.

Where to find flights with Qsuites:

Doha To/From	Flight Numbers
Atlanta	756/755
Boston	744/743*
Chicago	724/723, 726/725
Dallas	730/729, 732/731
Houston	714/713
Los Angeles	742/741, 740/739

Doha To/From	Flight Numbers
Miami	778/777
New York	702/701, 704/703, 706/705
Philadelphia	728/727
San Francisco	738/737
Seattle	720/719
Washington, DC	710/709, 708/707

*Starts May 31

Although these aircraft move around and flight numbers may change, here's the trick to finding the Qsuite:

- All A350-1000s have Qsuits.
- The A350-900 can be tricky as both layouts have nine rows in Business Class. The Qsuite aircraft has row 2 D/G/J while the non-Qsuite configuration has row 2 A/E/K.
- B777-200 aircraft with 11 rows in Business Class have Qsuits.
- B777-300 aircraft with 11 rows in Business Class have Qsuits.
- B787-800s do NOT have Qsuits.

QSUITE SEAT AVAILABILITY

Oh, and availability is plentiful. Check out FCF's Opportunity Treasure Map here:

Qatar to Doha Using American Miles 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
Atlanta	July, Sept., Jan.	May, Sept., Nov.	May, June, Oct., Jan., Feb.	May, July, Nov.	May, Feb.	June, Sept., Oct., Jan., Feb.
Boston	July, Oct., Nov., Jan.	Sept., Oct.	May, June, Sept. Jan., Feb.	July	May, Oct., Jan., Feb.	May, June, Sept., Oct.

Qatar to Doha Using American Miles 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	May, July, Oct.	Sept., Oct., Jan., Feb.	June, Feb.	July, Oct., Jan.	May, June, Sept., Feb.	May, June
Dallas	June., Sept.	Sept., Oct., Jan.	June, Oct., Feb.	May, June, Sept., Oct., Nov. Jan.	Sept., Oct., Jan., Feb.	Feb.
Houston	Sept., Jan., Feb.	Sept., Oct., Nov.	Sept., Jan., Feb.	May, July	May, Sept., Nov.	June, Sept., Oct., Jan., Feb.
Los Angeles	May, June, July, Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb.	May, Jan.	June	May, July, Sept., Oct., Nov., Feb.	June, Sept., Oct., Jan., Feb.	May, June
Miami	May, July, Jan., Feb.	May, June, Sept.	June., Oct.	Nov., Jan.	May, June., Nov., Feb.	May, June., Sept., Oct.
New York	May, Nov.	June, Jan.	June, Sept., Oct., Feb.	July, Nov.	May, June, Nov., Jan.	June., Sept., Oct., Feb.
Philadelphia	May, June, Oct., Jan.	June, Sept., Feb.	Jan.	May, July, Oct., Jan., Feb.	Oct., Jan.	June, Sept.
Seattle	May, June, Jan., Feb.			May, June, Sept., Feb.	Jan., Feb,	
Washington, DC	July	Nov., Jan.	May, June., Sept., Oct., Feb.		Nov., Jan.	May, June., Sept., Oct., Feb.

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

Remember: These deals won't last, plus big opportunities are getting harder to come by in general with demand skyrocketing. In other words, he who hesitates on premium travel deals will pay through the nose, or fly in a lower class of comfort.



Top First Class Close-In Upgrade Strategy to Europe Comes Out of the Lockdown Closet

April 2022

Availability has opened up for bags-packed and already-booked travelers—plus LifeMiles joins the availability club.

Ah, spring. And this is a spring for the ages because we're not only coming out of winter, we're coming much further out of The Lockdown.



A BIG BLUE AND YELLOW BIRD

Speaking of birds, a big one just flew in. It's German and answers to the name of Lufthansa. The airline had pushed back the relaunch on many of its routes with **First Class** seats to the U.S. several times already as The Lockdown lingered, but now has resumed service on most routes with more to come. How did they know that "lockdown exhaustion" would be happening right now? I'm not privy to that stuff, but it's great news for premium flyers itching to leave the nest.

FIRST CLASS SCENE TO EUROPE

Nowadays, the pickings are few for First Class airficionados using miles to Europe. There's American to London from Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, and New York. There are only two Emirates flights, New York/Newark-Athens and New York/JFK-Milan. Singapore has only one route: New York-Frankfurt, and then there's British Airways to London, which is OK. But I love Lufthansa First Class and here's where it is now flying: Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC, to Frankfurt and Boston-Munich.

Coming Soon:

- New York-Munich starts May 6, 2022.
- Los Angeles-Munich starts June 1, 2022.

HOW THIS CLOSE-IN STRATEGY WORKS

Gotta hand it to the Germans. They keep their cards close to their *Brust*, but unfortunately that also means availability for First Class is a bit of a mystery as Lufthansa typically makes First Class seats **available to**

Star Alliance partners 14 days prior to departure. This matters because the airline's miles are hard to come by, directly, as they don't partner with the major points-transfer credit card programs.

And until last month, the airline had NOT even made seats available 14 days out very often. But now, we're beginning to see availability using Air Canada miles (an Amex, Capital One, and Chase points transfer partner), LifeMiles (a Capital One and Citi points transfer partner), Singapore Airlines (Amex, Capital One, Chase, and Citi), and United (Chase) for up to four seats a pop.

Pow!

WHO CAN FLY HIGHEST WITH CLOSE-IN AVAILABILITY?

- The **You-Already-Have-an-Award-Ticket-in-a-Lesser-Class Traveler.**
- The **Last-Minute "Opportunity" Traveler.**
- The **Can't-Find-a-Round-Trip-in-First-Class** Fly Lufthansa First Class on your night flight and return in Business Class for your day flight on an award ticket.
- The **First-Class-Fares-Are-Steep-So-You-Purchased-Business-Class Traveler.**
- The **First-Class-Wasn't-Available-So-You-Booked-a-Business-Class-Award Person.**
- You can also use this plan to kick-start our awesome [Leg Stretch Strategy](#) to Europe.

So you've already paid for your ticket. No big deal. If you find that First Class seats open up, just cancel the published fare you already purchased and use it for another trip later. Instead, you can fly Lufthansa using your **Amex, Capital One, and Chase points via Air Canada miles *OR* Capital One and Citi via LifeMiles *OR* Amex, Capital One, Chase, and Citi via Singapore miles, *OR* Chase via United** for a First Class ticket and you're on your way to becoming an upgrade ninja. **Just don't cancel your original reservation until AFTER your big score**, quadruple check everything like ticket numbers and seats.

If you have an award ticket with another airline, cancel the same way you would a paid ticket, which is even less of a hassle. Get your miles refunded, and fly First Class on Lufthansa.



This changes the game as many of you are taking off to Europe every day now. Here's what you want to consider, two weeks from departure until all the way up to your ride to the airport. I once changed a flight in a

yellow taxi on the way to the airport in Miami. Why? Because my perfectly ideal flight just wasn't available.

Until then.

Make sure you check the airline's cancel policy window depending on how daring you are. Most of you won't go that far to upgrade and I don't blame you. But two minutes of research once or twice a day starting 14 days or so ahead of your trip can land you an amazing First Class seat. More on the two-step strategy [here](#).

If Germany is not your preferred destination, we've got you covered [here](#).

LUFTHANSA FIRST CLASS AVAILABILITY COMING OUT OF THE LOCKDOWN CLOSET

We've found First Class award seats on Lufthansa and they're available using your **Amex, Capital One, and Chase points with Air Canada, Capital One and Citi with LifeMiles, Amex, Capital One, Chase, and Citi with Singapore, or Chase points when booking through United.** This ticket otherwise goes for up to \$10,300 one-way or \$19,800 round-trip!

EXAMPLE AVAILABILITY

On any given day, First Class Lufthansa availability will vary over the 14-days-from-departure mileage award seats are released. Here's an example of date opportunities in April, by mileage redemption program and the number of seats, 1, 2 or 4, that were available on April 13.

Route	Number of Seats	Dates Using Air Canada Miles	Dates Using LifeMiles	Dates Using United Miles
Chicago - Frankfurt	1	20	19, 20	17, 20
	2	20	20	17, 20
Frankfurt-Chicago	1	14, 20	14, 20	14, 15, 20
	2	14	14	14
	4			14
Frankfurt - Miami	2			17
Frankfurt-Newark	1	14, 18	14, 17, 18	14, 18
	2	14	14, 17	14
	4	14	14	14
New York - Frankfurt	2			14

Route	Number of Seats	Dates Using Air Canada Miles	Dates Using LifeMiles	Dates Using United Miles
Frankfurt - New York	1		17, 18, 20	16, 17, 18, 20
	2		17, 18	18, 20
	4			18
Houston - Frankfurt	1	14, 15	14, 15	14, 15, 16
	2	15	15	14, 15
	4			15
Frankfurt - Houston	1	18	14, 18	15, 16, 17, 18
	2		14	15, 16, 17, 18
Washington, DC - Frankfurt	1	14, 16, 17, 18, 24, 25	14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 24, 25	14, 16, 17, 18, 24, 25
	2	17, 25	17, 25	14, 17, 24, 25
Frankfurt - Washington, DC	1	14, 17, 18	14, 17, 18	14, 16, 17, 18
	2	14	14	14, 17
Boston - Munich	2	15, 16, 18, 25, 26, 27	15, 16, 20, 25, 26, 27	15, 16, 18, 25, 26, 27
	4	15, 18, 25, 26, 27	15, 20, 25, 26, 27	15, 18, 25, 26, 27
Munich - Boston	1	14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	14 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
	2	15, 16, 17, 18, 20	15, 16, 17, 18, 20	15, 16, 17, 18, 20
	4		15	

*Singapore has similar availability as the airlines above but we've not highlighted it because it has high taxes and would only be of interest to Citi members.

A ONE-WAY BIRD IN THE HAND IS BETTER THAN BEATING AROUND THE BUSH

What if the availability is spotty, meaning you're unlikely to find seats close-in for both your outbound and return flight? If you already have an award ticket, think about searching for availability for both directions — but settle for [one-ways](#) as they become available. Just cancel that piece of your original ticket, provided that your return flight can be preserved.

If you're like me, you're booking one-way tickets and this wouldn't be an issue, but most people are booking round-trip so just be careful. In other words, canceling the outbound part of a round-trip ticket might require

you to rebook both the outbound and return, which is why you might want to secure a one-way return before you cancel the entire round-trip ticket.

DON'T FALL INTO THE FIRST-MUST-BE-WAY-MORE-EXPENSIVE-THAN-BUSINESS TRAP

Lufthansa's First Class can actually be cheaper than many airlines' Business Class seats. For example, the lowest one-way Delta Business Class for New York-Frankfurt that we've seen recently booking through Delta is 180,000 miles. But First Class on Lufthansa is just 121,000 miles with United and 100,000 miles with low-tax Amex partner, Air Canada.

THIS BIRD GOES CHEAP, CHEAP

Upgrade Lufthansa from Business to First Class for \$299 Each Way

Here's a choice: Spend 77,000 United miles on a Lufthansa **Business Class** flight, or 100,000 Air Canada miles for a Lufthansa **First Class** flight.

That's right, just a 23,000-miles difference for a vastly different experience in comfort. Some say First Class is only 10 yards away from Business. I'd call it a million miles, but you only pay 23,000 to upgrade.

Let's go further. If you were to buy 23,000 miles during one of [Air Canada's sales promos at 1.3](#) cents each, they would cost you \$299, meaning the entire upgrade from Business to First Class costs just \$299 each way. That's a great deal in any language.

Air Canada's regular selling price is 3 cents per mile with a maximum purchase of 250,000 per year. If you missed the promo you can still save by buying Amex at 2.5 cents per mile, saving \$500 over Air Canada's regular 3-cents-per-mile price.

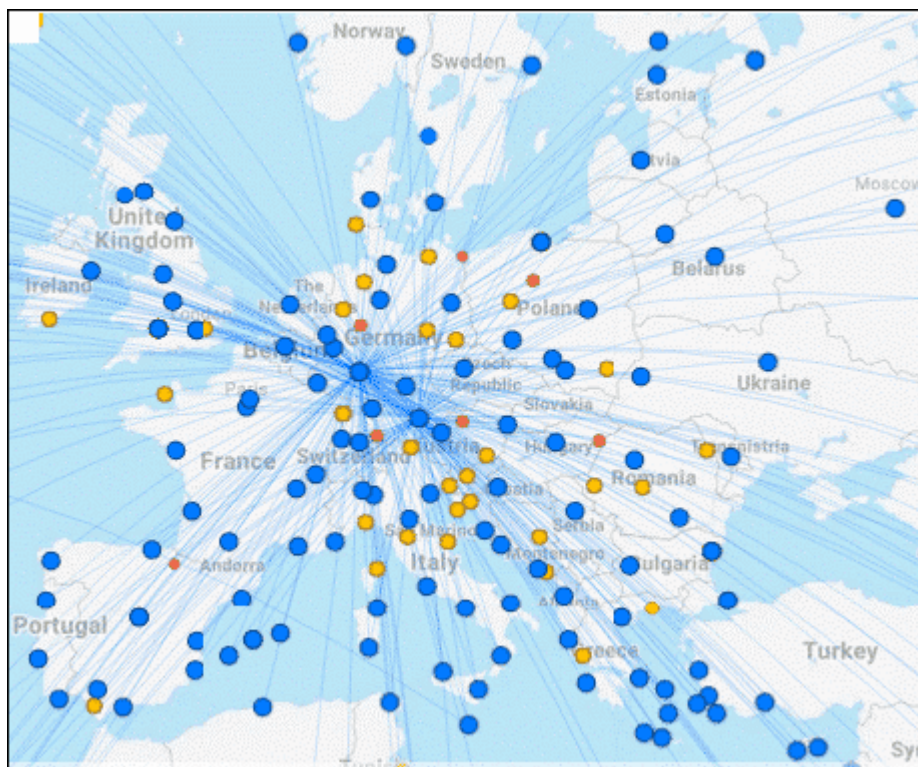
The published First Class fare on Lufthansa's Chicago-Frankfurt route is \$10,300 one way. But using Air Canada's recent 1.3 cents purchase strategy, you could have paid \$1,300 instead (that price excludes award taxes of \$55 outbound, and \$187 return), netting you a savings of about \$9,000 (87%). *Wunderbar!*

GOOD LIFEMILES NEWS JUST IN

Just as we were getting close to pressing the "go" button on this month's Upgrade Advisor, some breaking news came to hand. LifeMiles has joined the Lufthansa good-availability partner club, whereas the loyalty program was historically an outsider for the most part when it came to close-in First Class opportunities. While their customer service leaves a lot to be desired, (and an Air Canada miles purchase is a solid option given the price of a one-way ticket is only 100,000), LifeMiles at 87,000 miles one-way, is still something to consider, especially for those of you who've purchased LifeMiles cheaply in the past.

CONNECTING FLIGHTS IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE

You can add U.S. [connecting flights](#) for as little as 6,000 miles. Save time, money, and hassle (nobody wants to recheck their bags) by having all your flights on one ticket. And when you cross the Atlantic, Star Alliance, with its 26 member airlines, offers a wide range of flights beyond Germany.



ADD CONNECTING FLIGHTS TO THE LONG-HAUL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT WITH A PARTNER AIRLINE

Example: Columbus to Copenhagen

By making a multi-segment booking with Air Canada miles (screenshot below), you can book itineraries like Columbus to Copenhagen via Chicago and Frankfurt for 117,814 miles one-way (or \$1,531 if you purchased Air Canada points during the [sale](#) we mentioned) — or **transfer Amex or Chase points to Air Canada miles**.

Compare that to a purchased fare of \$8,591. Note that the connecting flights may be in economy or Business Class. The trick is to search for the long-haul segment first, since that's the one you want to fly in upgraded comfort. More on that [here](#). More on booking with Air Canada [here](#).

BOOKING OPTIONS

For Amex, Capital One & Chase Points Collectors: Air Canada, because of its low taxes. It charges 100,000 miles each way and only \$55 outbound, or \$187 return in taxes. Plus 100,000 miles isn't bad when you consider that most (generally inferior) Business Class seats run in the mid-100,000s anyway. Here we're talking about a First Class ticket that normally goes for \$10,300 to \$17,700.

AIR CANADA FRA → ORD Jul 19 3h Modify

Departing flight

Monday, July 19, 2021

Sort and filter Economy Class Premium Economy Business Class **First Class**

10:45 Non-stop | 9h15m 13:00

Frankfurt Chicago

Operated by Lufthansa

70K + CA \$235 100K + CA \$235

5:57 PM 7/1/2021

For Chase Points Collectors: United Airlines is still a relatively good deal at 121,000 miles, \$5.60 in taxes outbound and \$118 taxes on the return.

UNITED United States | English Saved trips Contact us

Boston to Munich

Depart Arrive Stops Duration

Fri, Apr 15 7:55 pm Sat, Apr 16 9:25 am Nonstop 7h 30m

Operated By Lufthansa

First (lowest)

121k miles +\$5.60

Select

6 tickets left at this price

DON'T MISS THE NEXT SALE

FCF Sweet Redeems often finds deals such as this Air Canada Aeroplan 1.3¢ deal, which included taxes and processing fee, through an up to 80% bonus miles buy promo, as seen [here](#) and [here](#). Watch for future buying opportunities because those can be an upgrade game-changer.

NO AMEX POINTS? NO PROBLEM.

Getting Air Canada miles is relatively simple. They're a points-transfer partner with Amex, and transfer times are nearly instantaneous. Think of it this way. You can buy up to 500,000 Amex Rewards points per year for just 2.5 cents each. Compared to the baseline First Class fare from Chicago to Frankfurt of \$10,300 one-way (\$17,700 round-trip), if you buy 100,000 Amex Rewards Points for \$2,500, and add in taxes only \$55 outbound, or \$187 return in taxes, you would save \$7,558 — that's 73%.

HOW TO BOOK LUFTHANSA FIRST CLASS WITH AIR CANADA MILES TRANSFERRED FROM AMEX, CAPITAL ONE, AND CHASE POINTS

1. Sign-in to Air Canada's Aeroplan website.
2. Click "Flights" and "Points." Fill in your details. Click "Find."

Accessibility English FIND

Flights Vacations Flight Passes Hotels Cars My bookings Check-in Flight status

CA \$ Points One-way 1 Adult

Chicago ORD Frankfurt FRA 18 Aug Find

3. If your date is available, choose your flight, then click “Select” for the Lowest Reward.
4. If your date is not available, click “Modify” (see screenshot below) and make another date selection. Click “Find.” Note that if Business Class is the highest option shown, First Class is not available and you must choose another date.

AIR CANADA ORD → FRA Aug 18 1 A Modify

Departing flight

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Sort and filter

	Economy Class	Business Class	First Class
16:00 Non-stop 8h20m +1 07:20 Chicago Frankfurt Operated by Lufthansa	-	70K + CA \$71	100K + CA \$71

Preview seats | Details

7/21/2021

AIR CANADA ORD → FRA Aug 17 1 A Modify

Departing flight

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Sort and filter

	Economy Class	Premium Economy	Business Class	First Class
14:55 Non-stop 8h25m +1 06:20 Chicago Frankfurt Operated by United Airlines	40K + CA \$71	-	-	-

Preview seats | Details

LOW RISK AND HIGH REWARD

Due to lockdown uncertainty, Air Canada is currently offering a “travel fee waiver” for award flights through April 30, 2022. After April 30 you get one free change with no fee (and probably longer as airlines are updating this on a month-to-month basis). That means it won’t cost you anything to cancel or change your ticket for international travel. More on that [here](#).

CONCLUSION

If Germany is not your preferred destination, think [opportunistically](#) and reap the rewards. There’s also pond skipping gold available in our transatlantic masterclass: [The Art of Skipping Stones & What We Can All Learn from the Boise to Budapest Premium Traveler](#)

As our name suggests, I get excited about First Class travel to see the world, and especially, *cheap* First Class travel. First Class makes an otherwise arduous activity as effortless as possible. It makes you feel like someone has your back, relatively speaking. You get on board with little stress. We've recently reported on First Class to Europe [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

What else can I say? If you're not willing to take [what's being given](#), someone else will.



FCF Marks the Spot for High-End Package Deals to the Caribbean (No Pirates Allowed)

April 2022

Save up to 36% on five-star hotels when you book them together with flights.

Last month we packaged up some [juicy tropical-flavored Hawaiian deals](#) for flights *and* hotels. This month we're doing the same, only a little closer to home for many – in the glorious warm turquoise waters of the Caribbean.

Package deals are a funny thing. Many travelers look down on them as a low-end booking approach. But they can be as valuable as buried treasure, offering premium seats and high-star hotels — for much less. Intended as an incentive, these deals are negotiated by airlines and hotels well ahead of time, so lower prices are built

into the system intermittently. In my experience, the price difference between package deals and buying fares and accommodations separately can sometimes be *huge*. Let's dig for treasure.

HOW TO SAVE \$2,250 / 27% AT THE RITZ CARLTON ARUBA

If you book a King room at the Ritz Carlton in Aruba, near the northern tip of South America, expect a price tag of \$6,194 for five nights,.

**The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba**

L. G. Smith Boulevard 107, Palm Beach, Aruba Aruba +297 527 2222 4.6 1119 Reviews Currency Calculator

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

Stay Dates: Sun, Apr 24, 2022 - Fri, Apr 29, 2022 Total for Stay: 6,194.12 USD

Review Reservation Details



1 King Bed, Limited View, Guest Room

ROOM DETAILS

Check in: Sunday, April 24, 2022

Check out: Friday, April 29, 2022

Room(s): 1

Guest(s) per room: 2

[EDIT](#)

Tack on a couple of First Class round-trip tickets on United from Chicago to Aruba, and you're looking at another \$2,028.

Round trip · 1

Chicago ↔ Aruba

Total price from **\$1,014**

	Sun, Apr 24 · 9:03 AM – 3:20 PM United	5 hr 17 min ORD-AUA	Nonstop	403 kg CO ₂ -13% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Fri, Apr 29 · 4:25 PM – 11:22 PM United	7 hr 57 min AUA-ORD	1 stop 1 hr 19 min IAD	332 kg CO ₂	▼

So, for \$8,222, you get the Ritz Carlton and two First Class tickets when you buy them separately, as most people do. But if you book them through [United Vacations](#), the price tag is \$5,972.

HOW TO SAVE \$2,162 / 27% AT THE FAIRMONT EL SAN JUAN

If you book a King Villa Room at the Fairmont in San Juan for five nights, expect a price tag of \$6,187.



1. Check availability

Edit

Wed, May 04 2022 to Mon, May 09 2022
(5 nights) -2 Adults, 0 Children 1 Room
Promotional Code - none

2. Select a room

Edit

Pool Villa Rm Balcony 1 King \$943 USD
*per night

A deposit of 1386.67 is due by 05/01/22 in order to guarantee your reservation.

Cancel by 12AM 05/01/22 to avoid any penalties.

3. Enhance

Edit

*Plus local sales taxes, as applicable. \$0 USD

TOTAL:

6187 ⁴³ USD

Includes Room tax - 11% (Resort Fee 20% , Resort Fee Tax 11%

Tack on a couple of First Class round-trip tickets on United from NYC/Newark to San Juan, and you're looking at another \$1,928.

Round trip · 1				Total price from	
Newark ↔ San Juan				\$964	
	Wed, May 4 · 10:00 AM – 1:59 PM United	3 hr 59 min EWR–SJU	Nonstop	420 kg CO ₂	▼
	Mon, May 9 · 3:09 PM – 7:27 PM United	4 hr 18 min SJU–EWR	Nonstop	420 kg CO ₂	▼

So, for \$8,115, you get the Fairmont and two First Class tickets when you buy them separately, as most people do. But if you book them together through [Orbitz](#), the price tag is *only* \$5,953 with United flights.

ORBITZ

More travel ▼

Y

Review your trip

Stay

Wed, May 4 - Mon, May 9 (5 nights, 1 room)

Fairmont El San Juan Villa Experience
Pool Villa Room, 1 King Bed
Check-in on May 4
Fully refundable property before Sun, May 1
3.2/5 (32 reviews)
[Cleanliness information](#)
[More details](#)

Change stay

Change room

Newark to San Juan

10:00am - 1:59pm (3h 59m, nonstop)
 United • Wed, May 4
[Hide details ^](#)

10:00am - Newark
Liberty Intl. (EWR)

3h 59m flight
United 205
Boeing 737-900
First Class (Z)

1:59pm - San Juan
Luis Munoz Marin Intl. (SJU)

Fare: First Or Business

San Juan to Newark

3:09pm - 7:27pm (4h 18m, nonstop)
 United • Mon, May 9
[Hide details ^](#)

3:09pm - San Juan
Luis Munoz Marin Intl. (SJU)

4h 18m flight
United 2036
Boeing 737-900
First Class (D)

7:27pm - Newark
Liberty Intl. (EWR)

Fare: First Or Business

Price Details

Starting Price per Traveler	\$2,783.68
Number of travelers	X2
Subtotal	\$5,567.35
Trip savings ⓘ	-\$303.45

Pay now ⓘ

\$5,263.90

[Pay at property](#) ⓘ

\$689.69

Total

\$5,953.59

Rates are quoted in USD

MORE EXAMPLES

Airline	Example Route	Air Ticket + Hotel Booked Separate	Package Price (Air + 7 Nights Hotel)	Supplier	Hotel	Savings	
United	Chicago to Aruba	\$8,222	\$5,972	United Vacations	Ritz-Carlton	\$2,250	27%
United	Newark to San Juan	\$8,115	\$5,953	Orbitz	Fairmont	\$2,162	27%
American	New York to Turks & Caicos	\$10,815	\$7,745	Costco Travel	Ritz-Carlton	\$3,070	28%
American	Philadelphia to San Juan	\$8,764	\$6,317	Costco Travel	St. Regis	\$2,447	28%
Delta	Atlanta to Aruba	\$13,481	\$8,679	Funjet Vacations	Ritz Carlton	\$4,802	36%



The Tokyo (non-Tokyo) Asian Gold Rush and How to Save Up to 87% On First and Business Class

April 2022

Asian award roads lead through, not to, Tokyo

Everyone is flying these days and many fares are on the rise. Premium flights to Asia are especially being priced through the nose, whether it be in miles or cash. They typically run \$5,380 to \$12,400 round-trip to Asia in cash for Business Class or 140,000+ miles. For First Class you're looking at \$20,000+ or 160,000+ miles.

Deals are hard to find today, so it's time to be creative.

ONE CHEAP AWARD EXCEPTION: TOKYO

But if you want to go to Japan right now, so what? You can't even go. Even while countries around the world are opening up, [Japan is still holding out](#). The only people who can fly to Japan are foreign nationals with a business purpose and on top of that, they have to quarantine for 14 days. If that's not you, you can leave Japan out of your thinking for the short term. I suspect that given the steady decline in Covid death rates through March, the country will open up soon.

But the very fact that we can't go to Japan right now is leaving the door wide open for cheap award seats, **and I promise you – this won't last.**

With so many flights from the U.S. to Tokyo, why let the opportunity go to waste?

IDEA #1 TO LEVERAGE TOKYO AVAILABILITY NOW: SPECULATION BOOKINGS

If you want to avoid high fares to Asia, and use your miles, I would recommend booking a trip to Tokyo on speculation for travel later this year. At the moment, most tickets allow you to change or cancel free of charge, so there's usually no risk. And hey, if Japan does open-up, you'll have an awesome trip planned.

IDEA #2 TO LEVERAGE TOKYO AVAILABILITY NOW: USE TOKYO AS THE LINCHPIN TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN ASIA

So why do I care about Tokyo flights NOW if most people can't go to Tokyo? Because [Japan has a policy that allows you to fly through the country as a transit point](#):



U.S. EMBASSY & CONSULATES IN JAPAN

Details of the new quarantine requirements (effective on March 1) can be found on [MHLW's website](#) . MHLW has launched a call center for the new quarantine measures, they can be reached by phone from 9:00 to 21:00, at 050-1751-2158 or 050-1741-8558.

Travelers seeking to transit Japan en route to onward international destinations may continue to do so without quarantine as long as the transit occurs within the same airport and no overnight stay is required.

FLIGHTS TO TOKYO FROM THE U.S. *WITH MILES AVAILABILITY TO TOKYO*

We're happy to say there are scads of availability to Tokyo from a range of US cities as the FCF research reveals below:

BUSINESS CLASS AVAILABILITY

On United...

Tokyo To / 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
Denver	Nov., Dec., Jan.	Jan.	Feb.	Nov., Dec.		
Los Angeles	May., June, July	April, June, Aug.	July	April, May, June, July, Aug.	April, May	June
San Francisco	April, June., Aug., Nov., Dec.	May, Oct., Jan	May, June to Aug., Feb.	June., Aug., Oct., Dec.	May, June	May, June

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

On All Nippon...

Tokyo To / 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			Jan., Feb.	Oct., Nov.	Jan.	Dec., Feb.
Houston	Dec.	Nov.	Jan., Feb.	Nov., Dec.		Jan., Feb.
Los Angeles	Jan.	Feb.	Jan., Feb.	April, Jan.		Dec., Jan., Feb.
New York	Feb.	Feb.		Feb.		
San Francisco	July, Aug., Jan.		Jan., Feb.	Oct., Dec., Jan.		Feb.
Washington, DC	Dec., Jan.	Jan.	Feb.	Dec., Jan.	Jan., Feb.	Feb.

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

On Japan Airlines...

Tokyo To / 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
Boston	April, July, Nov., Dec., Jan.	April	Aug., Sept., Jan., Feb., March	April, Aug., Jan.	July, Aug., Jan., Feb.	Sept., Dec., Feb., March
Chicago	Nov., Dec.	Dec.	April, May, Aug., Sept., Jan., Feb., March	Nov., Jan.	April, Dec.	April, May, Aug., Sept., Dec., Jan., Feb., March
Dallas	Dec.	Jan.	May, Aug., Sept., Jan., Feb., March	July, Nov., Jan., March	Dec., Jan., Feb.	May, June, Aug., Sept., Dec., Jan., Feb., March
Los Angeles	May, Jan.	Dec., Feb.	Aug., Sept., Jan. to Feb.	Nov., Dec., Jan.	July, Oct.	May, June, Aug., Sept., Dec., Jan., Feb., March
New York	May, Nov., Dec.	Dec., Jan.	Aug., Sept., Jan., Feb., March	Jan., March	May, July, Oct., Dec.	June, Aug., Sept., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., March
San Francisco	May, July, Oct.	Jan.	Aug., Sept., Jan., Feb., March	July, Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan.	June	Aug., Sept., Jan., Feb., March

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

On Singapore Airlines...

Tokyo To / From	Outbound	Return		
	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Los Angeles	May to Feb.	June, July, Aug. to Feb.	June., Aug., Oct. to Feb.	May., Aug., Sept.

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

FIRST CLASS AVAILABILITY

On All Nippon...

Tokyo To / From	Outbound		Return	
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Chicago - Tokyo	Nov., Dec.	Jan. to March	Nov. to Jan.	Feb., March
New York - Tokyo	March		March	

*Months in black at least one seat available.

On Japan Airlines...

Tokyo To / 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		April, March		May	March	
New York		March			March	
San Francisco		March			March	

*Months in black at least one seat available.

WHAT POINTS WORK WITH WHAT AIRLINES?

- **Amex:** With All Nippon, Cathay Pacific, and Singapore
- **Capital One:** With Cathay Pacific and Singapore
- **Chase:** With Singapore and United
- **Citi:** With Cathay Pacific and Singapore

NO MILES OR POINTS? NO PROBLEM.

You can save up to \$10,275 / 83% on Business Class flights by [purchasing Amex points](#) at 2.5¢ each.

Operating Airline	To Tokyo From	Lowest Cost Amex Miles Partner	Amex Partner Cost / Miles	Cost To Buy	Published Fare	Buying Amex Points Savings	
All Nippon	Chicago	All Nippon	75,000	\$1,875	\$7,937	\$6,062	76%

Operating Airline	To Tokyo From	Lowest Cost Amex Miles Partner	Amex Partner Cost / Miles	Cost To Buy	Published Fare	Buying Amex Points Savings	
	Houston				\$7,937	\$6,062	76%
	Los Angeles				\$5,658	\$3,783	67%
	San Francisco				\$10,700	\$8,825	82%
	New York				\$7,985	\$6,110	77%
	Washington, DC				\$8,130	\$6,255	77%
Japan	Boston	Cathay Pacific	150,000	\$3,750	\$9,402	\$5,652	60%
	Chicago				\$7,666	\$3,916	51%
	Dallas				\$8,631	\$4,881	57%
	Los Angeles				\$5,380	\$1,630	30%
	New York				\$7,711	\$3,961	51%
	San Francisco				\$7,460	\$3,710	50%
Singapore	Los Angeles	Singapore	184,000	\$4,600	\$7,711	\$3,111	40%
United	Denver	All Nippon	85,000	\$2,125	\$12,400	\$10,275	83%
	Los Angeles				\$6,613	\$4,488	68%
	Newark				\$11,400	\$9,275	81%

FIRST CLASS WITH AMEX POINT PURCHASE

You can save up to \$18,900 / 83% on First Class flights by [purchasing Amex points](#) at 2.5¢ each.

Operating Airline	To Tokyo From	Lowest Cost Amex Partner	Amex Partner Cost / Miles	Cost To Buy Miles	Published Fare	Savings	
All Nippon	Chicago	All Nippon	220,000	\$5,500	\$21,500	\$16,000	74%
	New York				\$22,000	\$16,500	75%
Japan	Chicago	Cathay Pacific	160,000	\$4,000	\$22,300	\$18,300	82%
	New York				\$22,900	\$18,900	83%
	San Francisco				\$20,100	\$16,100	80%

BUY AMERICAN OR UNITED MILES

You can save up to \$6,471 / 75% on Business Class flights by purchasing American or United miles when on sale at ~1.8¢ each.

Operating Airline	To Tokyo From	Buy Miles From	Cost / Miles	Approx Cost to Buy Miles When on Sale	Published Fare	Savings	
All Nippon	Chicago	United	160,000	\$2,880	\$7,937	\$5,057	64%
	Houston				\$7,937	\$5,057	64%
	Los Angeles				\$5,658	\$2,778	49%
	San Francisco				\$7,985	\$5,105	64%
	New York				\$8,130	\$5,250	65%
	Washington, DC				\$5,780	\$2,900	50%
Japan	Boston	American	120,000	\$2,160	\$8,251	\$6,091	74%
	Chicago				\$5,887	\$3,727	63%
	Dallas				\$9,402	\$7,242	77%
	Los Angeles				\$7,666	\$5,506	72%
	New York				\$8,631	\$6,471	75%
	San Francisco				\$5,380	\$3,220	60%
United	Denver	United	160,000	\$2,880	\$8,373	\$5,493	66%
	Los Angeles				\$6,077	\$3,197	53%
	Newark				\$8,423	\$5,543	66%

FIRST CLASS

You can save up to \$20,020 / 87% on First Class flights by purchasing American or United miles when on sale at ~1.8¢ each.

Airline	To Tokyo From	Buy Miles from	Cost	Approx Cost To Buy Miles	Published Fare	Savings	
All Nippon	Chicago	United	220,000	\$3,960	\$21,500	\$17,540	82%
	New York				\$22,000	\$18,040	82%
Japan	Chicago	American	160,000	\$2,880	\$22,300	\$19,420	87%

Airline	To Tokyo From	Buy Miles from	Cost	Approx Cost To Buy Miles	Published Fare	Savings	
	New York				\$22,900	\$20,020	87%
	San Francisco				\$20,100	\$17,220	86%

IF YOU WANT TO USE YOUR MILES: FLY VIA TOKYO TO ASIAN DESTINATIONS SUCH AS THAILAND



EXAMPLE

Opportunities Connecting Via Tokyo...

With Good Availability in Business Class

Using **American** Miles

Bangkok and Jakarta are plentiful for four travelers May through February.

Manila is plentiful for four travelers August through February.

Kuala Lumpur is plentiful for four travelers May through December and February.

Colombo is plentiful for two travelers September through February.

EXAMPLE

Opportunities Connecting Via Tokyo...

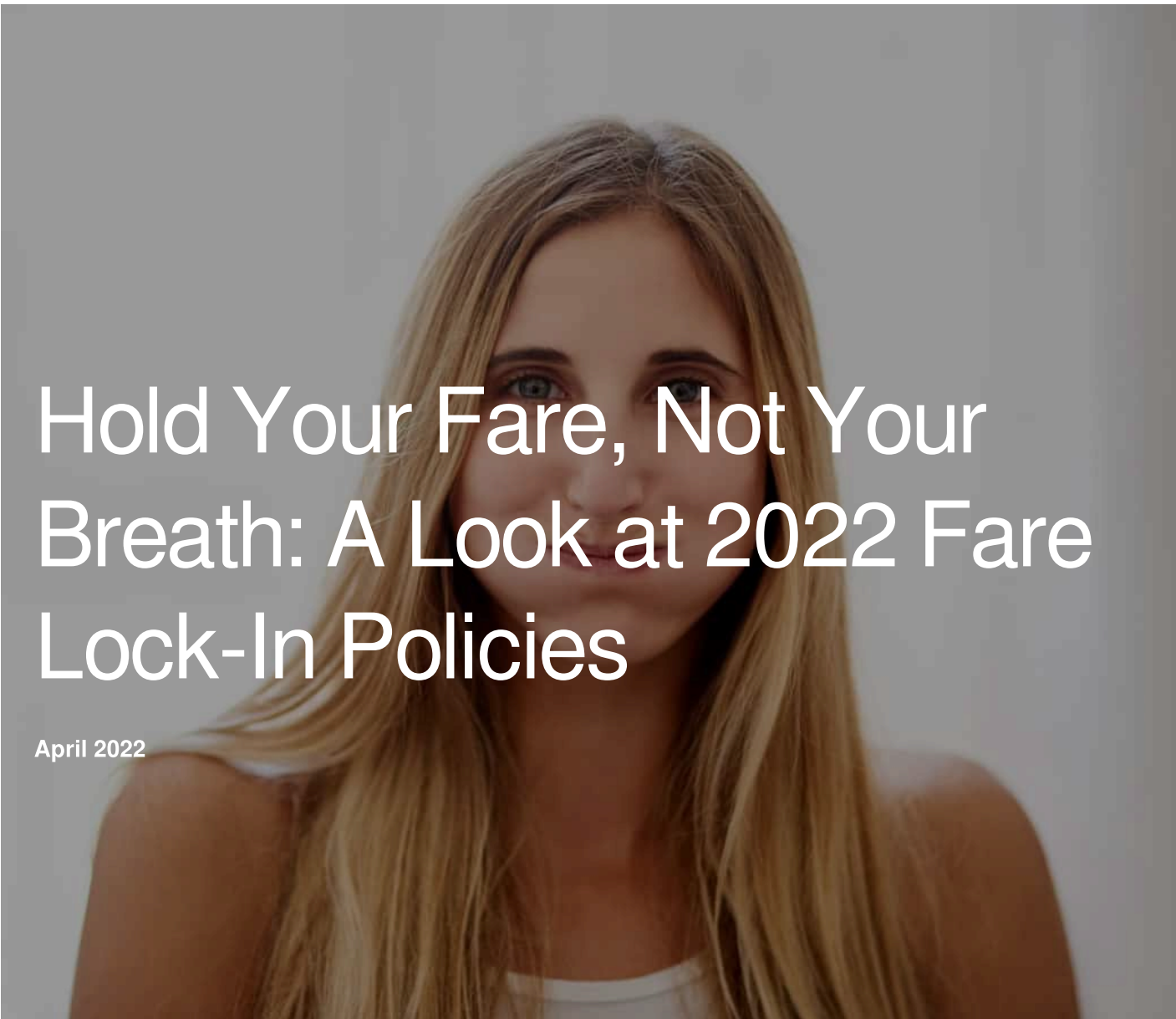
With Good Availability in Business Class

Using **United** Miles

Bangkok is plentiful for one traveler in January and February outbound and November to February on the return.

Jakarta is plentiful for one traveler June through February.

Manila is plentiful for one traveler July through February.



Hold Your Fare, Not Your Breath: A Look at 2022 Fare Lock-In Policies

April 2022

Buying time to decide if you want to confirm a great deal can significantly reduce airfare anxiety.

Let's face it – pulling the trigger and clicking “buy” on an airline ticket never comes with any guarantee that the fare won't drop tomorrow or next week, making you feel like you just got duped. Knowing when to buy or wait isn't so easy to guess perfectly.

Most people don't realize this. They see an amazing FCF fare alert and think to themselves, “I'm not ready yet, I won't know my dates for a few more days,” and let the fare just pass on by.

WAIT A MINUTE!

It's tough to know when to purchase with so much uncertainty. I hope I can cancel that meeting in September. I hope I can get the kids out of school a week early. I hope cousin Pierre is cool if my visit happens in June not July.

But here comes the fare hold option to the rescue. Today, more airlines have jumped on board and others have started to make their holding options much more attractive. They range from a 24-hour grace period to up to seven days — even as high as 14 days with United. It's a total game-changer for booking anxiety.

We liken it to that scene in *The Matrix* film where Neo's vision sees a bullet in slow motion with incredible detail from all angles.

So it's time to slow down your booking and revisit hold options to see where the airlines stand in 2022.

WHY PUT OFF TODAY WHAT YOU CAN DO TOMORROW?

Yes, you read that right (though generally, most people have been trained on the other way around). My rationale is this: Why make a decision today when you can make a better one tomorrow with more intel? **The airlines are making this possible with fare holds.** And not just for tomorrow — but also for next week, too. There's a lot more information to consider and benefit from when you're booking these days and can freeze a fare.

But you have to shift your mindset to take advantage of airlines' fare-hold policies. Here's how:

Average Mindset: All you really want right now is a price for the flight you want so you can buy now and get it over with. You'd happily take a potential fare hit to avoid any added effort.

Better Mindset: Locking-in (for one to 14 days) a fare for the flights you want without committing. Not only does this take the edge off, but it also actually increases your odds of getting a better deal tomorrow, should airfare volatility shift in your favor. Then, you can just hold the new lower fare — and cancel your initial fare freeze. Then repeat the process with a new fare freeze. You reduce stress — and feel good about it, too.

Ultimate Mindset: Imagine if you could **lock a few different flights** today, more tomorrow, and more the day after that — on different dates and/or airlines to avoid getting your ticket canceled for double bookings. You don't have to imagine because that's exactly what's possible.

EXAMPLES OF HOW GOOD RECENT FLEETING FLASH FARES CAN BE

Africa: [Cape Town from \\$1,698](#), [Johannesburg from \\$1,684](#), [Kenya from \\$2,187](#)

Europe: [London from \\$1,933](#), [Italy from \\$1,798](#), [Istanbul from \\$2,325](#)

The Middle East: [Dubai from \\$2,255](#), [Israel from \\$2,285](#)

South America: [Argentina from \\$1,805](#), [Sao Paulo from \\$1,603](#), [Rio from \\$1,403](#)

GENERAL CANCELLATION POLICY FOR PAID TICKETS

Most airlines allow you to cancel without penalty and receive a full refund within 24 hours after you purchase your ticket, by [law](#). (The U.S. Department of Transportation mandates that “U.S. and foreign air carriers allow a ticket to be canceled within 24 hours without penalty.”)

But better still is to place a hold on your fare to allow longer flexibility for possible future fare changes. So, drum roll, please, here are the current general farehold policies. They’re not always available for all flights, so be sure they apply to yours.

FCF’s Fare Hold Cheat Sheet

Airline	Name / Link	Hold Time	Cost
Air France	Time to Think	Up to 3 days	From \$16, per ticket
Air New Zealand	Fare Hold	Up to 3 days	\$35-\$45, per reservation
All Nippon Airways	Keep My Fare	Up to 72 hours	\$10, per ticket
American Airlines	Hold Your Reservation	Up to 24 hours free	24 hour Free Hold or Extended Hold Option
British Airways	Hold Your Flight Price	Up to 72 hours	From \$10, per ticket
Cathay Pacific	Hold Your Fare	Up to 72 hours	From \$15, per reservation
Eva Air	Keep Your Fare	Up to 72 hours	From \$16, per ticket
Fiji Airways	Time To Think	Up to 72 hours	From \$10 for international flights, per ticket
Hawaiian Airlines	Fare-Hold	Up to 7 days	From 3 days from \$9.99 / 7 days from \$12.99, per ticket
Iberia	Need More Time*	Up to 72 hours	\$10 EUR (about \$11) per reservation
KLM	Time to Think	Up to 72 hours	From \$18, per ticket
LATAM	Hold Reservation	24 hours	Free
LOT Airlines	Time2Think	Up to 72 hours	24 hours from \$11 / 48 hours from \$13 / 72 hours from \$15, per reservation
Lufthansa	Secure Your Fare	Up to 48 hours	\$39, per reservation

Airline	Name / Link	Hold Time	Cost
Air France	Time to Think	Up to 3 days	From \$16, per ticket
Qantas	Book Now, Pay Later	Up to 5 days	\$25, per ticket
Qatar Airways	Hold My Booking	Up to 72 hours	24 hours Free / 48 hours from \$15 / 72 hours from \$20, per reservation
SWISS	Secure Your Fare	Up to 48 hours	\$39, per reservation
TAP Air Portugal	Time to Think	Up to 48 hours	From \$13, per ticket
United	FareLock	3, 7 or 14 days	3 days from \$13.99 / 7 days from \$16.99 / 14 days from \$20.99, per reservation

*Not valid on one-way tickets.

AIRLINE FARE-HOLD POLICY DETAILS

Air France: The “Time to Think” option (see the website screenshot below) comes up after you select your flights if it is offered on your itinerary. Cost: usually \$16 per ticket non-refundable and not offered on code-share flights. It guarantees the price for up to three days. The option also applies to First Class.

NEED MORE TIME TO THINK?

When you book tickets online, you can choose our “Time to Think” option. This feature saves your reservation and guarantees the same price for up to 3 days.*

Air New Zealand: The “Fare Hold” option costs \$35-\$45 per international U.S. reservation (not per ticket) and the carrier offers no refund. It guarantees the price for up to three days. If your itinerary is eligible, the “Hold this Fare” button will appear at the bottom of the “Select your flights” screen.

AIR NEW ZEALAND 

You can hold these fares for the quoted price for a **non-refundable fee of \$45.00**

[Learn more about fare hold](#) 

All Nippon: The “Keep My Fare” option is good for up to 72 hours and costs \$10 per ticket. Non-refundable and valid on ANA-operated flights only. The option comes up in the payment screen after selecting your flight and fare. Valid for both Business and First Class.

Keep My Fare

Need more time to decide on your ticket purchase? Keep My Fare lets you hold your reservation and fare details for up to 72 hours before issuing a ticket. Customers find this service particularly useful when travel dates aren't finalized, or when they're traveling with someone else and need to discuss travel plans prior to purchase. If you're booking an international flight on the ANA website, you can apply for the service from the payment screen after selecting your preferred flight and fare.

American: The "Hold Your Reservation" option comes up on the review and pay page, when offered, and only if you book seven or more days prior to departure. It is free for up to 24 hours. The option **also applies to First Class and 15 different oneworld code-share airlines**. On some routes, American also offers an ["Extended hold option"](#) for a fee (cost varies by route and is non-refundable).



[PLAN TRAVEL](#)

[TRAVEL INFORMATION](#)

[AADVANTAGE*](#)

[LOG IN](#)

Extended hold terms and conditions

- The extended hold option is available for bookings made on aa.com.
- The extended hold option is only available to customers traveling on American Airlines marketed and operated flights and American Eagle® services operated by Envoy Air Inc., SkyWest Airlines, Inc., or Republic Airline Inc.
- The extended hold option is only offered on select routes and is subject to availability.

24 hour hold

When available on select American Airlines marketed and operated flights, you can hold your reservation up to 24 hours for free if you book seven or more days prior to departure.

British Airways: The "Hold Your Flight Price" option comes up after the price summary, when offered, and the option must be booked 21 days before departure and the cost is \$10 per ticket for a 72-hour hold. If you buy the ticket, you get a refund. The option **also applies to select partner flights on Iberia and in First Class on BA**.

Need more time to decide?



- ✓ You can now hold your flights and the price for up to 72 hours.
- ✓ Shorthaul flights can be held for a deposit of £5 (\$5/€5) per person and longhaul flights for £10 (\$10/€10) per person.*
- ✓ Once you pay for your booking, we'll refund your deposit.

*Prices will be converted from pounds sterling into other currencies at the time of holding flights and price.

The price won't go up

Your flights won't sell out and the price won't go up while you make your decision.

If the taxes, fees and charges go down, the total price you pay will go down too. If they go up while your booking is on hold, British Airways will cover the cost.

Cathay Pacific: The "Hold Your Fare" option is good for 72 hours for \$15 per reservation. The fare is confirmed, however, taxes, fees, and carrier surcharges are subject to change. A fee will only be charged if the reservation has been canceled. Valid for both Business and First Class. Not valid on partner flights or

flights departing within seven days. **If you are a Marco Polo Club member, you can hold your fare without paying a deposit, but remember to sign in before you begin.**



Hold the fare you like

If you like what you see but want to shop around or take your time, you can hold the exact fare and flight before purchase.



Pay a small deposit

The deposit is only charged for bookings not completed within 72 hours, and is significantly lower than the fees for flight changes or cancellations. **If you are a Marco Polo Club member, you can hold your fare without paying a deposit.**



Take 72 hours to decide

The fare is now held for up to 72 hours – and if you complete payment during this period, there's no charge.

Eva Air: The “Keep Your Fare” option costs \$16 per ticket and is good for up to 72 hours. Search for the flights and check the box marked “guarantee the fare” before starting the booking process. Some special fares may have a limited holding time of less than 72 hours. The hold time for the fare you want will be shown at the end of the booking process. Fees are non-refundable and the option must be booked at least seven days before departure.



Afraid you might miss out on this special fare? Don't worry. We can hold it for you for up to 72 hours!

For travelers like you, we created a brand-new Keep Your Fare choice. Hold the fare you want and your booking for up to 72 hours before your ticket must be issued. (Some special fares may have limited holding time of less than 72 hours. The holding time for the fare you want will be at the end of the booking process)

Fiji Airways: The “Time To Think” option costs \$10 per international ticket and is good for up to 72 hours. Search for the flights and upon being directed to the payment page, you will be provided an option to hold your booking with a “need more time to think?” message. Fees are non-refundable and the option must be booked five days before departure.



NEED MORE TIME TO THINK?

You can reserve to hold the best available fare price for a maximum of **72 hours** at a non-refundable fee including a guarantee of the same price.

Fees vary for both domestic and international travel and is offered only for Fiji Airways direct flights:

- *Time To Think* Booking Fee for International Flight is **FJD20**

Hawaiian: The “Fare-Hold” option costs \$9.99 for a three-day hold and \$12.99 for a seven-day hold, per ticket. Once you've selected your flights, you'll be offered the option to hold your fare on select flights. Fees can vary per route and are non-refundable, and the option must be booked 21 days before departure.



Fare-Hold Reservations

In order to take advantage of our Fare-Hold option, the following restrictions apply:

1. Flights cannot be held if travel occurs within:

- 21 days for North America flights
- 21 days for International flights

Iberia: The “Need more time to decide” option comes up during the trip summary and after the passenger information. You can hold the reservation for free for 24 hours or pay \$10 per ticket for a 72-hour hold. The fee only applies if you do not buy the ticket.



Do you need more time to decide?

Book now and confirm within 24hrs free of charge, or confirm within 72hrs for \$10.00. This amount will be discounted from the final price.

[Book now](#)

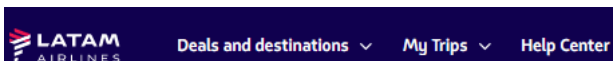
KLM (the best hold program): The “Time to Think” option (\$18 per ticket), when it is offered, comes up after you select your flights and has no refund. The option lasts up to 72 hours, depending on class of service and route. It’s been known to intermittently work with **code-share flights on Air France and Delta, which is significant because Delta does not have a fare freeze option. It’s a clever backdoor.**



Time to Think

When booking online, you can take an option on your selected flight for a maximum of 3 days. You'll see the exact duration of your Time to Think period when you take the option. It depends your moment of booking, destination, and the fare conditions of your selected flight.

LATAM: The “Hold Reservation” option is good for 24 hours and is free if the reservation is made one week or more prior to departure.



5. Allow Reservations to be Held or Cancelled for a certain Period of Time

LATAM will allow reservations to be held at the quoted fare without payment, or if purchased, cancelled without penalty, for at least 24 hours after the reservation is made if the reservation is made one week or more prior to the flight's scheduled departure.

LOT: The “Time2Think” option costs \$11 for a 24-hour hold, \$13 for a 48-hour hold, and \$15 for a 72-hour hold, per reservation. Search for the flights and click on “Time2Think” before continuing to the next screen.



Do you need more time? This option allows you to guarantee your booking and fare for up to 3 days.

Lufthansa: The “Secure Your Fare” option, when offered, is for 48 hours. Cost: \$39 per reservation; also offered in First Class. The fee only applies if you do not buy the ticket and only applies to Lufthansa and Lufthansa CityLine flights.



Inspired. Flight reserved. Price guaranteed!

Reserve the flight you want on current terms and conditions and gain 48 hours thinking time. That means you have enough time to firm up your travel plans, to agree them with your travelling companions and then to conveniently book your flight.

Qantas: The “Book Now, Pay Later” five-day hold option costs \$25 per ticket. The fee only applies if you do not buy the ticket. The option to pay later and the length of time you have to pay will depend on your fare conditions and the time until your chosen departure date. The date on which complete payment is due is displayed on the Payment and Confirmation pages during the booking process.



Holding your booking

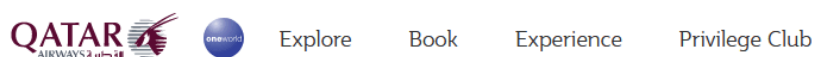
If your booking is eligible for Book Now, Pay Later, this option will appear along with the date full payment is due on the payment page - just look for the Pay later tab.

Holding guarantee

To hold your seat, you'll need to pay a holding deposit per passenger:

- United States - US\$25

Qatar: With “Hold My Booking,” the first 24 hours is free. There’s a \$15 fee for a 48-hour hold and \$20 for a 72-hour hold, per reservation. Fees are non-refundable and the option must be booked three days before departure.



Home > Payment options > **Hold My Booking**

If you are still undecided with your reservation, you can now hold your booking along with the guaranteed fare in exchange of a minimum fee for up to 72 hours.

Simply choose the 'Hold My Booking' payment option and then proceed to pay either online using the 'My Trips' feature or offline at your nearest Qatar Airways sales office or use other offline payment options wherever applicable. [Click here](#) to learn more.

SWISS: The “Secure Your Fare” option, when offered, is for 48 hours. Cost: \$39 per reservation; it’s also offered on select First Class flights. The fee only applies if you do not buy the ticket. This applies to flights with a SWISS flight number (LX) that are booked at least one day before departure.

 **Book & manage Prepare Fly Discover**

Secure your fare

Do you need a little more time to think and plan your trip? Not a problem. Hold the current ticket price for up to 48 hours.

TAP: The “Time To Think” 48-hour hold option costs \$13 per ticket. Fees are non-refundable and the option must be booked 96 hours before departure.

 **AIR PORTUGAL**

[Booking and managing](#) [Preparing the trip](#) [TAP Benefits](#) [Stopover](#) [TAP Miles&Go](#)

Now you can lock in the price of your trip for **48 hours** to make sure the cost of your reservation won't change.

United: The “FareLock” option (non-refundable) comes up after the trip summary, if offered, and starts at \$13.99 per reservation for a three-day hold, \$16.99 for a seven-day hold, and \$20.99 for a 14-day hold. The fee is slightly higher for multiple people on the same reservation. FareLock is available on flights operated by United and United Express only.

 **UNITED**

FareLock

Preserve your fare and your peace of mind.

FareLockSM lets you hold your reserved fare and complete the purchase of your itinerary at a later time. Enjoy peace of mind that the price of your itinerary won't go up and that the flight won't sell out while you take your time with your purchase. Available only through [united.com](#), the United app and the Customer Contact Center, FareLock allows you to reserve an itinerary and then complete your purchase later.

Itineraries can be held with FareLock for your choice of either three, seven or 14 days. The price of your itinerary is guaranteed during the hold period, until you decide to complete your purchase.

View the lock options as a hedge against hesitating — the reason most of us lose a great fare.

And never miss a great fare again.



How to Make Emirates Playing Yo-Yo With Premium Award Travelers Work for You

April 2022

Whatever kind of traveler you are, you still might be a winner.

I admit it: I love Emirates, although it's been an on-again, off-again love affair. Let me explain. We follow lucrative strategies with this airline often: how it can get you to many , including many obscure and hard-to-reach places in Africa and the Middle East, like the Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, etc.; how it has an extraordinary First Class experience; and how it also features two nonstops between the U.S. and Europe.

So, what the heck is going on at Emirates lately?

PLAYING YO-YO WITH TAXES AND MILES. HERE'S A TIMELINE...

May 2020

Emirates **reduced its taxes** on mileage travel apparently to draw interest during Lockdown. *Before* the change, it charged \$1,143 dollars in taxes on a round-trip First Class ticket between Newark and Athens, and \$1,543 between New York and Dubai. The change in May 2020 brought it all the way down to \$125 Newark-Athens, and \$362 New York-Dubai. It made headlines in the travel world and FCF wrote about it [here](#) and [here](#). And then...

July 2021

Cheers turned to jeers when Emirates eliminated its "Classic Rewards" and increased its pricing on First Class mileage award travel as Lockdowns began to lift. Let's break it down:

Before July: New York/Newark-Athens and New York/JFK-Milan were 135,000 miles. **After the First Class award cost devaluation:** 170,000.

Boston, Chicago, Houston, New York, and Washington, DC, to Dubai was **217,500 miles before the devaluation but jumped to 272,500** afterward.

Before: Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle to Dubai was 247,500 miles.

After the change: 310,000.

That's a whopping 20 percent increase to Dubai and 21 percent increase to Europe.

And then, just to rub salt into that wound, the calendar turned to...

March 2022

Beware the Ides of March, they said. And wouldn't you know it, Emirates has jacked up its taxes again. For San Francisco-Dubai, they've risen from \$360 to \$1,220; for Chicago-Dubai they've jumped from \$360 to \$1,260. The good news: New York-Milan only increased from \$117 to \$174.

So in just 13 months, to Dubai the airline covered the tax decrease with a miles price increase, and then pulled the rug out again with big tax increases. Emirates, that yo-yo is making me dizzy.

The three examples below sum up how the whole sorry story has gone over time...

Chicago to Dubai	Date of Change	Cost Before	Cost After	Difference	
Taxes Decreased	May 2020	\$1,684	\$360	\$1,324	79%
Classic Awards Eliminated	June 2021	217,500	272,500	55,000	20%
Taxes Increased	March 2022	\$360	\$1,260	\$900	71%

San Francisco to Dubai	Date of Change	Cost Before	Cost After	Difference	
Taxes Decreased	May 2020	\$1,684	\$360	\$1,324	79%
Classic Awards Eliminated	June 2021	247,500	310,000	62,500	20%
Taxes Increased	March 2022	\$360	\$1,220	\$860	70%

New York to Milan	Date of Change	Cost Before	Cost After	Difference	
Taxes Decreased	May 2020	\$1,134	\$117	\$1,017	90%
Classic Awards Eliminated	June 2021	135,000	170,000	35,000	21%
Taxes Increased	March 2022	\$117	\$174	\$57	33%

I've broken down this Emirates situation by traveler type, and what each perspective brings.

WHAT KIND OF FIRST CLASS TRAVELER ARE YOU AND HOW SHOULD YOU ACT ON THE INFLATION?

Over the last three decades, FCF has focused on finding the best air travel deals. While typical travel commentators talk doom and gloom, we're here to talk **about perspectives on opportunities**. Taxes to Dubai may be high, but they're still relatively low for Europe.

Consider these different ways to look at your options:

For the premium traveler who have never flown Emirates First Class: If you were ever going to splurge on air travel, it would be flying First Class on the Emirates A380 with the shower. You can find it on their routes from Dubai to/from Los Angeles, Houston, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC; and New York to/from Milan. It's just plain fun. Impractical? Yes and no. There's nothing like a shower near the end of a long flight to freshen up and help beat travel fatigue. It even helps with jet lag.

So if you haven't done it, and you're into premium travel delicacies, I say bite the tax-hike bullet. It's really nothing when you consider that these tickets can run \$16,000 to Europe and \$21,000+ to Dubai. It's still a steal, even if you just missed buying the dip. Stay tuned for FCF's ongoing coverage of Emirates First Class Sweet Redeems.



The epic Emirates A380.

You're a budget First Class traveler and have already flown the Emirates A380:

You don't want to pay this hike, forget about it until the next industry crisis occurs and airlines need your business again. Perhaps unlike any other industry, airlines yo-yo from not needing your business one day to desperately wanting it the next. Right now, they don't need to beg for business.

You're an inflexible First Class traveler with a decent budget:

You win! Wait, what? The tax increase is going to eliminate the large base of travelers who only get into Emirates First Class because they're hacking bank credit card sign-up bonuses. The high taxes will eliminate this crowd, along with others that the \$900+ increase will leave out. That's because when those travelers exit the game, availability opens up for you. So, particularly if you're inflexible with dates, your options open right up and you should welcome the inflation.

See you up front.