



Insider Advice for Tokyo Joe and Other First Class Asia Dreamers to Save 91%

August 2021

How to score First Class seats when fares are sky-high

One of our readers, let's call him "Tokyo Joe," asked, "Hey Bennett, with the world starting to open up again, what's the First Class situation for getting to Asia?"

I said, "Joe, this is a lily that's hard to gild right now, so I'm gonna lay it down straight: First Class fares to Asia are high. Fuji-high." Have a look at these sobering numbers for nonstop First Class flights to Asia:

- **All Nippon:** Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco to Tokyo ranges from \$11,700 to \$21,827.

- **American:** Dallas to Hong Kong is \$10,815.
- **Cathay Pacific:** Boston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco to Hong Kong ranges from \$16,145 to \$19,736.
- **Japan Airlines:** Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco to Tokyo ranges from \$19,826 to \$25,751.

Ouch.

Or as Joe might say: [?]?!

MMM, WHAT ABOUT AVAILABILITY USING MILES OR POINTS?

“Joe, you’d better sit down. Award space is low. Panda-butt low.” Then again, I started thinking it’s more glass half-full. In fact, you could argue that award availability is quite Business-friendly as there are lots of single seats available into next year. Also consider single-seat availability for groups of more than one who don’t mind sitting in different cabins and other [single-seat options](#).

At a glance availability chart below, here’s a quick summary of where the gems are:

All Nippon: Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco to Tokyo: one seat available for two or more months and one seat available for New York to Tokyo for travel in June 2022.

American: Dallas to Hong Kong: a handful of days have two seats for travel in May 2022.

Cathay Pacific: As always, they’re only offering one seat for two or more months in both directions on their Boston-, Los Angeles-, New York-, and San Francisco-Hong Kong routes. See below.

Japan Airlines: Chicago to Tokyo: a handful of days with one seat available in July 2022 and a handful of dates with one seat available in June 2022 and July 2022 on the Los Angeles- and New York-Tokyo routes.

Routes with **no** award availability:

- All Nippon: Washington, DC - Tokyo
- Cathay Pacific: Chicago - Hong Kong
- Singapore Airlines: Los Angeles - Tokyo

Joe’s a business guy who likes to plan ahead and travel in maximum comfort. Maybe he could travel in First Class and book the family in Business Class, or have his spouse in First because he’s crazy about her and he sit in Business.

Or not. We’ve got ways for Joe to find more than one seat father below.

Here's a chart that shows the bigger availability picture:

To/From	Airline	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 - Tokyo	All Nippon	Sept., March	Nov., Dec.	Jan., Feb., April to June	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. to March, May, June
Los Angeles - Tokyo		Nov., Dec., April, May		Jan., Feb., June	Nov., Dec., Feb., March	Oct., Jan., March, May	Feb., June
New York - Tokyo				June		June	
San Francisco - Tokyo		Nov., March, May		Jan., Feb., April, June	Nov., Jan., Feb.	Dec., March	Feb., June
Dallas - Hong Kong	American	Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., March., April	May		Nov., Feb., March, April, May		
Boston - Hong Kong	Cathay Pacific	Dec.		Jan. to March	Nov., Jan.		Dec., Feb., March
Los Angeles - Hong Kong		Dec.		Jan. to June		Nov., Jan.	Dec., Feb. to June
New York - Hong Kong		Nov., Dec., July		Jan. to June	Nov., July		Dec. to June
San Francisco - Hong Kong		Jan., Feb., July	March	April to June	Nov., Dec., Feb., July		March to June
Los Angeles - Tokyo	Japan	June, July			June, July		
New York - Tokyo		June, July			June, July		
San Francisco - Tokyo			June			June	

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

GOOD NEWS? WE CAN SQUEEZE SOME JUICE OUT OF THIS DRAGON FRUIT

When fares are high, America turns its lonely eyes to mileage accounts, and smart Americans turn them to miles transfer partners, along with opportunities to buy miles cheaply. Check out this chart. It shows the

straight-up miles cost from the airline and then the cost using transfer partners. It's a mixed bag, but certainly worth considering, particularly for All Nippon and Amex/Virgin Atlantic.

	All Nippon	American	Cathay	Japan
Sample Route	Los Angeles - Tokyo		Los Angeles - Hong Kong	Los Angeles - Tokyo
Operating Airline Miles Cost	150,000	168,000-227,000	220,000	190,000
Get miles via points partnerships	Amex	Marriott	Amex, Citi, Marriott	Marriott
Best Amex Points Partner	Virgin	Cathay Pacific		
Amex Partner Miles Cost	110,000	240,000	220,000	240,000
Best Chase Partner	United	British Airways		
Chase Partner Miles Cost	220,000	206,000		
Other Partners	LifeMiles	Alaska		
Other Partner Cost	180,000	160,000	140,000	

BUILDING A GREAT WALL OF MILES

As we mention, often in these reports, buying miles is a fantastic option if your mileage accounts are low, as Joe's are. If you buy American miles for American flights or partner flights, or United miles for United partner flights when they're on sale (often down to 1.8 cents per mile), you can still get a great deal. Sales pop up as often as at Macy's.

All Nippon partners with Amex and Marriott and Cathay Pacific partners with three credit card rewards programs — Amex, Citi, and Marriott — so you can easily get the miles you need. We found that the typical transfer time from Amex is instantaneous (not ALL of the time, but mostly), while a transfer from Marriott points can take up to three days.

You can buy up to 500,000 Amex Rewards points per year and they only cost 2.5¢ each. Given the baseline First Class fare from New York to Tokyo is often \$18,000 to \$21,000 and that you can buy 120,000 Amex Rewards Points and transfer to Virgin Atlantic for about \$2,040 (plus taxes of about \$65), **you'd end up saving up to \$18,895, or 91%.**

Here's a happy chart with more price differences when you buy miles on sale.

First Class To/From	Airline	Partner Miles		Cost per mile when on sale	Cost	Regular Published Fare	Difference	
Chicago - Tokyo	All Nippon	Virgin Atlantic	120,000	~1.7 cents	\$2,040	\$21,400	\$19,360	90%

First Class To/From	Airline	Partner Miles		Cost per mile when on sale	Cost	Regular Published Fare	Difference	
Los Angeles - Tokyo			110,000		\$1,870	\$11,700	\$9,830	84%
New York - Tokyo			120,000		\$2,040	\$21,827	\$19,787	91%
San Francisco - Tokyo			110,000		\$1,870	\$19,833	\$17,963	91%
Dallas - Hong Kong	American	American	168,000	~1.8 cents	\$2,856	\$10,815	\$7,959	74%
Boston - Hong Kong	Cathay Pacific		220,000		\$3,740	\$19,355	\$15,615	81%
Los Angeles - Hong Kong						\$16,145	\$12,405	77%
New York - Hong Kong						\$19,736	\$15,996	81%
San Francisco - Hong Kong						\$16,292	\$12,552	77%
Los Angeles - Tokyo	Japan		160,000		\$2,720	\$19,826	\$17,106	86%
New York - Tokyo						\$25,751	\$22,011	85%
San Francisco - Tokyo						\$20,103	\$16,363	81%

Most airlines are currently offering a “travel fee waiver,” which includes mileage award flights. That means it won’t cost you anything to cancel or change your ticket. Read more about it [here](#).



Tokyo's Akihabara district, also known as Electric Town

BRIDGE ROUTE CONNECTIONS

When using the available First Class long-haul award flight as a “bridge” to Asia, the connecting flight from the U.S. and/or international hub can be booked either in Business Class or economy, based on availability. If only economy is available on the short connecting flights, it’s not a disaster, as the most important part is getting the long-haul flight in First. [More here on “If you don’t see your home airport or destination.”](#)

WANT MORE THAN ONE SEAT?

Joe’s still torn. He’d love to have the family on that next trip to Asia but keeps seeing only one seat available. Is this the end of the road? No!

Confucius wisdom: He Who Learns But Does Not Think (About Snaring More Than One Award Seat) Is Lost.

FCF’s Get-More-Than-One-Seat Plan of Action:

- Rather than starting your search for two seats, start with a search for one. Then go wider. For example, Cathay Pacific typically only releases one First Class award seat at a time, but they sometimes drip-feed availability up until departure. Other airlines do the same. Sometimes you just have to play the patience game.
- Grab one seat now in First, another in Business, and keep checking back for another one in First Class to open up. Clare may disagree, but she and Joe could always draw straws for the more luxurious

option.

- Play the brinkmanship game. Award space tends to open up much more as departure approaches. Get the seat in Business then rebook when and if an opportunity arises. I do this often.
- Waitlist if other ways aren't working. Cathay Pacific and All Nippon offer waitlists in Business and First Class. Japan Airlines allows waitlisting in First Class only.
- If all else fails, buy one ticket with cash and the other with miles. At least you're able to get 50% in front.

WHEN ROUND-TRIP AWARDS AREN'T AVAILABLE

When you can't score the round-trip award, consider one-way tickets instead. Divide and conquer: Split your itinerary in two and search for the best deal for each leg. I rarely book round-trip mileage awards on a single ticket. There's simply too much opportunity when you look at more airlines and their partner opportunities. I'll do this to get better seats or schedules from different airline programs (with the exception of All Nippon, as it only offers round-trip awards).

CONSIDER THE LEG STRETCH STRATEGY (LSS) TO ASIA

You can use all of the above to kickstart FCF's out-of-this-world Leg Stretch Strategy (where airlines connect three continents for an *extremely* low price) to Asia and another continent. Read all about it [here](#).



Lateral Leapers. Getting to Europe Without the Price Gouge

August 2021

Expand your purview, save big-time

Most of the time here at FCF, we show you great deals. That's what we're here for. But sometimes we're compelled to show you the other side of the coin — the really expensive side of the coin — so you can put those great deals into context.

Every time we look at the numbers, it drives us even harder to find ways to avoid airline gouging (the chart below makes for uneasy reading), and that's what this report is about.

Of course, sometimes you don't have a choice. You're cornered, especially when you have a strict itinerary or travel dates you can't avoid. At least you're not alone in having to cough up the higher fare in that instance.



WHEN BUSINESS CLASS FARES ARE LOW

We call fares in the \$1,500 to \$2,500 range low for Business Class to Europe. When fares are this low, it's not the time to use your hard-earned miles. We covered when to use miles or cash right [here](#). And there's more on low Business Class fares to Europe [here](#).

WHEN BUSINESS CLASS FARES ARE HIGH

When they're sticking their noses over ~\$3,000 it's time to put your miles to use. Makes sense. Saves dollars.

GOUGEAPALOOZA

Here are some of the high (gouge) fares we've seen...

Non-stop Gouge Routes

From	To	Fare
Atlanta	Venice	\$4,395
	Barcelona	\$4,890
	Dublin	\$5,088
	Zürich	\$3,793
	Vienna	\$3,809
	Munich	\$3,867
	Frankfurt	\$3,879

From	To	Fare
Dallas	Copenhagen	\$4,352
	Amsterdam	\$4,309
	Rome	\$4,963
Houston	Paris	\$3,799
	Munich	\$3,867
	Frankfurt	\$3,879
Los Angeles	Helsinki	\$3,568
	Dublin	\$3,553
	Zurich	\$3,693
	Madrid	\$3,695
	Munich	\$3,925
	Frankfurt	\$3,929
	Copenhagen	\$4,864
Miami	Zurich	\$3,743
	Amsterdam	\$3,759
	Munich	\$3,817
	Frankfurt	\$3,837
	Copenhagen	\$4,061
New York	Zurich	\$3,443
	Vienna	\$3,459
	Berlin	\$3,499
	Munich	\$3,517
	Dubrovnik	\$4,188
	Copenhagen	\$4,449
Philadelphia	Rome	\$3,763
	Frankfurt	\$3,829
	Athens	\$4,355
San Francisco	Paris	\$3,091

From	To	Fare
	Dublin	\$3,500
	Zurich	\$3,993
	Munich	\$4,067
	Frankfurt	\$4,079
	Copenhagen	\$5,420
Washington, DC	Vienna	\$3,759
	Munich	\$3,817
	Frankfurt	\$3,829
	Copenhagen	\$5,030

So let's cut to the chase. What are your go-to plays when fares are low or high, and what are some FCF lateral thinking ideas so you can win on your next trip across the pond?

WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO PLAY THE AIRLINES' GAME ANYMORE

Be an Opportunity Traveler. There's too much default travel thinking – I'd say 90% of people fall into this category – where you take what the airlines serve up because you don't realize there's a better way to go. We wrote about it in [this report](#).

So let's apply some Opportunity Traveler ideas to the real world for travel to Europe. Here are some ways to think outside the box, and *into* a Business Class seat across the ditch.

There are plenty of ways to skin the map for flights to Europe. Here's what our team has uncovered.

ROUTE VS ROUTE: SIMILAR DESTINATION, LOWER-COST SAVES \$2,094 / 51%

Croatia's port cities of Split and Dubrovnik are about 100 miles apart, but there can be an ocean of difference in the price to get to each, as shown in these examples from Los Angeles. Outside the box idea: Go to Dubrovnik then leisurely make your own way up the coast to Split. Enjoy the breathtaking coastal views of the Adriatic Sea on the way.

- Los Angeles to Split: Business Class with one-stop via STAR Alliance is \$4,123
- Los Angeles to Dubrovnik: Business Class with one-stop via oneworld is \$2,517

FARE VS FARE: BETTER FLIGHT, SAME COST EQUALS CONVENIENCE UPGRADE

You can skip and jump from Miami to Amsterdam, or you can just jump. For about the same price, you can eliminate the stop. OK, it's not exactly outside the box, but it's still worth highlighting. Call it a "convenience upgrade" or call it a time saver. Fly KLM to save both time and money.

- Miami to Amsterdam: Business Class nonstop via KLM is \$3,909
- Miami to Amsterdam: Business Class with one-stop via United is \$3,924

AIRLINE VS AIRLINE: SAME ROUTE, LOWER COST SAVES \$1,095 / 27%

Two top airlines, one big price difference. Outside the box idea: All things being equal, fly the much cheaper option.

- New York to Athens: Business Class nonstop via Emirates is \$2,960
- New York to Athens: Business Class nonstop via Delta is \$4,055

NONSTOP VS ONE-HOUR STOP EACH WAY SAVES \$1,153 / 32%

Not everyone gets riled about stopping somewhere along the way. Outside the box idea: Go the extra mile and save a lot to Dublin as shown below.

- Los Angeles to Dublin: Business Class nonstop via Aer Lingus is \$3,553
- Los Angeles to Dublin: Business Class with a one-hour stop each way via United is \$2,400

TIME VS TIME: LONG LAYOVER SAVES \$4,358 / 66%

When layovers are longer, as in these examples to Santorini (between 15 and 24 hours), there can be money-saving gold in them hills *if* you choose carefully. Outside the box idea: Take that time-hit in Helsinki or London (great places to stop over), instead of Zurich, to save over \$4,300. Screenshot below.

- Los Angeles to Santorini: Business Class with one-stop via oneworld is \$2,275
- Los Angeles to Santorini: Business Class with one-stop via STAR Alliance is \$6,633

Round trip · 1 · Business Class



Thu, Sep 30 · 6:55 PM – 10:20 AM⁺²

Finnair · American, Iberia, British Airways

29 hr 25 min

LAX–JTR

1 stop 

15 hr 5 min HEL



Wed, Oct 13 · 5:10 PM – 2:55 PM^{*1}

British Airways · American, Finnair

31 hr 45 min

JTR–LAX

1 stop 

16 hr 30 min LHR


Share

Round trip · 1 · Business Class



Thu, Sep 30 · 5:20 PM – 6:10 PM^{*1}

Lufthansa · United, Aegean

14 hr 50 min

LAX–JTR

1 stop

1 hr MUC



Wed, Oct 13 · 10:50 AM – 4:05 PM^{*1}

Edelweiss Air, SWISS · United

39 hr 15 min

JTR–LAX

1 stop 

24 hr 15 min ZRH

MAJOR CARRIER VS LESSER-KNOWN CARRIER SAVES \$699 / 23%

Consider two airlines to the same destination where one flies a little below the radar. Outside the box idea: Don't be an airline snob, the difference between BA and TAP is negligible. Generally speaking, the latter is just not as well-known to American travelers (and that snobbery tax is almost \$700)

- Houston to Lisbon: Business Class with one stop via TAP is \$2,341
- Houston to Lisbon: Business Class with one stop via British Airways is \$3,040

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Best FCF Fare & Miles Alerts Still Available

August 2021

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

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

FCF Special Fares

Domestic & Hawaii

[New Transcontinental Business Class Fares from \\$698 R/T](#)

[Hawaii: New Business Class Fares from North America from \\$957 R/T](#)

[Hawaii: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from \\$985 R/T](#)

[Honolulu: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$726 R/T](#)

Africa

[Egypt: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$1,659 R/T](#)

[Kenya: New Business Class Fares from Canada from \\$2,648 R/T](#)

[Morocco: New Business Class Fares from Canada from \\$2,030 R/T](#)

[Egypt: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$1,778 R/T](#)

[Casablanca: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from \\$2,056 R/T](#)

[South Africa: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$2,699 R/T](#)

[Seychelles: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$2,748 R/T](#)

Asia

[Maldives: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$2,458 R/T](#)

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

[Jakarta: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$2,405 R/T](#)

Europe

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

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

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

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

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

[Austria: New First Class Fares from North America from \\$2,979 R/T](#)

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

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

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

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

[Genoa: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$2,016 R/T](#)

[Minorca: New Business Class Fares from Chicago, New York and Boston from \\$1,977 R/T](#)

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

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

[Turin: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,981 R/T](#)

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

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

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

[Venice: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$1,953 R/T](#)

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

[First Class to Venice from the U.S. from \\$2,953 R/T on BA](#)

[Paris: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from *\\$1,601* R/T](#)

[First Class: Lisbon from the U.S. from \\$2,959 R/T](#)

[First Class: Milan from the U.S. from \\$2,955 R/T](#)

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

[Budapest: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$1,935 R/T](#)

Middle East

[Dubai: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from \\$2,269 R/T](#)

[Jordan/Petra: New Business Class Fares from Canada from \\$2,061 R/T](#)

[Jordan/Petra: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from \\$2,035 R/T](#)

South America

[Peru: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$883 R/T](#)

[Chile: New Premium Economy Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$850 R/T](#)

[New \\$1,391 R/T Business Class Fares to Brazil](#)

[First Class: Buenos Aires from the U.S. from \\$2,964 R/T](#)

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

[Buenos Aires: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from \\$1,695 R/T](#)

[Chile: New Business Class Fares from Canada and the U.S. from *\\$1,588* R/T](#)

[First Class: Sao Paulo from Canada and the U.S. from \\$2,612 R/T](#)

[Rio de Janeiro: New Premium Economy Fares from the U.S. and Canada from \\$805 R/T](#)

Sweet Redeems

Asia

[2022 Travel: Cathay Pacific *First Class* Single-Seat Discount Opportunities to Asia from New York and Other Cities](#)

[Singapore: Loads of Four-Seat Discount Availability on Singapore Airlines Business Class from New York](#)

[All Nippon Discount First Class Availability to Tokyo from Chicago / Save Up to \\$19,136 / 90%](#)

[Cathay Pacific Business Class Opportunities from Los Angeles and Many Other U.S. Cities to Asia](#)

[Japan Airlines First Class from Los Angeles to Tokyo, 2 seats](#)

[*First Class* Single-Seat Opportunities from San Francisco and Many Other Cities to Asia in 2020](#)

Europe

[Dirt Cheap Europe Business Class Flights from New York / 68,000 Amex or Chase Points R/T](#)

[Unprecedented United Business Class Upgrade Availability from San Francisco and Many Other U.S. Cities to Dublin](#)

[Europe: Lots of Cheap Business Class Flights from Miami 85,000 R/T Amex or Chase Points for Winter 2021 + 2022 Travel](#)

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

[*First Class* to Europe With Emirates \(Amex Partner\) Discount Opportunities from Newark to Athens](#)

[*First Class* to Europe With Emirates \(Amex Partner\) Discount Opportunities from New York to Milan in 2022](#)

[Unprecedented London Business Class Mileage Upgrade Opportunities With United from Newark and Many Other U.S. Cities](#)

Middle East

[Wide-Open 2022 Qsuite Discount Opportunities from Houston and Many Other U.S. Cities to Middle East & Beyond](#)



Who's in First? How to Fly to Europe Upfront for Less

August 2021

Oneworld leads the way with First Class fares 48% to 79% less than the other carriers

Not all First Class fares are created equal. While Air France, Lufthansa, and SWISS First Class fares to Europe start at \$6,000 to \$14,000 these days, we are seeing that oneworld's (American and British Airways) are relatively low (unlike to Asia, as we [report here](#). For example, San Francisco to Venice on British Airways is \$2,958 while SWISS is \$8,626 and Lufthansa is \$8,646 at the time of writing. So we thought we'd take a look at current fares and miles availability to give you a handy stick-on-the-fridge guide for flying at the pointy end without getting the sharp end of the stick.

Recently we've seen nonstop First Class fares from New York to London for as low as \$3,283. Though these are gone, the nonstop is now running \$4,170. But there are still some **great one-stop First Class fares starting at \$2,948 from/to many other destinations** (see chart below). Don't see your departure/destination? More on that [here](#).

So here are our recommendations for low First Class fares, followed by current award availability and how to get miles if your barrow is empty.



Europe matters!

ONEWORLD
ROUTES WITH UNUSUALLY LOW FIRST CLASS FARES

From	To	Fare
Boston	Geneva	\$2,965
	Brussels	\$2,969
	Zürich	\$2,970
	Basel	\$2,977
	Vienna	\$2,978
	Salzburg	\$3,005

From	To	Fare
	Hamburg	\$3,021
	Berlin	\$3,023
	Düsseldorf	\$3,031
	Munich	\$3,041
	Frankfurt	\$3,050
	Stuttgart	\$3,053
Chicago	Zurich	\$3,191
	Vienna	\$3,203
	Hamburg	\$3,245
	Munich	\$3,265
	Frankfurt	\$3,275
Dallas	Geneva	\$2,966
	Zürich	\$2,970
	Vienna	\$2,978
	Berlin	\$3,023
	Hamburg	\$3,045
Houston	Kraków	\$2,970
	Venice	\$2,970
	Warsaw	\$2,972
	Bucharest	\$2,980
	Porto	\$2,983
	Milan	\$2,985
	Prague	\$2,987
	Geneva	\$2,990
	Zürich	\$2,991
	Zagreb	\$2,992
	Budapest	\$2,993
	Vienna	\$3,003

From	To	Fare
	Hamburg	\$3,045
	Berlin	\$3,047
	Florence	\$3,064
	Munich	\$3,065
	Frankfurt	\$3,075
Miami	Geneva	\$3,165
	Zürich	\$3,170
	Vienna	\$3,178
	Hamburg	\$3,221
	Berlin	\$3,223
	Munich	\$3,241
	Frankfurt	\$3,250
New York	Geneva	\$3,165
	Hamburg	\$3,221
	Stuttgart	\$3,228
	Düsseldorf	\$3,231
	Munich	\$3,241
San Francisco	Warsaw	\$2,948
	Bucharest	\$2,956
	Venice	\$2,958
	Milan	\$2,960
	Prague	\$2,962
	Geneva	\$2,965
	Zagreb	\$2,968
	Budapest	\$2,969
	Porto	\$2,970
	Zürich	\$2,970
	Vienna	\$2,978

From	To	Fare
	Hamburg	\$3,021
	Berlin	\$3,023
	Munich	\$3,041
	Frankfurt	\$3,050
	Florence	\$3,052
Seattle	Frankfurt	\$3,250
Washington, DC	Kraków	\$3,145
	Warsaw	\$3,148
	Barcelona	\$3,153
	Bucharest	\$3,156
	Venice	\$3,158
	Milan	\$3,160
	Prague	\$3,162
	Geneva	\$3,165
	Lisbon	\$3,165
	Zagreb	\$3,168
	Budapest	\$3,169
	Porto	\$3,170
	Zürich	\$3,170
	Vienna	\$3,178
	Berlin	\$3,223
	Munich	\$3,241
	Frankfurt	\$3,250
	Florence	\$3,252

WHAT ABOUT AVAILABILITY USING MILES?

American Airlines

Los Angeles-London has many days with two-seat award availability in March. Miami-London has two seats

several days in November. The New York-London route has several days with four seats in January and February and two seats in March and April for several days.

British Airways (Amex & Chase Partner) Boston has the most First Class space with a handful of days with four seats in June, and several days with two seats in June. Atlanta, Houston, Philadelphia, Washington, DC-London have just a handful for one or more months.

Emirates (Amex & Chase Partner)

New York-Milan has two seats available across many days in March; Newark-Athens has two seats for many days in January, February, and March.

Lufthansa (Amex Partner via Air Canada)

Last month FCF revealed [the new secret to getting the best First Class deal in town](#), using Air Canada miles for Lufthansa's premium product — **a major score even for all of you that have already purchased a ticket.**

Routes that have fewer than a handful of days with seats or none at all are:

- American: Chicago-London
- British Airways: Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Newark, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle to London
- Singapore: New York-Frankfurt

NO MILES? NO PROBLEM

As mentioned up front, if fares are looking too high, use your miles. And if you don't have miles, buy 'em. If you buy American miles for American or partner flights when they're on sale, often for as low as 1.8 cents per mile, you can get a great deal on your booking. The sales come up frequently and can make a huge difference when you use award miles versus forking over the full cash price.

This chart shows how much you can save (in the last two columns) versus the regular published fare. Buying miles is one of my all time favorite upgrade strategies. I urge you to give it a try if you haven't already.

Route	Airline	Partner Miles		Cost per mile when on sale	Cost to Buy Miles	Regular Published Fare	Difference	
Los Angeles - London	American	American	144,000	~1.8 cents	\$2,592	\$6,771	\$4,179	62%
Miami - London			145,000		\$2,610	\$5,172	\$2,580	50%
New York - London			144,000		\$2,592	\$4,771	\$2,179	46%

Route	Airline	Partner Miles	Cost per mile when on sale	Cost to Buy Miles	Regular Published Fare	Difference
Atlanta - London	British Airways	170,000		\$3,060	\$4,971	\$2,379 48%
Boston - London					\$4,585	\$1,993 43%
Houston - London					\$5,025	\$2,433 48%
Philadelphia - London					\$4,999	\$2,407 48%
Washington, DC - London					\$5,171	\$2,579 50%

Emirates is a point transfer partner with three credit card rewards programs — Amex, Chase, and Marriott — so you can easily get the miles you need. The typical transfer time from Amex and Chase to Emirates miles is instantaneous (not every single time, but usually), while a transfer from Marriott points can take up to three days.

You can buy up to 500,000 Amex Rewards Points per year for just 2.5¢ each. Given that the baseline First Class fare from Newark to Athens is often \$7,497 to \$11,000 and that you can buy 170,000 Amex Rewards Points for about \$4,250, you'd end up saving up to \$3,247, or 43%.

Airline	First Class From/To	Miles	Cost to Buy Transferable Amex Points	Normal Fares	Strategy Savings
Emirates	New York/JFK - Milan	170,000	\$4,250	\$6,210	\$1,960 32%
	Newark - Athens		\$4,250	\$7,497	\$3,247 43%

BRIDGE ROUTE CONNECTIONS

Keep in mind that when using the available discounted long-haul award flight as a “bridge,” the connecting flight from the U.S. and/or international hub can be booked either in Business Class or economy, based on availability. If economy is the only cabin available on the short connecting flights, it's not the end of the world, as the most important part is getting the long-haul flight in the class you want first. [More here on “If you don't see your home airport or destination in an FCF report.”](#)

Most airlines are currently offering a “travel fee waiver,” including for award flights. It's great because it means it won't cost you anything to cancel or change your ticket. You can read more about it [here](#).

WHAT ABOUT TAXES?

Sorry, but I had to mention the T word, especially when British Airways is involved. BA and its partners have high award taxes and it's worth pointing out because they can greatly affect your bottom line. More on that [here](#).

FCF'S EXECUTIVE EURO RECKONER SUMMARY

- Pay cash when First Class fares are in the \$2,500 to \$3,500 range. With the [free change](#) policy, you have built-in “insurance,” as well as the chance to improve your deal.
- Use miles for fares in the \$5,000+ range.
- If you're somewhere in the middle, take a look at [our report on when to use miles or cash](#).

Eur-open Sesame! Time to Cross the Pond Again, With Unprecedented United Mileage Upgrade Availability

August 2021

Top 10 hidden routes you can confirm mileage upgrades on at time of ticketing — something you may not see again until the next lockdown.

It seems like just yesterday that Bloomberg published the headline “[EU Set to Lift Travel Curbs for U.S. Residents This Week](#).” It was music to my eyes, and yours too, I’d wager.

While we certainly need more to get back to normal (including the U.S. reciprocating by lifting restrictions from some European countries), it’s a major step in the right direction.

But the news isn't all peachy keen. Business Class fares are relatively high on many nonstop routes right now. We found 10 routes with unprecedented (three or more months with four or more seats) upgrade availability.

UPGRADING WITH MILES 101

We love using miles to upgrade. Most folks don't even consider it. They build up their treasure chest of miles and blow it on free flights in economy or non-discounted premium seats. I say "blow it" because that's not always where the best value is in air travel. Far from it. And the airlines know that. Here's how to get true value, especially for the elite status focused traveler: Buy the coach ticket that is upgradable to Business Class, at time of ticketing, with your miles. That's when you start winning the game, especially when you can't find any free seat availability and fares are high.

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

Example: Let's say you're traveling from Los Angeles to London. The lowest United upgradeable economy fare is currently \$851 for travel in September, while the average lowest Business Class fare is \$3,787. So, even with the \$1,100 co-pay, you can save \$1,836 (48%) off the published fare by using just 40,000 miles. That's not bad a bad value, at 4.6 cents per mile. As you often hear me say, flying in a premium class cabin means that a good travel experience (maybe it's your vacation) starts when you get *on* the plane, not when you get off it. See below for more sample savings.

United Route	Upgradeable Economy Fare	Co-pay	Total	Miles to Upgrade	Business Class Fare	Savings
Chicago - Frankfurt	\$838	\$1,100	\$1,938	40,000	\$4,388	\$2,450 56%
Chicago - London	\$702		\$1,802		\$4,537	\$2,735 60%
Chicago - Zurich	\$801		\$1,901		\$3,951	\$2,050 52%
Houston - Amsterdam	\$810		\$1,910		\$4,460	\$2,550 57%
Houston - London	\$851		\$1,951		\$4,687	\$2,736 58%
Los Angeles - London	\$851		\$1,951		\$3,787	\$1,836 48%
Newark - Berlin	\$662		\$1,762		\$3,658	\$1,896 52%
Newark - London	\$702		\$1,802		\$4,087	\$2,285 56%
San Francisco - London	\$851		\$1,951		\$4,587	\$2,636 57%
Washington, DC - London	\$752		\$1,852		\$4,487	\$2,635 59%

MILEAGEPLUS ELITE, 202

Upgrades from the U.S. to Europe are going for 20,000 miles + \$550 co-pay each way with W/S/T/L/G/K fares; \$475 each way with V fares; \$425 each way with H/Q fares; and \$300 each way with M/E/U fares.

Since upgrades can be used one-way for half the miles (plus the surcharge), why not think of two one-way flights? Glad you asked – consider [upgrading the overnight flight and flying Premium Economy on the day flight home](#).

WHEN NOT TO USE MILES FOR AN UPGRADE ON UNITED

Don't use your miles when published Business Class fares are low. For example, say you're traveling from Chicago to Milan to visit your old work partner and racquetball adversary, João. This is a route where Business Class fares are somewhat low — only \$1,862 at time of writing. The lowest United upgradeable economy fare is currently \$513. Add the \$1,100 co-pay (plus 40,000 miles) for a total of \$1,613. That's only a savings of \$249, and you would have to use 40,000 of your hard-earned miles. That's not a great value. João would be disappointed; he knows you're more competitive than that.

MILE MISERS RISE UP

If you don't have enough (or any) United miles, there's an easy fix. Just buy 'em when they go on sale or transfer your Marriott or Chase points to United.

UA'S UMA

Before the lockdown United was stingier with their availability than a swarm of wasps. Now there's unprecedented mileage upgrade availability (UMA). So, that means no running the gauntlet for MileagePlus opportunists (at the moment anyway) on these routes:

Route	Depart			Return		
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Chicago - Frankfurt	Aug., Nov., April	Dec.	Jan. to March	Aug.		Nov. to April
Chicago - London		May	Aug. to April, May		June	Oct. to May, June
Chicago- Zurich	Nov. to Jan, May	Jan.	Jan., Feb. to April	July		Nov. to June
Houston - Amsterdam		Nov.	Oct., Dec. to March		May	Oct. to April

Route	Depart			Return		
	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Houston - London			Aug. to May		Oct.	Aug., Sept., Dec. to May
Los Angeles - London		Dec.	Nov., Jan. to March	Nov.	Dec., May	Jan. to April
Newark - Berlin	Dec.	Nov., Dec., April	Jan. to March			Nov. to April
Newark - London	Oct., May	Nov., Dec.	Nov., Dec., Jan. to April	Sept., June		Oct. to May
San Francisco - London	Oct., Dec.	Oct., Nov., Dec.	Nov., Jan. to April	June	Nov., Dec., May	Nov., Dec., Jan. to April, May
Washington, DC - London	June		Oct. to May			Oct. to June

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

WHAT TO DO WHEN AN UPGRADE IS ONLY AVAILABLE ONE WAY?

United lets you combine economy and Business Class fares. It means you can upgrade the flight segment that has upgrade space available, and book the other leg in Business Class. On the Denver-Frankfurt route, the combined coach-Business Class fare is \$2,664, while round-trip Business Class is \$4,089 for travel in October. So, even with the \$550 one-way co-pay to upgrade from coach to Business Class, you can still save \$875 (21%) by using miles one way.

ADDING CONNECTING FLIGHTS TO THE LONG-HAUL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

From the U.S., you should consider buying an economy through-fare ticket (i.e., Austin-Houston-London-Hamburg) that includes the entire itinerary on one ticket. Use miles to upgrade from the gateway to the international hub, at a minimum. If upgrade space is available on the short connecting segments, grab them, as the cost is the same. Some United partner connecting flight opportunities to keep in mind...

[Lufthansa](#): Flights to other destinations in Europe from Berlin, Frankfurt, and Munich include: Athens, London, Cyprus, Moscow, Prague, and countless others.

[SWISS](#): Flights from Zurich include: Amsterdam, Bucharest, Dublin, Malta, Oslo, and countless others.

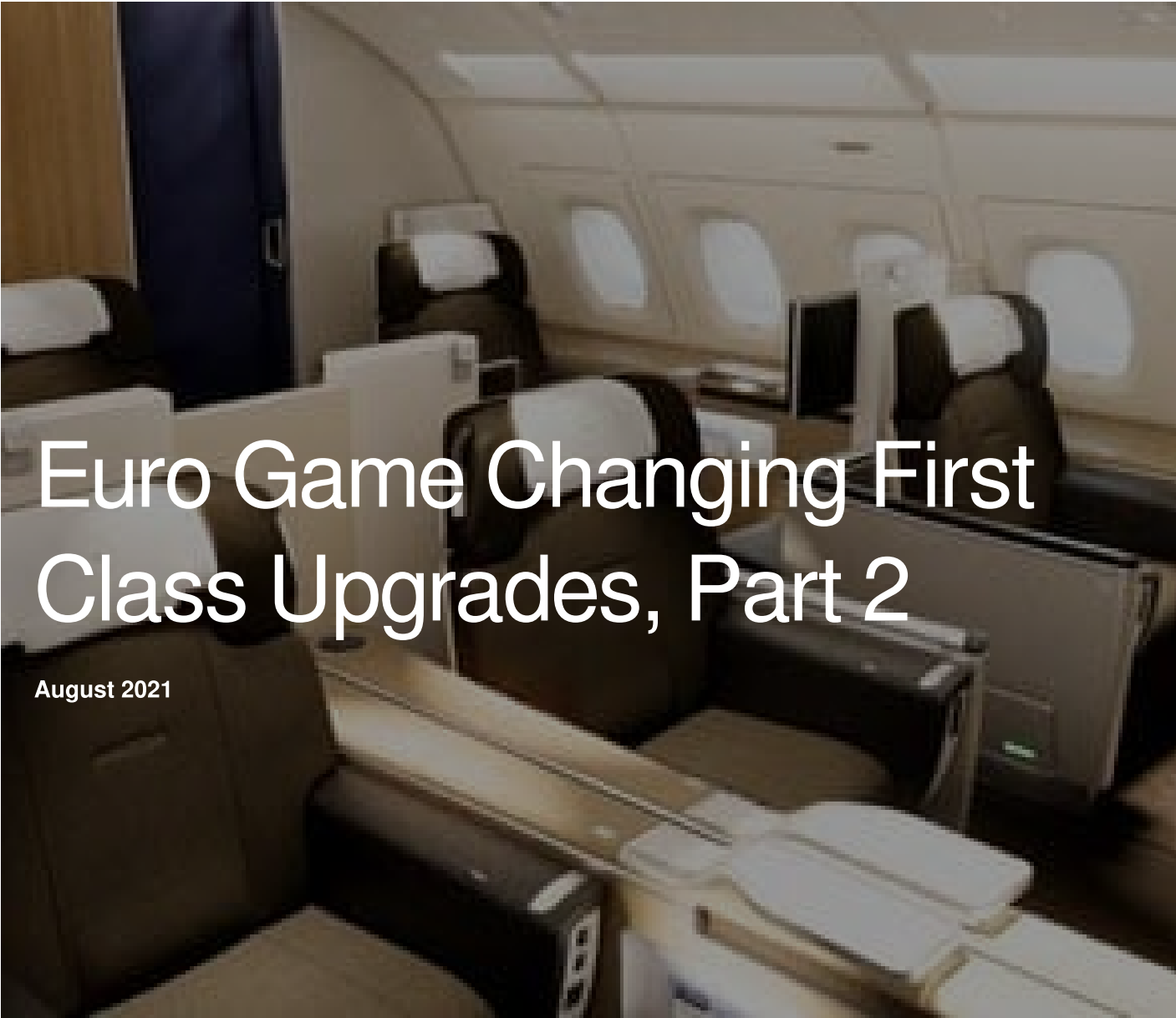
Related Reads:

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

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

[Elite Status Combat Force: Best Ticketing Strategies Based on Your Level of Inflexibility](#)

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



Euro Game Changing First Class Upgrades, Part 2

August 2021

FCF's new favorite upgrade strategy

Only last month we reported that [Lufthansa's First Class is back in the game to Europe](#) with prime routes once again offering First Class seats. Wunderbar! Even better, FCF discovered **First Class availability as far as 28 days in advance of departure** instead of the usual 14.

That's HUGE because it multiplies the upgrade options plus the peace of mind of having the ticket much sooner. Time to uncork a bottle of crisp riesling. That said, I wouldn't be surprised if the old policy of 14 days will return when travel peaks again so, as always, get while the getting's good.

The best way to leverage the deal is via Air Canada, which we [covered in detail](#) last month, is an Amex and Chase (as of August 3) points partner. More on this in last month's report and below.

Here are the transatlantic routes with First Class availability to/from Frankfurt and:

- Chicago
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- New York/Newark
- New York/JFK
- Houston returns September 1

Now let's talk about some juicy Germanic upgrades, tastier than a bratwurst.

WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM THE DEAL ONLY AVAILABLE 28 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE?

- The **Last-Minute "Opportunity" Traveler**, who we describe [here](#).
- The **You-Already-Have-an-Award-Ticket-in-a-Lesser-Class Dude**. More on that [here](#).
- The **[Can't-Find-a-Round-Trip-in-First-Class](#) Flyer**. Fly Lufthansa First Class on your night flight and return in Business Class for your day flight on an award booking.
- The **First-Class-Fares-Are-Steep-So-You-Purchased-Business-Class Traveler**. More on that [here](#).
- The **First-Class-Wasn't-Available-So-You-Booked-a-Business-Class-Award Person**. More about that [here](#).

You can also use this plan to kick-start our spectacular Leg Stretch Strategy to Europe. I love telling people about this. Read more about it [here](#).

ONE WAY TO LOOK AT IT: 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 difference of 23,000 miles for a vastly different experience in pond hopping comfort. Some say First Class is only 10 yards away from Business. I'd call it a million miles.

Let's put some sauerkraut on that sausage: If you were to buy 23,000 miles during Air Canada's sales promo at 1.3 cents each (it just ended, but it'll come up again), they would cost you \$299, meaning the entire

upgrade from Business to First, each way, costs just \$299. That's a darn good 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-to-Frankfurt route is \$8,109 one way. OUCH.

But via Air Canada's recent 1.3 cents purchase strategy, you could pay \$1,300 instead (that price excludes ~\$55 outbound, or ~\$187 return in award taxes), netting you a savings of \$6,809 (84%). WOW.

With Air Canada's [Aeroplan program](#) you can use your miles to also pay for the award taxes. For 107,042 miles each way, nearly the same amount of miles required to book through Singapore Airlines, you can save up to ~\$1,223 R/T versus booking with Singapore Airlines. And you don't spend a dime if you have Air Canada or transfer partner Amex or Chase points.

DON'T MISS THE NEXT SALE

Recent FCF Sweet Redeems alerts [here](#) and [here](#) outlined the aforementioned Air Canada Aeroplan 1.3¢ deal, which included taxes and processing fee, through an up to 80% bonus miles buy promo, which ended on July 31.

Don't despair. Watch for future buying opportunities because those can be an upgrade game-changer. Here's a link to [buy miles](#).

COLUMBUS TO COPENHAGEN. AN EYE-OPENING DISCOVERY

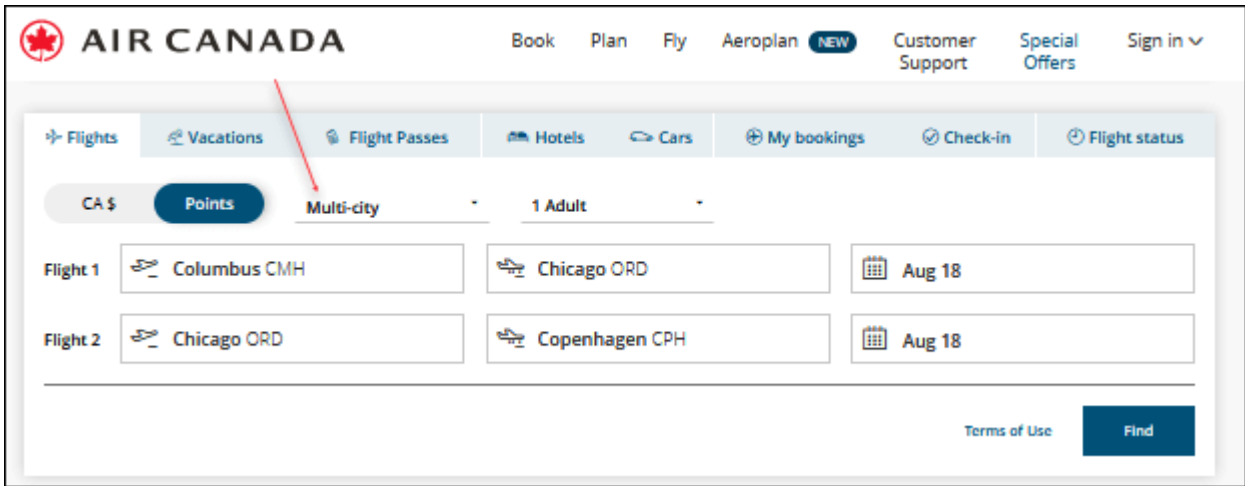
By making a multi-city booking (see the screenshot below), you can travel from Columbus to Copenhagen via Chicago and Frankfurt for 117,814 miles or \$1,531 if you purchased Air Canada points during the recent sale.

In this example, our traveler, let's call him Christopher the "Columbian," flies from Columbus to Chicago on an economy flight (only an hour-plus flight time). He then settles back in First Class comfort for a luxurious 8+

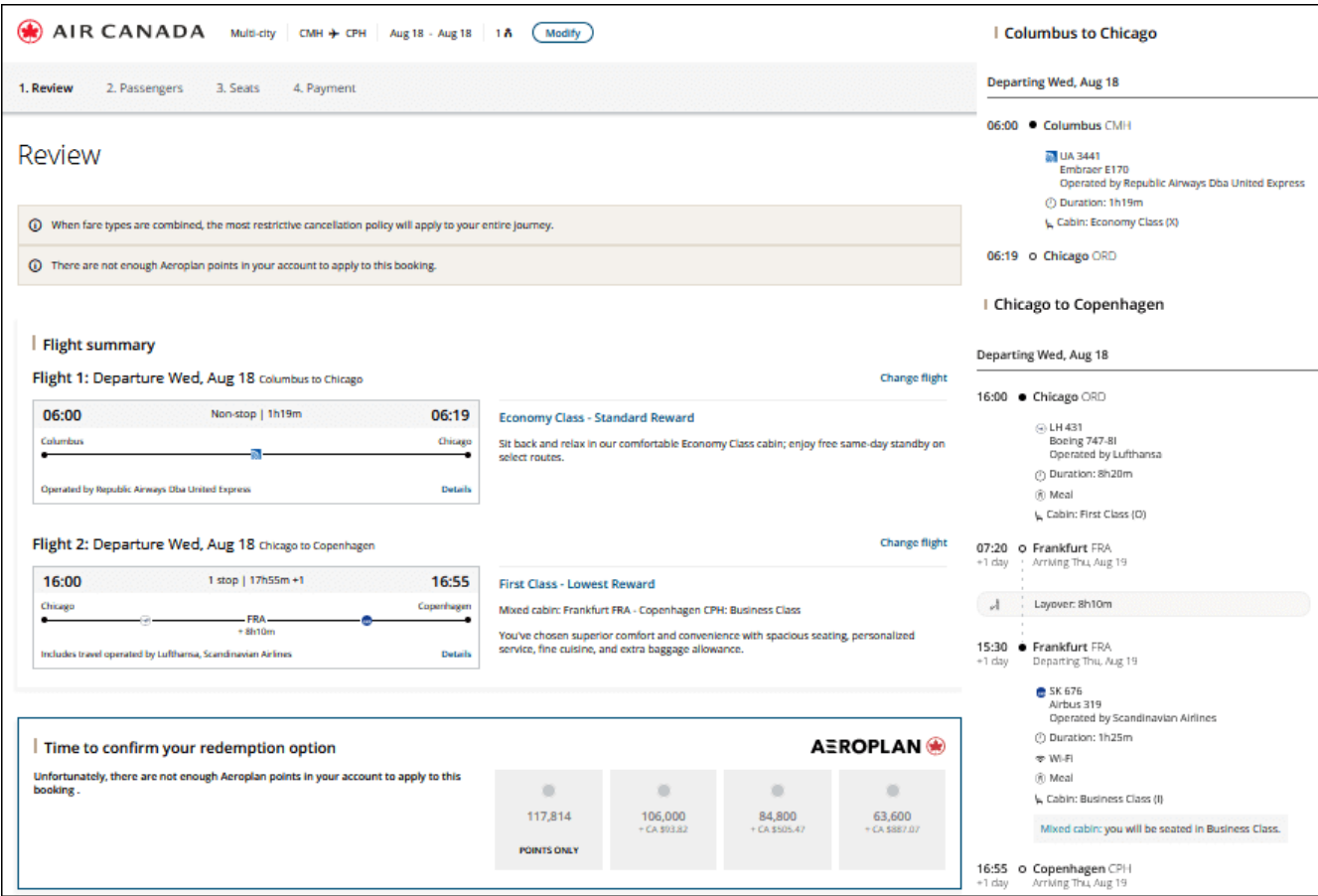
hours (he might even have wished it were longer) to Frankfurt. He might spend some time there (he loves exploring) or continue on to Copenhagen, this time in Business Class, all for 117,814 miles, and in his case, \$1,531 because he jumped on that sale.

That’s crazy-good. 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 be comfy in. More on that [here](#).

Queen Isabella would be proud of Christopher of Columbus. Here’s all the screenshot proof you need.

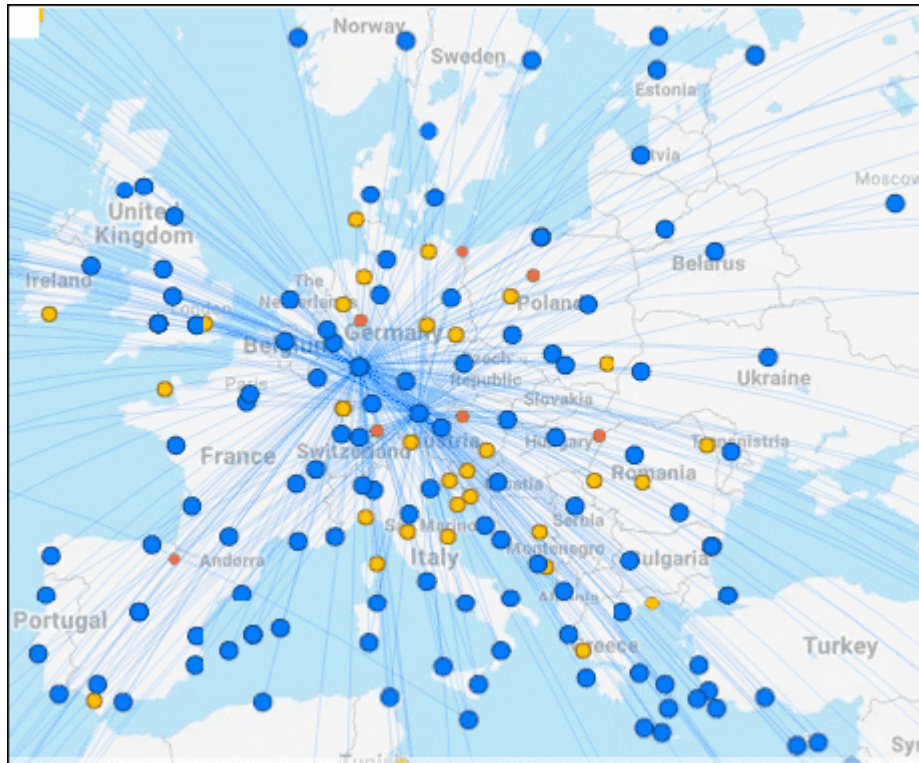


Queen Isabella would be proud of Christopher of Columbus. Here’s all the screenshot proof you need.



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 jump the pond, Star Alliance, with its 26 member airlines, offers a starburst of flights beyond Germany.



Screenshot from FlightConnections.com

RISK AND REWARD

Due to covid uncertainty, Air Canada is currently offering a “travel fee waiver” for award flights through August 31 (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](#).

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOYANCES

Germany not your preferred destination? We’ve got you covered [here](#).

Only one award seat available? Have a seat and read [this](#).

HOW TO BOOK IN 5 STEPS

1. Keep an eye out for [FCF Sweet Redeems alerts](#) that are on top of availability for you.
2. Sign-in to Air Canada’s Aeroplan website.
3. Click “Flights” and “Points.” Fill in your details. Click “Find.”

4. If your date is available choose your flight, then click "Select" for the Lowest Reward.
5. 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.

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

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 Preview seats Details	70K + CA \$71	100K + CA \$71	100K + CA \$71

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 Preview seats Details	40K + CA \$71	-	-	-



How savvy anglers reel in the best fares

It's really saying something when one of our researchers says, "I'm having a hard time putting a fare chart into this report when there have been three fare changes already this week!"

And that was on Tuesday.

Welcome to fare fishing season, where prices are elusive, depth-changeable, and just as slippery as our scaled friends in the ocean.

I mean, nowadays, Business Class fares can be down around the \$1,500 level to Europe one day, then slap you in the face with a \$6,000 mullet the next. How savvy anglers reel in the best fares

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HOW TO AVOID MISSING OUT ON THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

This is really about fishing in the right spots **when fares are high**, so here are our FCF fare fishing tips:

- Know when to pay with cash or miles. Find more on that [here](#).

- Know how to [hold fares](#) (because snap-frozen fish taste just as good when cooked).
- Check for refundable fares for the same cost or a little more. See more on that [here](#).
- Be aware that many airlines are currently offering a “travel fee waiver,” including for award flights. That means it won’t cost you anything to cancel or change your ticket. Read more about it [here](#).
- Check vacation packages if you can’t find low fares. There’s more about that [here](#).
- Check out our last [Fishing for Fares](#) special report to learn more on the art of reeling in Business Class return fares for \$2,000 or lower.

Stay ready for nibbles on the line with FCF’s fare alerts. They’re more important than ever when a silvery flash fare jumps out of the lake.

For example, July 14 we published an alert: [Italy / Switzerland / Austria: New Business Class Fares from the U.S. from \\$1,512 R/T](#). We were gone — hook, line, and sinker. And then a day later those fares bounced back to gutting pre-flash fare levels.

Here are some other examples:

New York – Dubrovnik

A recent flash fare for a nonstop round-trip flight on United was \$1,488. Now it’s between \$4,188 and \$6,188 nonstop.

Charlotte – Milan

Recent Star Alliance flash fares were \$1,511. Now they’re between \$3,774 and \$7,761. That said, United does have a few dates in November and December with fares as low as \$2,125. Smell something fishy?

The screenshot shows a United MileagePlus flight search results page. At the top, there's a yellow bar with the text "MileagePlus: Sign in or join". Below that, the search criteria are "Roundtrip (1 traveler)" and "Edit search". The flight details are as follows:

Date	From	To	Time
Thu, Aug 12, 2021	CLT	MXP	2:20 pm - 8:20 am
Thu, Aug 19, 2021	MXP	CLT	10:20 am - 4:47 pm

The fare breakdown is shown below the flight details:

Fare	\$1,401.00
Taxes and fees	\$110.35
TOTAL	\$1,511.35

At the bottom, there's a note: "starting from \$135/month ?" with a question mark icon.

MileagePlus: Sign in or join

Roundtrip (1 traveler) [Edit search](#)

Thu, Aug 12, 2021
 CLT - MXP 2:20 pm - 8:20 am

Thu, Aug 19, 2021
 MXP - CLT 10:20 am - 4:47 pm

Fare \$7,150.00
 Taxes and fees \$110.35

TOTAL \$7,260.35
 or
 starting from **\$645/month** [?](#)

Ft. Lauderdale – Athens

Recent Star Alliance flash fares cost \$1,510, but this week they were \$4,159 for the same dates. We found other dates for as high as \$6,669. What the haddock is happening?

Flight summary
 Departing flight Sunday, December 12, 2021 Fort Lauderdale, US (FLL) - Athens, GR (ATH)

13:50
 Fort Lauderdale
 AC 903

1 Stop - 14hr25m +1
 YUL
 + 2hr10m
 AC 898

11:15
 Athens
 Details

Business Class (lowest)
 1 Adult
 You've chosen superior comfort and convenience with spacious seating, personalized service, fine cuisine, extra baggage allowance and access to premium airport services.

Return flight Tuesday, December 21, 2021 Athens, GR (ATH) - Fort Lauderdale, US (FLL)

13:00
 Athens
 AC 897

1 Stop - 18hr06m +1
 YYZ
 + 4hr15m
 AC 918

00:06
 Fort Lauderdale
 Details

Business Class (lowest)
 1 Adult
 You've chosen superior comfort and convenience with spacious seating, personalized service, fine cuisine, extra baggage allowance and access to premium airport services.

Price summary

Cancel within 24 hours of purchase without penalty. You will receive a full refund if you change your mind. [Find out more](#)

Share itinerary

14:28 Time to book! Complete your booking to guarantee your fare.

1 adult
 View price breakdown

Flights
 Air transportation charges (including Surcharges) \$1401.00
 Taxes, fees and charges \$109.83

GRAND TOTAL - US dollars \$1510.83
 Change currency

AIR CANADA

FLL → ATH
Dec 12 - Dec 21
1

EN
Customer Support
Sign in

1. Review
2. Passengers
3. Options
4. Seats
5. Payment

US \$4159.65
Details

Trip summary

Flight summary

Departing flight Sunday, December 12, 2021 Fort Lauderdale, US (FLL) - Athens, GR (ATH)

13:50
Fort Lauderdale
AC 903

1 Stop - 14hr25m +1
YUL
+ 2hr10m
AC 898

11:15
Athens
AC 898

Business Class (lowest)
1 Adult
You've chosen superior comfort and convenience with spacious seating, personalized service, fine cuisine, extra baggage allowance and access to premium airport services.

Details

Return flight Tuesday, December 21, 2021 Athens, GR (ATH) - Fort Lauderdale, US (FLL)

13:00
Athens
AC 897

1 Stop - 18hr06m +1
YYZ
+ 4hr15m
AC 918

00:06
Fort Lauderdale

Business Class (lowest)
1 Adult
You've chosen superior comfort and convenience with spacious seating, personalized service, fine cuisine, extra baggage allowance and access to premium airport services.

Details

WHAT ABOUT MILEAGE UPGRADES?

Note that when fares are low it does not pay to upgrade with miles. For example, Chicago to Milan on United, you can spend \$513 traveling in coach. Add the \$1,100 co-pay and you end up with a total of \$1,613 — plus the 40,000 miles round-trip to upgrade. Compare that to a \$1,862 Business Class fare, and the answer is clear: Buy the Business Class fare.

Here's the top 20 fares under \$2,000 found at time of writing.

Business Class Fares Under \$2,000

Airline	From	To	Fare
United	Chicago	Milan	\$1,862
Lufthansa		Bilbao	\$1,884
Lufthansa, Swiss		Florence	\$1,866
United		Bologna	\$1,869
United		Pisa	\$1,902
United, Lufthansa		Palma	\$1,958
United		Turin	\$1,982
United		Naples	\$1,990
American, British Airways		Minorca	\$1,978

Airline	From	To	Fare
British Airways	New York	Paris	\$1,799
American		Vienna	\$1,852
American		Stockholm	\$1,882
American		Munich	\$1,886
American		Bologna	\$1,900
British Airways		London	\$1,953
TAP	Miami	Barcelona	\$1,703
American		Zurich	\$1,819
American		Munich	\$1,886
American, British Airways		Rome	\$1,874
American		Frankfurt	\$1,897

Many other low Business Class fares can be found by visiting our FCF newsroom alerts as seen here:

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

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