



Big in Every Way. The A380 Is Back.

December 2021

Life's short. Fly luxuriously with ease with Miles or Points or for up to 60% off with dollars with FCF's New A380 discount availability cheat sheets.

The A380 "superjumbo" is the world's largest passenger aircraft. And it's just as big a barbecue conversation stopper when you talk about that shower you took in your Emirates First Class suite. Mic drop. Steak's burning.



THE AWESOME A380

Yes, this travel experience is a bucket list buster in the [truest sense](#). I've flown on Emirates several times, and let me say, it's nothing short of amazing.

If you haven't flown for a while or are just itching to splurge on something nice for yourself, why not go big and tick off the A380 experience now that it's back in service on Emirates? The A380 is reemerging on a number of other airlines including British Airways to London from Los Angeles and Miami and Qantas to Sydney from Los Angeles. **But the only great deal at the moment is with Emirates.**

THE A380 SEAT (OR SHOULD WE SAY THRONE?)

Emirates has brought back A380s on its service between Dubai and New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, DC; and New York-Milan.

The Emirates First Class suite is one of the best First Class suites in the air. The shoulder-high enclosed compartment offers sliding doors for a comfortable, private experience. Depending on the specific aircraft and route, the number of suites ranges from eight to 14 in a 1x2x1 configuration.

Each suite has an 80.5"-long lie-flat seat, a personal mini-bar, vanity table, mirror, wardrobe, and a 27" entertainment monitor. And as mentioned, A380 suite passengers also get to use the in-flight Shower Spas. [Take a closer look at the experience here.](#)



Emirates First Class

NO EMIRATES MILES? NO PROBLEM.

Getting Emirates miles is relatively simple. They're a point transfer partner with four credit card reward programs — **Amex, Capital One, Chase, and Marriott** — so it's easy to transfer points across any of them. Our research shows that transfer times from Amex, Capital One, and Chase are nearly instantaneous, while Marriott points can take up to three days.

NO POINTS? NO PROBLEM.

You can buy up to 500,000 Amex Rewards points per year for just 2.5 cents each. Given that the baseline First Class fare from San Francisco to Dubai is often \$16,300, and that you can buy 247,500 Amex Rewards Points for \$6,187, plus add taxes with the Emirates loyalty program for ~\$400, you **save \$9,713**. That's a whopping 60% off.

FCF'S CURRENT AVAILABILITY CHEAT SHEET





Flip the script and ramp up your upgrade-ability.

Ever heard of Douglas “Wrong Way” Corrigan? Although he was a skilled aircraft mechanic (a builder of Charles Lindbergh’s famed Spirit of St. Louis plane), his sense of direction was questionable. After flying from California to New York in 1938, he hopped in his plane for the return flight and promptly flew the wrong way — straight to Ireland.

ARE YOU FLYING THE WRONG WAY?

If you’re like most people, you typically go through these three steps to book a vacation:

1. The Dreaming Phase: Whether you're inspired by a TV ad, a glossy travel magazine, a movie set in an alluring location, a well-written travel story, or simply by hearing about incredible travel experiences from your friends or family, the dreaming phase is usually what gets the process going.

2. The Planning Stage: You've made your decision to go *somewhere* using the aforementioned sources and the planning phase begins. This is typically a very time-consuming process for most people. There are tons of details to hammer out: When should we go? Where exactly should we go? What airlines fly there and what are their schedules like? And so on. **According to a report by Expedia, most travelers typically visit a whopping 38 websites — yes, 38 — to book their vacation.**

3. The Booking Step: Now that you've chosen your destination, set your travel dates, and booked your hotel, you finally start thinking about flights.

But here's the thing: **If you're value-conscious at all, you're going about it the wrong way.**

THE RIGHT WAY TO FLY

Listen, it's time to ditch that old-school way of thinking that leaves the airline booking for last. As you've likely seen from your previous trips, it's typically the least fun part of the trip planning process. Trust me, if you stop doing it like everyone else, your entire booking experience will improve — and you'll save money, too.

Here's the problem with conventional wisdom: You've spent weeks planning a specific trip around specific dates, but you haven't once considered your options for premium air travel — which **could end up having the biggest impact on your budget.**

By the time you're ready to book the airline ticket, you won't be able to find any deals because you've already boxed yourself in by the dates of your hotel, tour, or cruise.

Yes, this mindset is a fundamental shift away from what you're probably used to doing. And you're not alone. But once you come around to it, your travel life (and your wallet) will improve immeasurably. So...

IF YOU HAVE A FINITE BUDGET...

Most people don't have an unlimited travel budget, so when you're able to save thousands of dollars on premium airline tickets it allows you to:

- Take longer vacations
- Explore more side trips and adventures
- Treat yourself to more and/or upgraded tours, better accommodations and/or suites, and finer dining experiences

Let FCF find the best flight deals for you, then plan the rest of your trip around those opportunities. All you have to do is **keep a broad wish list of destinations on hand**, so when crazy-amazing premium opportunities surface – as they always do – you’re ready to pounce.

HOW TO *UNBOX* YOURSELF

Rather than fixating on one place to go next, consider keeping a few different continents and regions (or a few different places within a given region) on your wishlist. Then choose the one that offers the best travel opportunity during your time frame. I have a gazillion places on my bucket list. I just pick ‘em off as the opportunities arise more or less – and they always do. The last thing I do is pick a spot and pay through the nose for it.

Consider other cities/destinations: Have New Zealand on your list? If you don’t see a deal to Auckland in the [FCF newsroom](#), but there’s a First Class seat for less than the price of Business Class to Sydney, why not check out Sydney for a day (or three) on your way? Then you can tack on Auckland to the trip since you’ll already be in that part of the world. You may never be Down Under again, so it’s the perfect time to take advantage of the opportunity. That’s what we call an [Opportunity Traveler](#).

I once was on my way to Sydney, but there were only flights available to Melbourne, so I checked out what was going on there the day I was en route. Lo and behold, the Australian Open was happening and I got to see Serena Williams crush it in the semifinals (an unforgettable experience), all because I didn’t have my travel blinders on.

When you open yourself up to multiple continents, regions, or cities, dream trips and side trips will start banging on your door.

Staying flexible allows you to pounce on truly great opportunities when they come up. You’ll start seeing them everywhere.

EXAMPLES OF EXOTIC HIGH-END DEALS YOU CAN BOOK RIGHT NOW THAT OFFER STRONG VALUE

WHEN EXOTIC FIRST CLASS SEATS MATTER...

Emirates has one of the world’s best First Class seats and a [vast route network beyond Dubai](#). Now they’re resuming their majestic A380 service; see FCF Sweet Redeem alerts [here](#) and [here](#). But flying Emirates doesn’t just mean going to Dubai. The airline also flies [New York-Milan](#) using the A380 (see all Emirates [A380 routes here](#)). They also have a [Newark-Athens](#) service, which uses a B777.

Doesn’t this offer an unforgettable flight experience that will kick off your trip in the right direction, big time? Looks like it to me. All accomplished by thinking about your flights first, as you’ll seldom find great deals on the exact dates you need to pair with your locked-in itinerary.

WHEN ELITE STATUS MATTERS...

If you're a United loyalist *and* elite status is important to you *and* you want to go to Asia *and* you don't want to pay \$5,000+ for Business Class *and* you refuse to fly coach, an option that ticks all those boxes is using a mileage upgrade to "up" your cabin. We recently scoured 45 United routes to Europe and found [six routes with ultra-slim availability for upgrades](#) and 23 United routes to Asia and found two routes with ultra-slim availability for upgrades to Business Class that you can easily tack onto a flight beyond the long haul for free much of the time. [More on that here](#).

Is this the difference between a miserable long-haul trip and a nice one for elite-focused travelers not willing to spring for a Business Class fare? Looks like it to me. All by thinking about flights first because [your odds of finding United upgrades are extremely low otherwise](#).

WHEN DOLLARS OUT OF POCKET MATTER...

The New York-Stockholm nonstop flight for travel Friday, June 3, through Sunday, June 12, costs \$3,465 on United. Compare that with traveling *a month later*, Friday, July 15, through Sunday, July 24, for a cost of \$7,180. What a difference a month makes. In other words, [don't lock in your resort or cruise for July](#) without checking your flight options.

Round trip · 1 · Business Class					Total price from
Newark ↔ Stockholm					\$3,465
	Fri, Jun 3 · 5:30 PM – 7:35 AM ^{*1} United · Lufthansa	8 hr 5 min EWR–ARN	Nonstop	1.95 t CO ₂ +9% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Sun, Jun 12 · 9:10 AM – 11:45 AM United · Lufthansa	8 hr 35 min ARN–EWR	Nonstop	1.95 t CO ₂ +11% emissions ⓘ	▼
Round trip · 1 · Business Class					Total price from
Newark ↔ Stockholm					\$7,180
	Fri, Jul 15 · 5:30 PM – 7:35 AM ^{*1} United · Lufthansa	8 hr 5 min EWR–ARN	Nonstop	1.95 t CO ₂ +9% emissions ⓘ	▼
	Sun, Jul 24 · 9:10 AM – 11:45 AM United · Lufthansa	8 hr 35 min ARN–EWR	Nonstop	1.95 t CO ₂ +11% emissions ⓘ	▼

WHEN GETTING THE MOST BANG FOR YOUR POINTS MATTERS

What's more, using the wrong mileage "currency" can also cost you big time. For example, booking a flight [using Delta Miles costs 320,000 one way, while using Virgin miles on the same flight and day is only 50,000 one way](#). That's a crazy-big difference. You can brag about that to the passenger sitting next to you and you might start a fight (or send a new FCF subscriber our way).

Is that a six-for-one? Looks like it to me. All by thinking about flights first.

virgin atlantic

JFK - FRA

One way

Jan 10

1 passenger

Edit search

Join

Log in

Mon, Jan 10, 2022

Prices include taxes, fees, charges and carrier imposed surcharges. 'Recommended' may list Virgin Atlantic operated flights first. [Extra bag charges](#)

Lowest fare

Fastest

Direct

DL106¹

7h 45m

5:30PM → 7:15AM

TUE 11 JAN

JFK → Direct → FRA

¹ DL 106 is operated by Delta Air Lines.

Upper Class

Delta One® (O)

50,000

+ \$5.60

One way

Total per adult

DELTA

JFK - FRA

One Way

Jan 10

1 Passenger

MODIFY

SIGN UP

LOG IN

Mon, Jan 10, 2022

Price includes taxes and fees. [Baggage fee](#) may apply. Services and amenities may vary or change.

LOWEST FARE

FASTEST

DL106

7h 45m

5:30pm → 7:15am

TUE 11 JAN

JFK → Nonstop → FRA

Delta One

Delta One® (O)

310,000

+ \$6

One Way

Another one... Fly in First Class on All Nippon using 150,000 All Nippon Miles versus United's everyday Business Class mileage cost of 350,000. You will literally be miles ahead of your peers.

ANA

Inspiration of JAPAN

Top Page

Contact information

Logout

ANA MILEAGE CLUB

1 Flight Search

2 Passenger Information

3 Payment Method

4 Complete

Itinerary

	Departure/Arrival	Flight	Seat	Class	Status	Service
Feb 7 Monday 12h25min	00:05 Los Angeles(LAX) Terminal: B	NH105 ANA 77W	--	First	OK	Lounge Meal Movie Duty Free
	05:30 +1 day Tokyo(Haneda)					
Feb 19 Saturday 9h50min	17:00 Tokyo(Narita) Terminal: 1	NH006 ANA 77W	--	First	OK	Lounge Meal Movie Duty Free
	09:50 Los Angeles(LAX)					

Payment

Required mileage	Total
150,000 Miles	USD 196.05
Adult x1	

TIME TO LOCK IN THE DEAL

Just grab the deal now.

You don't have to figure it all out right away. [If you do need to change later](#), that change fee — if any — is peanuts compared to the huge savings you've already scored.

The point is that deals disappear quickly, so you need to be prepared to jump on 'em before they're gone.

The key is to book the most important part of your trip — the flight — whenever that amazing deal surfaces to a place on the top of your bucket list.

A MENTION OF REDEMPTION

If you haven't already, check out our [“Sweet Redeems” alert page](#). It's packed with routes and airlines with low-cost Business and First Class mileage award availability. Forget Disneyland, THIS is the happiest place on earth.

RELATED STRATEGIES TO KEEP IN MIND

- **Know when to pay** with cash or miles. You can find more on that [here](#).
- **Know how to [freeze and hold fares](#)** (because snap-frozen fish tastes just as good when cooked).
- **Check for refundable fares** for the same cost or slightly more. More on that [here](#).
- **Be aware of “travel fee waivers”** that many airlines are currently offering, including for award flights. That means it won't cost you anything to cancel or change your ticket. Read more about it [here](#).
- **Check the weather:** Just type the city and weather by month into Google to find out what to expect. For example, the [Rome monthly weather](#) forecast provides month-by-month average temperatures.
- **Scout out local events**, which can enrich your travel experience further. For example, if you see an amazing FCF deal to Melbourne, but you really want to go to New Zealand, why not hit the Melbourne Cup horse race on the way? (It's known locally as “the race that stops a nation.”) Then you can add on a flight to Auckland and enjoy two destinations instead of one. Major events are one of my favorite ways to experience other cultures.



The FCF Eurasian Stopover. Go-Crazy Business Class Savings to Europe and Asia

December 2021

Get Europe on your way to Asia, or add Asia to your Europe trip, and save a bundle with this FCF trick ticket.

The team here at FCF loves a lateral solution to a problem. And here we have another beauty. I'm talking about linking Asia and Europe, which are generally considered east and west from the U.S. Maybe it's the way we've been conditioned to read maps that has us thinking east and west. The "Far East"? It could also be called the "Far Northwest" from the U.S. as the crow flies (hope that crow has mittens).

Go ahead, have a play with the earth [here](#) and see what I mean.

So, back to Europe and Asia. Instead of either going to one or the other, or thinking about them as geographic opposites, why not make them geographic allies and join them together? In this case, a right angle that links the U.S., Helsinki, and Asia.



WHO WINS WITH FCF'S STOPOVER STRATEGY?

Here's looking at you, cheap elite credit collectors. Or you, low-fare foragers. Even you, exotic city sightseers. Yes, this stopover strategy ticks a lot of boxes.

Fares to Asia right now can be especially expensive in Business Class. They can easily be in the \$5,000 to \$9,000+ range if you fly nonstop or in a westerly direction.

But if you add a stop in Europe (here we're looking at cool Helsinki, Finland, from which you can easily bounce around to anywhere in Northern Europe, even the must-do St. Petersburg, Russia, just a 3.5-hour train ride away), you can save up to 61% on your fare — **and you'll get a stop in Europe for free.**

To be clear, it's still farther than flying from the U.S. to Asia direct, but the savings are head (and globe) spinning. Plus you're up in Business Class enjoying amenities that pass the time comfortably. You can even stop in Europe coming *and/or* going, if an epic trip tastes appetizing to you both ways.

FCF'S OVER-THE-TOP NUMBER CRUNCH

The New York-Helsinki-Hong Kong-Helsinki-New York fare is \$3,730 on Finnair, for example.

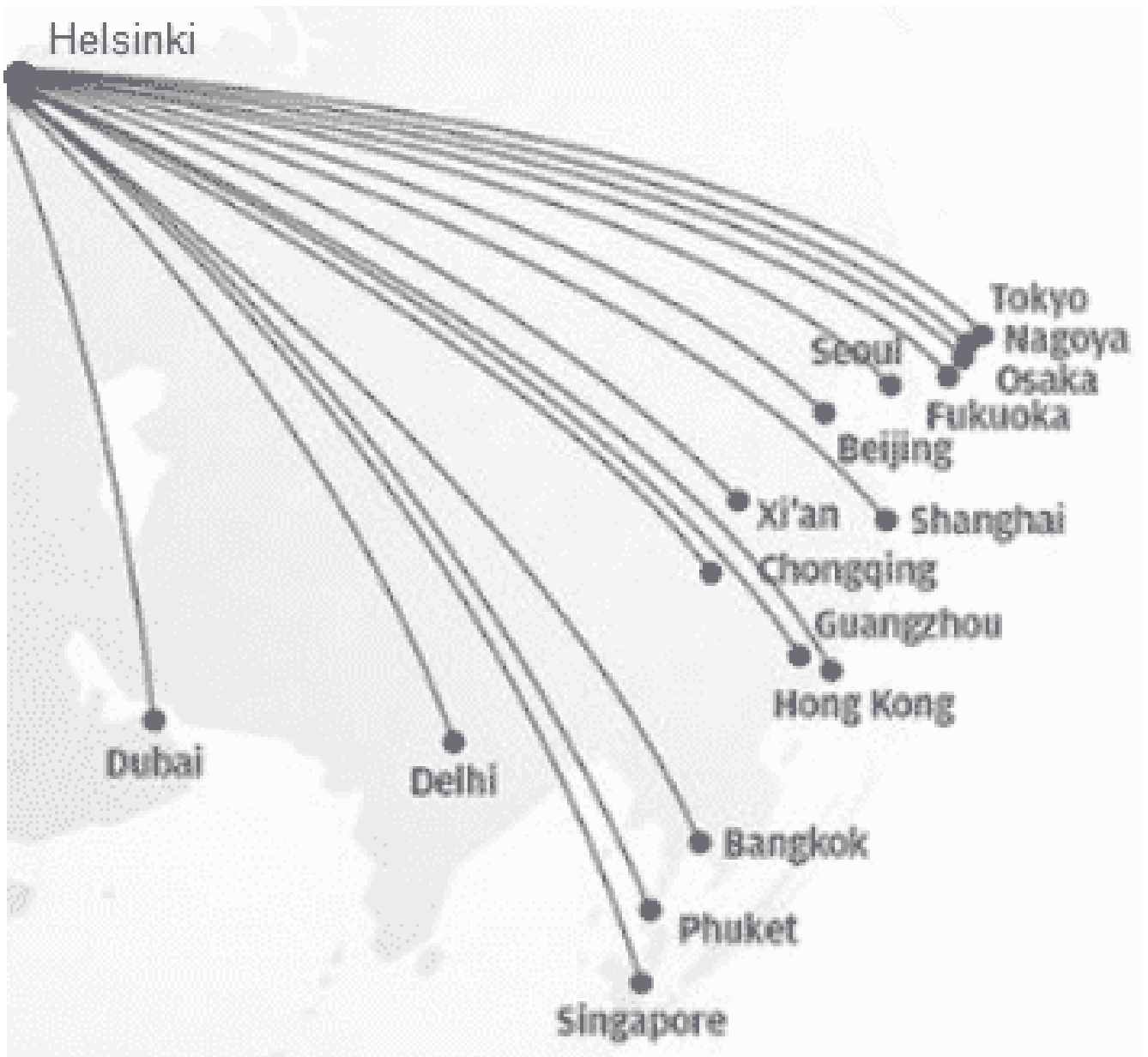
An over-the-top savings, literally.

The chart below shows round-trip flights on Finnair from Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York to Helsinki, as well as the prices when you add an Asian stopover. In most cases, you save money to add on the Asian city.

From	R/T Fare To Helsinki On Finnair	R/T Fare to Asia On Finnair		R/T Fare To Asia With Stopover In Helsinki	Savings Off Typical Non-stop Fares to Asia		Link To Pre-Baked Trip
New York	\$3,379	Hong Kong	\$2,930	\$3,730	\$4,853	57%	Pre-Baked Trip
		Tokyo	\$2,997	\$3,542	\$5,528	61%	Pre-Baked Trip
		Seoul	\$3,634	\$3,658	\$1,088	23%	Pre-Baked Trip
Chicago	\$3,567	Hong Kong	\$2,930	\$3,680	\$4,574	55%	Pre-Baked Trip
		Tokyo	\$2,997	\$3,826	\$6,105	61%	Pre-Baked Trip
		Seoul	\$2,908	\$3,708	\$2,138	37%	Pre-Baked Trip
Los Angeles	\$3,762	Hong Kong	\$4,054	\$3,729	\$2,053	36%	Pre-Baked Trip
		Osaka	\$4,145	\$3,830	\$1,689	31%	Pre-Baked Trip

*Fares in chart reflect trip price after all flights are selected. Fares may fluctuate within a couple hundred dollars.

WHERE DOES THIS WORK?



FINNAIR'S BUSINESS CLASS CABIN





Are Advance Planners Getting Rewarded or Gouged These Days When Booking Premium International Flights?

December 2021

It depends on where you're going and if you pay with miles or dollars

Mom always talked about the importance of planning ahead. So how does Mom's advice stack up in the post-2021 travel world?

Well it **depends on how you're buying your tickets** and if you're looking at low- or high-cost routes.

WHY BOOK IN ADVANCE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

Perhaps you want to book early to secure a place at La Tomatina in Spain, the world's biggest food fight, or to see the Northern Lights, or the FA Cup Final, or Milan Fashion Week or maybe you want to lock in your spot on a cruise ship or on a popular tour. Maybe you just like to be ahead of the game in general.

Airlines typically allow you to book [330 days in advance](#), but there are a few **misconceptions** about booking so far in advance:

Biggest Airfare Misconception:

While airlines [gouge](#) passengers on last-minute travel, if you book way in advance you'll get a great deal.

Biggest Miles Misconception:

Airlines release mileage seats way in advance.

Uh, no, neither one is actually the case nowadays.

Let's take a look at the numbers.

FCF FARE SURVEY

The chart below tells a tale of tall fares. Even when you put every one of those 330 advance days to work, you see a bunch of relatively high fares. Booking way in advance and paying with cash? Sorry, Mom, not according to this data. You'll actually pay more. See below...

Star Alliance Business Class				
Airline	From / To	Typical Fare When You Book...		Difference
		Up To Four Months In Advance	The Max In Advance / 11 Months	
SWISS	New York - Zurich	\$2,577	\$6,312	\$3,735
Lufthansa	New York - Frankfurt	\$2,652	\$6,520	\$3,868
SWISS	Chicago - Madrid	\$2,715	\$3,510	\$795
United	Chicago - Rome	\$2,389	\$3,837	\$1,448
Lufthansa	Chicago - Milan	\$1,861	\$3,921	\$2,060
Lufthansa	Los Angeles - Paris	\$2,887	\$3,772	\$885

Star Alliance Business Class				
SWISS	Los Angeles - Copenhagen	\$2,887	\$3,770	\$883
Lufthansa	Los Angeles - Dubrovnik	\$1,967	\$1,930	-\$37
United	Los Angeles - Lisbon	\$2,866	\$3,803	\$937
United	Washington, DC - Madrid	\$2,214	\$3,467	\$1,253

oneworld Business Class				
Airline	From / To	Typical Fare When You Book...		Difference
		Up To Four Months In Advance	The Max In Advance / 11 Months	
American	New York - Munich	\$2,333	\$3,633	\$1,300
Iberia	New York - Barcelona	\$2,463	\$2,976	\$513
American	New York - Paris	\$2,753	\$4,438	\$1,685
American	Miami - Rome	\$2,432	\$4,397	\$1,965
American	Miami - Madrid	\$2,431	\$4,030	\$1,599
British Airways	Miami - Lisbon	\$2,049	\$4,508	\$2,459
American	Chicago - Frankfurt	\$2,683	\$3,994	\$1,311
Iberia	Chicago - Barcelona	\$2,698	\$7,038	\$4,340
British Airways	Chicago - Rome	\$2,384	\$4,515	\$2,131
British Airways	Los Angeles - London	\$2,937	\$3,807	\$870
American	Los Angeles - Amsterdam	\$2,882	\$6,858	\$3,976
British Airways	Los Angeles - Athens	\$2,246	\$4,751	\$2,505

SkyTeam Business Class				
Airline	From / To	Typical Fare When You Book...		Difference
		Up To Four Months In Advance	The Max In Advance / 11 Months	
Air France	Los Angeles - Copenhagen	\$2,892	\$4,583	\$1,691
Air France	Los Angeles - Paris	\$2,953	\$6,893	\$3,940
Delta	Los Angeles - Rome	\$2,888	\$3,842	\$954
KLM	Atlanta - Amsterdam	\$2,908	\$6,860	\$3,952

SkyTeam Business Class				
Air France	Atlanta - Paris	\$2,993	\$6,943	\$3,950
Delta	Atlanta - Zurich	\$2,918	\$4,646	\$1,728
Delta	New York- Athens	\$2,743	\$3,668	\$925
KLM	New York - Vienna	\$1,901	\$6,602	\$4,701
Air France	New York - Paris	\$2,753	\$5,694	\$2,941

FCF MILES SURVEY

You may have already learned the hard way that finding homes for your miles is tough right now. Generally speaking, the booking 330-days-in-advance thing is just about gone for milers. Airlines are more and more shrewd about seat revenue, so they're only releasing ones they *really* think won't sell.

So the news isn't great unless you do some diligent digging, as we deftly do at FCF just for you.

BOOKING FAR IN ADVANCE THE FEW AVAILABLE ROUTES USING MILES

As you can see, our truffle hounds have sniffed out some juicy morsels, most are high fare routes, including more than expected availability for 13+ days per month. Japan Airlines Los Angeles and New York to Tokyo in Business Class and American New York to São Paulo in First Class are showing particularly good availability.

TO ASIA

Star Alliance First Class	Route	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
All Nippon	Chicago - Tokyo			Aug. to Oct.			Aug. to Oct.
	Los Angeles - Tokyo	Sept.	Oct.	Aug.	Oct.	Aug., Sept.	

Star Alliance Business Class	Route	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
All Nippon	San Francisco - Tokyo	Oct.	Sept.	Aug., Oct.	Aug., Oct.		Sept.
	San Jose - Tokyo	Sept., Oct.		Aug. to Oct.			Aug., Sept. , Oct.
	Seattle - Tokyo	Aug., Sept., Oct.		Oct.	Oct.	Aug.	Sept., Oct.
Singapore	Los Angeles - Tokyo			Aug., Oct.	Sept., Oct.	Aug., Oct.	Aug., Sept.
	New York - Singapore	Aug., Sept. , Oct.	Sept., Oct.	Sept., Oct.	Sept., Oct.	Aug., Sept. , Oct.	Sept., Oct.
	San Francisco - Hong Kong			Nov.			Nov.

oneworld First Class	Route	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Cathay	New York - Hong Kong			Oct.			Oct.
	San Francisco - Hong Kong		Sept.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	

oneworld Business Class	Route	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Cathay Pacific	Los Angeles - Hong Kong			Sept., Oct.			Sept., Oct.
Japan	Los Angeles - Tokyo	Aug., Sept. , Oct.		Aug., Sept., Oct. , Nov.		Aug.	Aug., Sept. , Oct. , Nov.
	New York - Tokyo	Aug., Nov.	Sept.	Aug., Sept. , Oct. , Nov.	Aug., Nov.	Sept.	Aug., Sept. , Oct. , Nov.

oneworld Business Class	Route	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
	San Francisco - Tokyo			Aug. to Nov.			Aug. to Nov.

TO EUROPE

Star Alliance First Class	Route	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Singapore	New York - Frankfurt	Oct.	Oct.				Oct.

oneworld Business Class	Route	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Iberia Business Class	Boston - Madrid		Sept.	Oct.		Sept.	Sept., Oct.
	Chicago - Madrid	Aug., Sept.	Aug., Oct.	Oct.		Aug., Oct.	Aug., Sept., Oct.
	Los Angeles - Madrid		Oct.			Oct.	
	Miami - Madrid			Sept. to Nov.		Sept.	Oct., Nov.
	New York - Madrid			Aug.. to Oct.			Aug.. to Oct.

TO SOUTH AMERICA

American First Class	Route	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
American	Miami - Sao Paulo	Aug.	Aug., Sept., Oct.				Aug., Sept., Oct.
	New York - Sao Paulo	Sept.	Aug.	Aug.		Sept.	Aug., Sept.

TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Non-Alliance First Class	Route	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Emirates	San Francisco - Dubai			Aug., Sept.	Aug., Oct.		Sept.
	Washington, DC - Dubai			Aug., Sept.	Oct.	Sept.	

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

HOW ALLIANCES AND AIRLINES COMPARE WITH ADVANCED MILEAGE TICKET TRAVELERS 10 TO 11 MONTHS OUT

BUSINESS CLASS

Alliance	Airline	Region	Routes Checked	Routes with Availability
Star	United	Asia	25	0
	Air Canada		7	0
	Eva		2	1
	All Nippon		9	3
oneworld	American		10	1
	Cathay Pacific		3	3

Alliance	Airline	Region	Routes Checked	Routes with Availability
	Japan		7	7
Star	United	Europe	50	1
	Air Canada		32	12
	Austrian		3	0
	Brussels		3	2
	Lot		4	3
	Lufthansa		16	0
	SAS		5	0
	SWISS		5	1
	TAP		5	3
oneworld	American		27	10
	Iberia		9	5
Star	Turkish	Middle East	8	6
	United	South America	7	1

FIRST CLASS

Alliance	Airline	Region	Routes Checked	Routes with Availability
Star	AI Nippon	Asia	4	3
	Singapore		1	0
oneworld	American		3	1
	Cathay Pacific		5	2
	Japan		4	4
Star	Lufthansa	Europe	7	0
	Singapore		1	1
oneworld	American		5	2
	British Airways		2	0
Non-alliance	Emirates		2	2

Alliance	Airline	Region	Routes Checked	Routes with Availability
	Emirates	Middle East	9	5
oneworld	American	South America	3	2

HOW MANY DAYS OUT YOU CAN BOOK

This chart shows how far ahead you can book on certain routes and cabins using the operating airline or through a partner airline, and whether availability is less or the same in either case.

Operating Airline	Days Out You Can Book Using Operating Carrier	Lowest Cost Amex Partner	Days Out You Can Book Using Partner	Level of Availability	How to Book
All Nippon	355	Virgin Atlantic	331	Less	Through Virgin Atlantic Via Phone
American	331	Cathay Pacific	360	Less	Through Cathay Pacific Via Phone
Cathay Pacific	360			Same	Through Cathay Pacific Online
Emirates	328	Emirates	328	Same	Through Emirates Online
Japan	360	Cathay Pacific	360	Less	Through Cathay Pacific Online
Singapore	355	Singapore	355	Same	Through Singapore Online
Iberia	354	Iberia	354	Same	Through Iberia Online

NO MILES? JUST BUY 'EM

On high-fare routes, consider buying miles on American and United if you don't already have them. As the data above and below show, buying miles isn't just an option for those with empty mile buckets. It's simply a super-smart play, which is not used nearly enough. The pupil-dilating sections are over on the right hand side. Look at those crazy Chicago-Tokyo First Class savings on All Nippon – \$17,444. That's not the discounted price, that's the savings.

Operating Airline / Class	Route	Buy Miles from	Miles Cost	Typical Cost To Buy Miles When On Sale At ~1.8¢ Each	Normal Published Fare	Savings	
All Nippon First Class	Chicago - Tokyo	United	242,000	\$4,356	\$21,800	\$17,444	80%
	Los Angeles - Tokyo				\$17,366	\$13,010	75%
All Nippon Business Class	San Francisco - Tokyo		166,000	\$2,988	\$9,399	\$6,411	68%
	San Jose - Tokyo				\$9,690	\$6,702	39%
	Seattle - Tokyo				\$6,780	\$3,792	32%
American First Class	Miami - Sao Paulo	American	153,000	\$2,754	\$4,944	\$2,190	91%
	New York - Sao Paulo		138,000	\$2,484	\$6,986	\$4,502	64%
Cathay Pacific Business Class	Los Angeles - Hong Kong		140,000	\$2,520	\$5,843	\$3,323	57%
Iberia Business Class	Boston - Madrid		115,000	\$2,070	\$3,844	\$1,774	46%
	Chicago - Madrid				\$3,494	\$1,424	41%
	Los Angeles - Madrid				\$3,994	\$1,924	48%
	Miami - Madrid				\$3,794	\$1,724	45%
	New York - Madrid				\$3,594	\$1,524	42%
Japan Business Class	Los Angeles - Tokyo		120,000	\$2,160	\$5,379	\$3,219	60%
	New York - Tokyo				\$9,070	\$6,910	76%
	San Francisco - Tokyo				\$8,819	\$6,659	76%

See our special report [here](#) on how to navigate booking far in advance with miles.



U.S. Inflation Ruination: Add United Business Class Award Flights to Your List of Things to Kiss Goodbye

December 2021

It's "Pesogate" all over again... here are FCF's latest workarounds...

Remember Pesogate? Okay, I'm being deliberately provocative. It was the nickname given to Delta when they switched from a standard award chart to a "dynamic" award chart which promptly jacked up their miles prices to stratospheric levels for international premium travel (from 160,000 to 340,000+ one-way in some instances). Dynamic alright. It caused Delta SkyMiles to start being called "SkyPesos."

ENTER 2021 SUPPOSED TO BE THE GOOD YEAR, RIGHT?

Well, welcome to the unfriendly skies of United, which has just done the same thing with big mile hikes. It seems inflation isn't just rearing its ugly head all over the U.S. with furniture, used cars and trucks, shipping, utilities, gas, and most everything else increasing from ~20% to 100%+.

Your retirement plans have been feeling it... and now your United MileagePlus "pesos" are too.



Your retirement plans have been feeling it... and now your United MileagePlus "pesos" are too.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE NOW

Here are the United Business Class flights FCF evaluated:

- 25 nonstop routes to Asia
- 50 nonstop routes to Europe
- 7 nonstop routes to South America

And this is what we found available at the *lowest discounted award cost*, ** looking at up to 330 days ahead.

OUT OF 25 ROUTES TO ASIA...

United Business Class From / To	Round-trip Mileage	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 - Tokyo	140,000	Jan.			Jan.	Jan., Feb.	Feb.

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

OUT OF 50 ROUTES TO EUROPE...

United Business Class From / To	Round-trip Mileage	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
Houston - Amsterdam	120,000	Feb.			Feb.		
Newark - London	130,000-150,000	April, Sept.		May to Aug., Oct.	May, Oct.	Aug., Sept.	June

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

OUT OF 7 ROUTES TO SOUTH AMERICA...

United Business Class From / To	Round-trip Mileage	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
Houston - Rio de Janeiro	120,000	Aug., Sept.			Aug., Sept.		

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

**** When FCF checks availability we mean discount/low-cost availability and discounted award space that meets the following criteria: nonstop routes with the **lowest award cost AT LEAST four or more days available** each month outbound and return for one, two, and four seats. Here are the round-trip cost benchmarks we use for different continents:**

- 140,000 miles and under for discount awards to Asia
- 150,000 miles and under for discount awards to Europe
- 140,000 miles and under for discount awards to South America

What You Can Expect to Pay Nowadays

Here's what **typical Business Class pricing now** looks like from Newark and San Francisco to Europe on United **one-way** (keeping in mind it wasn't long ago that one-ways in Biz Class were just 60,000 United miles)...

NEW PRICING TO EUROPE

United Business Class Newark To/From:	Lowest One-way Cost Found For Two Travelers / Each
Paris	106,700
Amsterdam	106,700
Berlin*	122,900
Athens	127,100
Dublin*	93,800
Munich*	113,500
London*	113,500
Madrid*	87,700
Rome	104,200
Iceland	112,500
Milan	94,600
Nice	122,900

*Less than 5 days out of 330 at a lower amount.

United Business Class San Francisco To/From:	Lowest One-way Cost Found For Two Travelers / Each
Paris	133,300
London	133,300
Frankfurt	145,800
Munich	145,800

*Less than 5 days out of 330 at a lower amount.

Those asterisks above say a lot. For half the routes there was only an occasional day where you'd find a price less than the amount in the chart. And by occasional, I mean one out of 100 days. If you're lucky, you might find a 60,000 mile one-way ticket, but tough luck for everyone else. It's a sobering chart. Unfortunately, if you can't find the needle you'll have to pay the haystack price – which is often double or triple or more.

GOING DEEPER ON THE ONE DECENT ROUTE: NEWARK-LONDON

Let's drill down further on this particular route to illustrate the current devastation for those banking United miles. We checked for two measly seats and this is what we found:

- The lowest one-way mileage price of 65,000 was only available fewer than five days out of 330.
- There are a few dates (less than 10) with prices from 66,700 to 75,000 from January to April and most weekdays for travel April to August. Apart from that, mileage prices ranged from 83,300 to 245,000 one-way.
- The best day of the week to travel is Tuesday, and the worst day is Sunday.
- **This is the route with the best availability — everything else is much worse.**

Here's what United's pricing calendar typically looks like for Newark-London nonstop in Business Class...

United States | English
Saved trips
Contact us

Hi, TRISH
View Account | Sign out

From
New York/Newark, NJ, US (EWR)

To
London, GB (LHR)

Departure date
Jan 25, 2022

Return date
Add return date

Search by:
☐ Price
☒ Award travel

Update

Select your departure: New York/Newark, NJ, US → London, GB

Show fares for Business/First

<
Lowest award fare per day - Jan 16 - Feb 19, 2022
>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16	17	18	19	20 93.8k +\$5.60	21 101.7k +\$5.60	22 114.2k +\$5.60
23 245k +\$5.60	24 172.8k +\$5.60	25 76.9k +\$5.60 Lowest	26 83.3k +\$5.60	27 93.8k +\$5.60	28 95.8k +\$5.60	29 95.8k +\$5.60
30 245k +\$5.60	31 172.8k +\$5.60	1 83.3k +\$5.60	2 101.7k +\$5.60	3 101.7k +\$5.60	4 174.5k +\$5.60	5 175k +\$5.60
6 245k +\$5.60	7 245k +\$5.60	8 172.8k +\$5.60	9 101.7k +\$5.60	10 174.5k +\$5.60	11 174.5k +\$5.60	12 175k +\$5.60
13 245k +\$5.60	14 83.3k +\$5.60	15 83.3k +\$5.60	16 83.3k +\$5.60	17 95.8k +\$5.60	18 95.8k +\$5.60	19

Here's what United's pricing calendar typically looks like for Newark-London nonstop in Business Class when there are low-cost awards available...

United States | English
Saved trips
Contact us
Hi, TRISH
View Account | Sign out

From
New York/Newark, NJ, US (EWR)

To
London, GB (LHR)

Departure date
Aug 8, 2022

Return date
Add return date

Search by:
☐ Price
☒ Award travel

Update

Select your departure: New York/Newark, NJ, US → London, GB

Show fares for
Business/First

<
Lowest award fare per day - Jul 17 - Aug 20, 2022
>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17	18	19 66.7k +\$5.60	20 66.7k +\$5.60	21 75k +\$5.60	22 75k +\$5.60	23 75k +\$5.60
24 172.8k +\$5.60	25 66.7k +\$5.60	26 66.7k +\$5.60	27 66.7k +\$5.60	28 75k +\$5.60	29 75k +\$5.60	30 75k +\$5.60
31 129.2k +\$5.60	1 66.7k +\$5.60	2 66.7k +\$5.60	3 66.7k +\$5.60	4 75k +\$5.60	5 75k +\$5.60	6 75k +\$5.60
7 66.7k +\$5.60	8 65k +\$5.60 Lowest	9 65k +\$5.60 Lowest	10 66.7k +\$5.60	11 75k +\$5.60	12 69.2k +\$5.60	13 75k +\$5.60
14 129.2k +\$5.60	15 66.7k +\$5.60	16 66.7k +\$5.60	17 66.7k +\$5.60	18	19	20

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THE UNITEDFLATION?

Using your United miles to travel with partners at a discounted rate is better than using United miles for travel on United.

We checked Business Class on 73 nonstop United partner flights to Europe, 18 nonstop United partner flights to Asia, and eight nonstop United partner flights to the Middle East. Here's what we found available at the lowest discount award cost, looking up to 330 days ahead. That's 1,000%+ more award seats than United flights.

TO ASIA: THE VOLUME OF UNITED DISCOUNT FLIGHTS COMPARED TO ITS PARTNERS

Airline	Number of Routes Surveyed	Number of Routes With Low-Cost Availability
United	25	1
Air Canada	7	3
Eva	2	1
All Nippon	9	8

TO EUROPE: THE VOLUME OF UNITED DISCOUNT FLIGHTS COMPARED TO ITS PARTNERS

Airline	Number of Routes Surveyed	Number of Routes With Low-Cost Availability
United	50	2
Air Canada	32	19
Austrian	3	3
Brussels	3	2
Lot	4	4
Lufthansa	16	7
SAS	5	0
Swiss	5	2
TAP	5	4

TO SOUTH AMERICA: THE VOLUME OF UNITED DISCOUNT FLIGHTS COMPARED TO ITS PARTNERS

Airline	Number of Routes Surveyed	Number of Routes With Low-Cost Availability
United	7	1

TO THE MIDDLE EAST: THE VOLUME OF UNITED PARTNER AVAILABILITY

Airline	Number of Routes Surveyed	Number of Routes With Low-Cost Availability
Turkish	8	6

FCF'S PARTNER AVAILABILITY TREASURE MAPS TO ASIA

All Nippon Business Class Using United Miles To Tokyo From	Round-trip Mileage	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	166,000		Aug., Oct.	July, Sept.	June, July	Aug.	Sept., Oct.
Houston		June		July to Oct.	March, June, July, Oct.	Sept.	Aug., Oct.
Los Angeles		Sept., Oct.		Aug.	Aug., Nov.	Sept.	
San Jose		April, Sept., Oct.	May	June to Oct.	April, May		June to Aug., Sept., Oct.
Seattle		Oct.	Sept.	July, Aug., Oct.	Aug., Oct.		Sept.
San Francisco		July to Sept., Oct.		Oct.	July	Aug.	Sept., Oct.
Washington, DC		Aug. to Oct.	July		Aug. to Oct.		
Vancouver		July, Sept., Oct.	June		Sept., Oct.		

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

Eva Business Class Using United Miles To Taipei From	Round-trip Mileage	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Vancouver	176,000	April, May	July, Sept.	Aug., Sept.	April to July	Aug., Sept.	Sept., Oct.

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

All Nippon ***First Class*** Using United Miles From Tokyo To	Round-trip Mileage	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	242,000		July	Aug. to Oct.			Aug. to Oct.
Los Angeles		July, Sept.	Oct.	Aug.	Dec., Oct.	Aug., Sept.	
San Francisco		July					

*Months in black at least one seat available.

FCF'S PARTNER AVAILABILITY TREASURE MAPS TO EUROPE

Air Canada Business Class Using United Miles From / To	Round-trip Mileage	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
Montreal - Barcelona	154,000	April, Oct.	April	Oct.	April, Oct.	April	Oct.
Montreal - Frankfurt		March, April	Jan.	Jan., Feb., March	June	Feb., March	Jan., Feb. to April
Montreal - Geneva		Feb., March, May, July, Aug. to Oct.	Jan., Feb., March, July	April	Jan., Feb., March	Jan., Feb., June	April., May, June, Oct.
Montreal - London		Jan., Feb.		March, April, May, July to Oct.	Jan.	Jan., Feb., March	March, April, May, Sept., Oct.
Montreal - Lyon				July to Oct.			Oct.
Montreal - Nice		Sept.	Sept., Oct.			Sept., Oct.	Sept.
Montreal - Paris		Sept.	Oct.	July, Aug.			Oct.
Toronto - Amsterdam		Feb., March	March	Oct.	Feb., March	March, Oct.	Oct.
Toronto - Barcelona		April	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	April	
Toronto - Copenhagen				Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	

Air Canada Business Class Using United Miles From / To	Round-trip Mileage	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
Toronto - Dublin		March, April, May, July, Aug.	April, July, Sept.	May, July, Aug., Sept., Oct.		March, April	March, April, Oct.
Toronto - Frankfurt		March	Feb., April	Jan., March, April		March	Jan., Feb. to April
Toronto - London		Jan., Feb., May, July, Aug.	Jan., Feb., Aug., Oct.	March, April, July, Aug., Oct.	May	Jan., Feb., March	Jan., March, April, Oct.
Toronto - Madrid		April, Sept.		Sept., Oct.	April	April	Oct.
Toronto - Munich		Jan., Feb., March		March	Jan., Feb., March, April		March
Toronto - Vienna		Jan., Feb., March, Aug.	Jan., March, April		Jan. to March,	April, May	April
Toronto - Zurich		Jan., March	March	April	March	March	April
Vancouver - London			Oct.	Oct.	Oct.		Oct.
Vancouver - Frankfurt		Feb., March				March	

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

Austrian Business Class Using United Miles To Vienna From	Round-trip Mileage	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	154,000	March	March	Jan., Feb.			Jan. to March
New York		April		Jan. to March	April		Jan. to March
Washington, DC		Jan. to March	Jan.		Feb., March	Jan.	

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

Brussels Airlines Business Class Using United Miles To Brussels From	Round-trip Mileage	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
New York	150,000	Jan. to April, May, June, July	Feb. to April, July	Aug. to Oct.	Jan., Feb.	Feb., March, April, May, July	June, July, Aug. to Sept.
Washington, DC		May, June, July, Sept.	April, July, Sept.	Aug., Oct.	July	July, Sept.	April to June, Aug., Sept.

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

LOT Polish Airlines Business Class Using United Miles To Warsaw From	Round-trip Mileage	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	154,000	Feb., March, July, Sept., Oct.	Jan., April, Aug. to Sept.	Feb., March, Aug. to Oct.	Jan., March, July, Aug., Sept., Oct.	Feb., April	Feb., March, April, Sept., Oct.
Los Angeles		Aug., Sept., Oct.		Oct.			
Miami			Aug.	Sept., Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.
New York		Jan., Aug., Oct.	Jan.		Jan., Oct.	Jan.	

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

Lufthansa Business Class Using United Miles From Frankfurt To	Round-trip Mileage	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	154,000	Feb., March, April	April		Jan., Feb., March	March, April, May	
Chicago		Jan.			Jan.		
Dallas		Jan., Feb., March	Feb.		Jan., Feb.	Feb., March	
Detroit		May	Jan., Feb.	March, April	Jan.	May	Feb. to April
New York			Jan. to March			Feb., March	Jan.
Seattle		Jan., Feb.	Jan.		Jan.		
Washington, DC		Jan., Feb., March	Feb.		Jan. to March		

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

SWISS Business Class Using United Miles To Zurich From	Round-trip Mileage	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	150,000			Jan.		Jan.	
New York	146,000	April, July, Sept.	July, Aug.	Jan. to March, Aug.	April	April, June	Jan. to March, April, May, Aug.

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

TAP Air Portugal Business Class Using United Miles To Lisbon From	Round-trip Mileage	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	154,000	Aug., Oct.			March, Sept., Oct.	Feb.	
Miami		Aug.	Oct.	Sept.		Oct.	Sept.
New York		Jan., April, Aug.		Feb., March, Sept., Oct.	April, May, June	Jan., May	Feb., March, Sept., Oct.
Washington, DC		Feb.			Feb. to April, Oct.		Sept.

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

FCF'S PARTNER AVAILABILITY TREASURE MAP TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Turkish Airlines Business Class Using United Miles To Istanbul From	Round-trip Mileage	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	154,000	Jan., May	Feb., March, July	April, Aug. to Sept.		March, April, June, Oct.	March, April, May, Sept.
Chicago				Jan. to May, July to Oct.	Jan.		Feb. to June, Sept., Oct.
Houston		Jan., May	May	Feb. to April, July to Oct.	Jan.	Jan.	Feb. to June, Sept., Oct.
Los Angeles		April, July, Aug., Oct.	April, July, Aug., Sept., Oct.	April	Sept., Oct.	April	April
New York				Jan. to May, July to Oct.			Jan. to June, Sept., Oct.

Turkish Airlines Business Class Using United Miles To Istanbul From	Round-trip Mileage	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month	4 to 8 Days Per Month	9 to 12 Days Per Month	13+ Days Per Month
Washington, DC		Jan., May	April, Oct.	Feb., March, April, July to Sept.	Jan., March	March, April	Feb., March, May, Sept.

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

More on this next month... in the meantime, you might want to book a partner flight while the getting is good, as it's likely inflation is going to be with us for a while : (



Spanish Fly: One of the Cheapest Ways to Get to Europe in Business Class With Miles, Points, or Dollars

December 2021

A reliable way budget premium travelers can fly Business Class for \$1,499 with more routes coming.

Iberia Airlines' mileage program is among FCF's favorites because it offers the cheapest Business Class flights between the U.S. and Europe that points can buy – as it is **a transfer partner with Amex, Chase and Marriott (and Capital One indirectly; see below)**. Instead of overpaying on another airline, save your money for a special bottle of Rioja, or a suite upgrade, or use Spain as a stepping stone to your European odyssey.

MORE U.S. GATEWAYS

Iberia's current U.S. gateways to Madrid are Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, and New York. Starting in April next year, Iberia is expanding its service 40%, from Dallas and Washington, DC and expects to add service from San Francisco. We expect mileage availability to open up on the new routes any day now.

AIN'T GOT IBERIA MILES? GO GET 'EM!

- Iberia is an Amex, Chase, and Marriott transfer partner (and via Capital One's British Airways partnership)
- Transfer British Airways Avios to Iberia Avios
 - You must be a member of Iberia Plus for 90 days "Combine my Avios."
 - There is no limit to how many or how often you can transfer Avios.
 - Transfers are usually instant.
 - [Details here on transferring British Airways Avios to Iberia](#)

BRITISH AIRWAYS

Discover Book Manage Help

USA - English

My Executive Club Menu

Combine Avios points

Executive Club
IBERIA PLUS
avios

Combine Avios points

Move Avios between your accounts

If you have an Executive Club, Avios or Iberia Plus account, you can combine Avios from these accounts, at the same value, and put them towards the offer you want to spend your Avios on. You just have to choose which account to put them into.

How it works

1. Select which account you would like to transfer Avios from or to.
2. Enter the amount of Avios you would like to transfer.
3. Confirm your selection and the transfer will happen immediately.

There is no limit to how many or how often you can transfer Avios and the transaction is instant.

BUSINESS CLASS COST IN MILES

- Buy up to 500,000 British Airways Avios annually [via Amex @ 2.5 cents each](#), plus:
 - Amex and British Airways often have offers with up to 40% transfer bonus so you would only need to transfer 49,000 for Boston and New York, 61,000 for Chicago and Miami, and 73,000

for Los Angeles and San Francisco to Madrid.

- If you don't have an Amex card, or need more than 500,000 annually, buy up to 200,000 miles annually from British Airways @ 2.8 cents each.

BUSINESS CLASS COST IN MILES

We'll get to the cost in points and dollars in a moment, but first we have to look at miles for a reason. Iberia operates a flight-distance award chart, so the miles required are based on the length of the flight.

More information on round-trip Business Class flights between the U.S. and Madrid for low season and high-season dates can be found [here](#).

68,000 low season / 100,000 high season round-trip:

Madrid to/from Boston, New York, and Washington, DC

85,000 low season / 125,000 high season round-trip:

Madrid to/from Chicago, Dallas, and Miami

102,000 low season / 150,000 high season round-trip:

Madrid to/from Los Angeles and San Francisco

THE MATH FOR \$1,499 BUSINESS CLASS ROUND-TRIPS TO EUROPE

To/From Madrid	Normal Business Class Cost R/T	Cost When Transferring During 40% Bonus	Cost to Buy Amex Points (at 2.5 Cents Each)	Total Cost Including Award Ticket Taxes	Typical Published Fare	Savings With This Strategy	
Boston	68,000	49,000	\$1,225	\$1,499	\$3,844	\$2,345	61%
Chicago	85,000	61,000	\$1,525	\$1,821	\$3,494	\$1,673	48%
Dallas	85,000	61,000	\$1,525	\$1,821	\$4,194	\$2,373	57%
Los Angeles	102,000	73,000	\$1,825	\$2,122	\$3,994	\$1,872	47%
Miami	85,000	61,000	\$1,525	\$1,822	\$3,794	\$1,972	52%
New York	68,000	49,000	\$1,225	\$1,499	\$3,594	\$2,095	58%
Washington, DC	68,000	49,000	\$1,225	\$1,521	\$4,844	\$3,323	69%

TAXES MUY LOW

On their New York-London route, British Airways' taxes can be \$1,200+. Jolly rotten, we say. Iberia is a welcome exception, as taxes run around \$274 to \$297.

IBERIA DEAL PERSPECTIVE NUMERO UNO

Upgrade from Coach to Business Class for 8,000 Miles or Points

When you earn miles with an American Airlines credit card to book flights to Europe, AA typically charges 60,000 miles round-trip for coach. But you can use an American Express, Capital One, or Chase card that nets points transferable to Iberia for 68,000 miles for Business Class to Madrid from Boston, New York, or Washington, DC. That's only 8,000 more miles for the upgrade.

IBERIA DEAL PERSPECTIVE NUMERO DOS

Iberia vs. Delta Business Class

Delta charges between 250,000 and 620,000 miles to fly round-trip in Business Class from New York to Madrid. But on Iberia, that flight goes for as low as 68,000 miles – almost four tickets for less than the price of one with Delta! ¡Ay, caramba!

IBERIA DEAL PERSPECTIVE NUMERO TRES

Iberia vs. American Business Class

American charges between 120,000 and 270,000 miles round-trip in Business Class for New York-Madrid, while Iberia charges as few as 68,000 miles. That's almost a 2-for-1 deal and the chances of getting an award seat are good because Iberia now offers up to 1000% more award space than American.

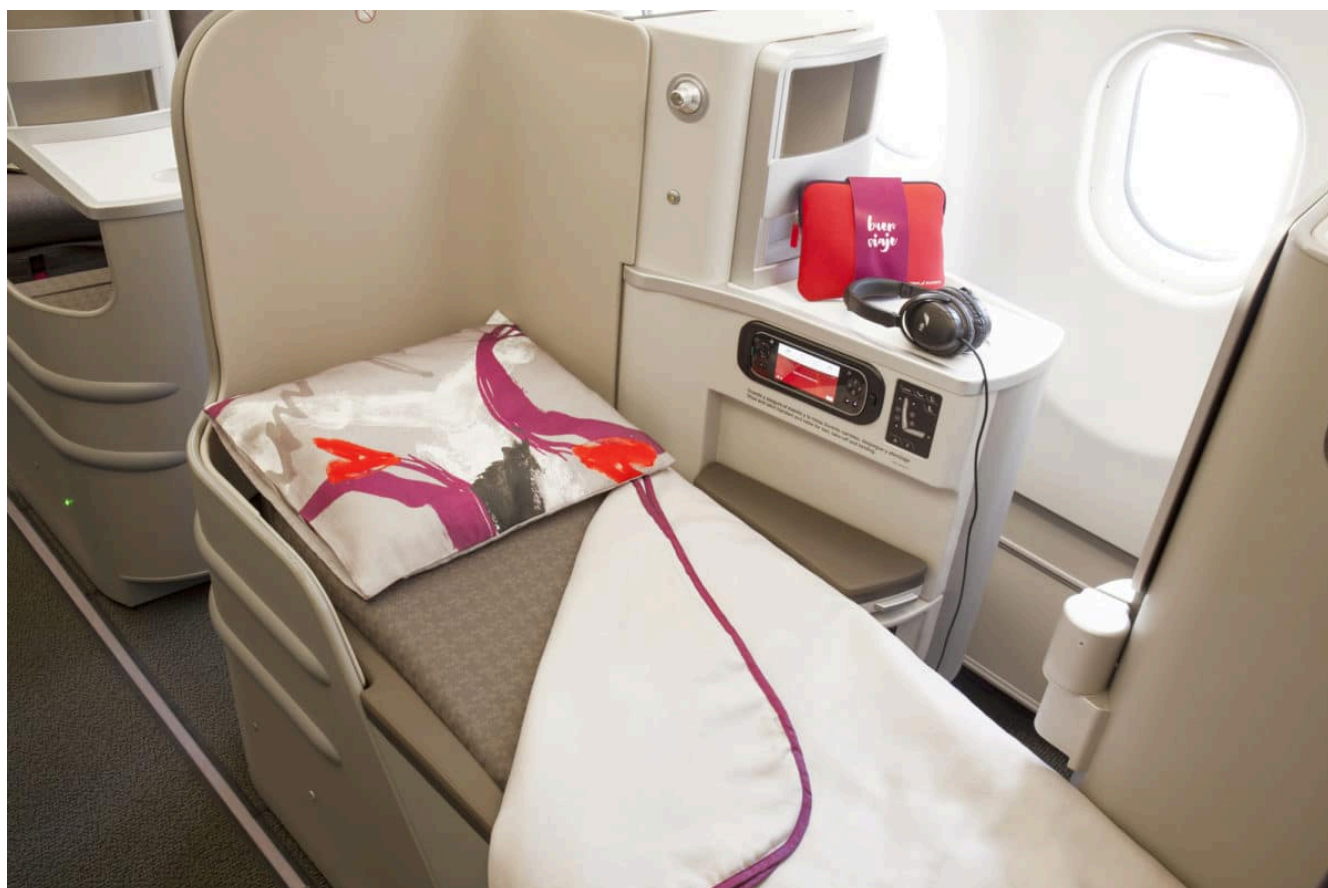
IBERIA DEAL PERSPECTIVE NUMERO CUATRO

Iberia vs. United Business Class

United charges 60,000 miles for economy and recently 175,400 miles round-trip in Business Class for New York-Madrid, while Iberia charges as few as 68,000. Again, that's only 8,000 more miles than UA charges for economy. That equals almost a free upgrade. And you'll likely get it because Iberia now offers 100%+ more award space than United.

See where we're going with this Iberia thing? It's time to hop on board.

IBERIA'S BUSINESS CLASS



FCF's Iberia Business Class Availability Treasure Map

	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	Feb. to April	Sept.	Oct.	Dec., Jan. to April, May	Sept.	Sept., Oct.
Chicago	Jan., Feb., Sept., Nov.	Oct.		Jan., Feb., March, April, Oct., Nov.	Oct.	
Miami	Jan. to April	Sept.	Oct.	Jan., Feb., Sept.	March, Sept.	March, Oct.
New York	Jan., Feb., March	Jan., Feb.	Jan., April to Oct.	Jan., Feb., March	Jan., Feb.	Jan., Feb., April to Oct.

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



Madrid. A welcome mat to Europe