Tap into a $1,224 Business Class Flight to Europe R/T

June 2024

Business Class for about the price of coach, or less than Premium Economy, anyone? Everyone?

Do you avoid coach because it's coach, while shunning Business Class because of the price? Of course, not everyone wants to blow between $4,000 and $5,000 on a Business Class ticket. I'm with you on that and I always look hard for a $2,000 ticket.

So imagine my smile when someone turned on the TAP to full power, spraying out a **$1,224 Business Class ticket** across the pond and back. A deal like this raises some trade-off decisions you'll need to make, which are good problems to have if you ask me. For example, would I fly coach to the city I originally planned to visit or fly Business Class to a city I *wasn't* thinking of, but is actually really cool, for nearly the same price?

Through unconventional strategies and taking advantage of real options, you could save up to $3,056, or 66%, over a regular Business Class flight.

UNCONVENTIONAL STRATEGIES REAP GUSHING BARGAINS

Flying Business Class for little more than coach is one of the holy grails of travel. It's like:

Buying a Picasso at a yard sale.

Getting a Wagyu tenderloin for the price of a top round roast.

Getting a free stop on the way to your destination with FCF's LSS or SLS strategies.

I could go on and on! If you haven't picked up the hints, this high-pressure hose of a deal comes courtesy of LifeMiles by offering TAP's New York-to-Lisbon route for 35,000 miles on the outbound flight. Even though the return flight is 63,000 miles, that's a total of 98,000 miles round-trip. So, you're netting round-trip travel for just $1,349 ($105 taxes included). If you take that one step further by subscribing to LifeMiles+, you can get this deal for just $1,224. More on that below.

TAP routes from Miami and Washington, DC, to Lisbon and Newark to Porto have available award seats for 126,000 miles round-trip. Other Star Alliance carriers have available award seats for 126,000 miles round-trip, which is still pretty good.

TAP's cup runneth over for Business Class to Europe

THE FLOW OF MILES

LifeMiles offers bonus buy miles promotions **almost monthly**. The most recent one ended on May 31 and offered a bonus up to 160% at 1.27 cents a mile if you bought the maximum number of miles.

TAP SAMPLE SAVINGS BASED ON BUY MILES COSTS

Route	Cost R/T	Cost to Buy LifeMiles		Total Cost Including Award Ticket Taxes	Published Fare	Savings	
Miami-Lisbon	126,000	1.27	$1,599	$1,704	$4,430	$2,726	62%
New York-Lisbon	98,000		$1,244	$1,349	$3,248	$1,899	58%
Washington, DC-Lisbon	126,000		$1,599	$1,704	$4,600	$2,896	63%
Newark-Porto					$3,198	$1,494	47%

USE LIFEMILES WITH LOT - SAMPLE SAVINGS

Airline	Route	Cost R/T	Cost to Buy LifeMiles		Total Cost Including Award Ticket Taxes	Published Fare	Savings	
LOT	Chicago-Warsaw	126,000	1.27	$1,599	$1,704	$4,130	$2,426	59%
	New York-Warsaw					$3,830	$2,126	56%

USE LIFEMILES WITH SWISS - SAMPLE SAVINGS

Airline	Route	Cost R/T	Cost to Buy LifeMiles		Total Cost Including Award Ticket Taxes	Published Fare	Savings	
SWISS	New York-Geneva	126,000	1.27	$1,599	$1,704	$4,030	$2,326	58%
	Chicago-Zurich					$3,816	$2,112	55%
	New York-Zurich					$3,415	$1,711	50%
	San Francisco-Zurich					$4,350	$2,646	61%

HOW DO I OPEN THE SPIGOT TO GET THE $1,224 DEAL, BENNETT?

I'm glad you asked, although the deals above are still pretty great, right? Club LifeMiles is now offering a new subscription plan called LifeMiles+, which brings the price of an award ticket down further.

If you are a subscriber of LifeMiles+, you get 10% Star Alliance mileage credited back to your account. That brings the cost down to 88,200, or **$1,224** ($105 taxes included), for TAP's New York-Lisbon discounted flights. TAP routes from Miami and Washington, DC-Lisbon and Newark-Porto, and other Star Alliance carriers on flights to Europe cost 113,400, or $1,544 ($105 taxes included). Here are the details:

- Get 10% back on Star Alliance, Iberia, and GOL redemptions. Miles will be credited to your account within 15 days.
- Get up to 25% discount on Avianca mileage redemption flights.
- Get up to 10,000 miles per month, depending on the plan.
- Fee waiver for mileage redemption ticket changes (typically $150) and refunds (typically $200) on Basic, Pro, and Max plans.
- 24-month extended mileage expiration policy.
- Cancel your subscription after a minimum of six months.

LIFEMILES+ SUBSCRIPTION PLAN COST

	lite	basic	pro	max
Monthly miles	LM 500	LM 2,000	LM 4,500	LM 10,000
Credit card extra miles	**100%** Max. LM 1,000	**100%** Max. LM 2,000	**100%** Max. LM 4,500	**100%** Max. LM 10,000
Price / month				
avianca lifemiles AMEX® elite cardholders	**Free**	**US$ 30**	**US$ 80**	**US$ 180**
Regular	US$ 20	US$ 50	US$ 100	US$ 200

LISBON AND PORTO

Why choose Lisbon or Porto? These are great cities to visit, and they're not on a lot of people's radars. Lisbon, the capital, has gorgeous architecture from the ancient Belem Tower to the intricate painted tiles of the Alfama district. Hills surrounding the city offer beautiful views across the Tagus River while the city buzzes with vibrant nightlife, music, and art.

Porto is quieter, and has its own timeless charm, along with that famous port wine. The city's Ribeira district is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, featuring winding streets, colorful buildings, and scenic riverfront vistas. Both cities boast great food, offering everything from traditional Portuguese cuisine to innovative dining experiences. Speaking of which, you simply *MUST* eat Portugal's signature custard tarts at every possible opportunity.

Porto: equal parts color and charm

FCF'S VISUAL TREASURE MAPS

TAP PORTUGAL BUSINESS CLASS AWARD SEAT AVAILABILITY USING LIFEMILES

From New York to Lisbon, award seats are available for departures ⅓ of the days in January for up to two travelers. There are also a handful of days available for up to four travelers in February, for 35,000 miles. There are plenty of seats on the 63,000 miles return flight in January and May for up to four travelers.

From/To	Outbound			Return		
	4 to 8 Days per Month	9 to 12 Days per Month	13+ Days per Month	4 to 8 Days per Month	9 to 12 Days per Month	13+ Days per Month
Miami-Lisbon	Jan., May		Jan. to May			
New York-Lisbon	Jan., Feb.	Jan.		Dec., Feb., March, April	May	Jan.
Washington, DC-Lisbon		March	Jan., Feb., March	Jan., Feb., April	Jan., Feb., March, May	
Newark-Porto	Nov., April	Jan.	Feb., March	Dec.	Jan., May	Feb., March

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

LOT POLISH BUSINESS CLASS AWARD SEAT AVAILABILITY USING LIFEMILES

To Warsaw from	Outbound			Return		
	4 to 8 Days per Month	9 to 12 Days per Month	13+ Days per Month	4 to 8 Days per Month	9 to 12 Days per Month	13+ Days per Month
Chicago	Aug., Oct. to Dec.	Jan.	Jan., Feb. to May	Oct., Nov.	Dec.	Nov., Dec., Jan. to April
New York	June, July, Dec.	Aug., Nov., Dec.	Nov.	June, Oct.		June, Nov. to May

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

SWISS BUSINESS CLASS AWARD SEAT AVAILABILITY USING LIFEMILES

From/To	Outbound			Return		
	4 to 8 Days per Month	9 to 12 Days per Month	13+ Days per Month	4 to 8 Days per Month	9 to 12 Days per Month	13+ Days per Month
New York-Geneva	July, Sept., Oct., Dec.	July, Oct., Nov., Jan.	July, Feb., March	May, July, Aug., Sept.	June, Aug., Sept., Oct.	June, Aug., Nov. to March
Chicago-Zurich	July, Aug.	July		June	June, Aug., Sept., Nov., Dec.	
New York-Zurich	July, Jan., March		Feb.	May	June, Dec.	June, Nov., Dec., Jan. to March
San Francisco-Zurich	Jan. to Feb.	Feb.		Jan., Feb.		

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

WHEN THE TAP RUNS A LITTLE COLDER

Not everyone can be that flexible. Consider positioning flights when award seats are not offered on your route. And of course, don't book backwards.

Is travel perfectionism holding you back? FCF always recommends grabbing your ticket when you come across a good deal or something you can live with — and if it's not perfect, upgrade later.

June's Top 93 Mileage Awards & Special Fares Greatest Hits (Still Available)

June 2024

We've Sprung Some Hot Spring Bargains

FCF's team hasn't been lazing about on hammocks, they've been working harder than birds and bees to find you awesome miles and fares to destinations all around this third rock from the sun. If you're thinking of a place to go, go here first.

Sweet Redeems

EUROPE

85,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Travelers > Iberia > Florida to Madrid > 2025 Travel

Miles / Points > Frankfurt > First Class > Handful > Single Seat > Singapore Airlines from New York

Air France > Discount Business Class > 4+ Seats > for Less Miles than Coach > from Denver, Detroit, Miami, and Raleigh to Paris

First Class With Cash OR Miles > Lufthansa > East Coast and Many Other Cities to Frankfurt & Beyond > 2+ Travelers

KLM > Discount Business Class > 4+ Seats > for Less Miles than Coach > from Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, and New York to Amsterdam

First Class With Cash OR Miles > Lufthansa > East Coast and Many Other Cities to Munich & Beyond > 2+ Travelers

115K AA Miles R/T & Low-taxes > 4+ Seats > Biz Class from the East Coast to Sofia

Miles / Points > London > First Class > 4+ Travelers > American from New York and Many Other Cities

London Easy With Miles: American Business Class Opportunities from New York and Many Other Cities / 4+ Seats

Portugal Easy With Miles > 2025 > American Business Class Opportunities from the East Coast > 4+ Seats

Air France > BIZ Class > 4+ Seats > for Less Miles than Coach > from the East Coast to Paris > Easy to Book Now

First Class With Cash OR Miles > Lufthansa > New York and Many Other Cities to Frankfurt & Beyond > Two Travelers

KLM > Discount Business Class > 4+ Seats > for Less Miles than Coach > from Ottawa to Paris > Easy to Book Now

115K AA Miles R/T + Low-taxes > 4+ Seats > Biz Class from the East Coast via London to Italy

Miles / Points > First Class > Single Seat > Emirates > East Coast to Milan

115K AA Miles R/T + Low-taxes > 4+ Seats > Biz Class from the East Coast via London to Budapest, Prague & Vienna

MIDDLE EAST

Cash OR Miles > Qatar > East Coast and Many Other Cities to Doha & Beyond > 2+ Travelers

Miles / Points > Scads of Single Seat > Emirates > *First Class* from Orlando to Dubai

Cash OR Miles > Winter 2025 Travel > Middle East > Qatar Airways Business Class From California > 2+ Seats

NORTH AMERICA

Miles > Domestic > New American Airlines Business Class New York to/from San Francisco Options / 4+ Seats

SOUTH PACIFIC

Miles/Points > Handful of Days with Single Seat Availability > Close in > Air New Zealand > Business Class > Houston to Auckland

Mileage Upgrades

EUROPE

Miles & Cash > United Upgrade Opportunities from the East Coast to London > 4+ Seats

Published Fares

AFRICA

Money > Morocco > All Year > Biz Class > from Montreal and Toronto from $2,241 to $2,514 USD R/T

Money > Johannesburg and Cape Town > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > $3,484 to $4,025 R/T

Money > Nairobi > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from $3,156 to $3,491 USD R/T

ASIA

Money > Seoul > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from $3,506 to $4,194 USD R/T

Money > Osaka and Tokyo > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from $3,425 to $4,180 USD R/T

Money > Asia > All Year > Biz Class > $3,232 to 4,185 R/T

Money > Maldives > Winter > Biz Class > $3,401 to $4,209 R/T

Money > Singapore > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > from Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal from $3,351 to $3,740 USD R/T

Money > Hong Kong > All Year > Biz Class > from Vancouver, Montreal, and Toronto from $3,247 to $4,096 USD R/T

Money > Bangkok > All Year > Biz Class > from Los Angeles, Seattle, and New York from $3,564 to $4,180 R/T

Money > Bangkok > All Year > Biz Class > from Canada from $3,356 to $3,981 USD R/T

CARIBBEAN

Money > Saint Kitts > All Year > Biz Class > $857 to $1,164 R/T

Money > St. Lucia > All Year > Biz Class > $843 to $1,069 R/T

Money > Aruba > All Year > Biz Class > $755 to $1,163 R/T

Money > Cayman Islands > All Year > Biz Class > $858 to $1,084 R/T

Money > Puerto Rico > All Year > Biz Class > $674 to $791 R/T

Money > Antigua > All Year > Biz Class > $898 to $1,176 R/T

Money > St. Maarten > All Year > Biz Class > $807 to $1,047 R/T

Money > Tortola > All Year > Biz Class > $913 to $1,188 R/T

Money > Anguilla > All Year > Biz Class > $866 to $1,165 R/T

Money > Barbados > All Year > Biz Class > $954 to $1,178 R/T

EUROPE

Money > Prague > All Year > Biz Class > $2,712 to $3,199 R/T

Money > Europe > All Year > Biz Class with TAP Portugal > $1,986 to $2,760 R/T

Money > Germany > All Year > First Class > $4,247 to $5,537 R/T

Money > Valencia > All Year > First Class > $3,933 to $5,152 R/T

Money > Copenhagen > All Year > Biz Class > $2,579 to $3,067 R/T

Money > Amsterdam > All Year > Biz Class > $2,798 to $3,209 R/T

Money > Paris > All Year > Biz Class > $2,773 to $3,015 R/T

Money > Greece > All Year > First Class > from New York and Seattle from $3,788 to $5,194 R/T

Money > Edinburgh > Summer/Fall > First Class > $4,345 to $5,616

Money > London > All Year > Biz Class > $2,517 to $3,165 R/T

Money > Lisbon > All Year > Biz Class > $2,559 to $3,142 R/T

Money > Barcelona > All Year > Premium Economy > from New York and Miami from $760 R/T

Money > Paris > All Year > First Class > $3,033 to $5,634 R/T

Money > Milan > All Year > First Class > $3,056 to $5,537 R/T

Money > Frankfurt > All Year > Biz Class > from New York and Miami from $2,496 to $2,988 R/T

Money > Madrid > All Year > First Class > $3,773 to $5,448 R/T

Money > Rome > All Year > First Class > $2,752 to $5,658 R/T

Money > Rome > All Year > Biz Class > from New York and Orlando from $2,539 to $3,091 R/T

Money > Barcelona > All Year > Biz Class > $2,688 to $3,167 R/T

Money > Madrid > All Year > Biz Class > from New York, Phoenix, and Orlando from $2,523 to $2,991 R/T

Money > Milan > All Year > Biz Class > $2,526 to $3,088 R/T

Money > Stockholm > All Year > Biz Class > $2,428 to $3,148 R/T

Money > Barcelona > All Year > First Class > $3,941 to $5,386 R/T

Money > London > All Year > First Class > $2,979 to $5,533 R/T

Money > Budapest > All Year > Biz Class > from New York, Dallas, and Chicago from $2,623 to $3,082 R/T

Money > Berlin > All Year > Biz Class > from Miami, New York, and Orlando from $2,779 to $3,156 R/T

Money > Valencia > All Year > Biz Class > $2,709 to $3,163 R/T

Money > Greece > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > from New York from $2,532 to $2,692 R/T

Money > Dublin > All Year > Biz Class > $2,707 to $3,173 R/T

Money > Zurich > Winter/Fall > Biz Class > from Phoenix, New York, and Orlando from $2,757 to $3,082 R/T

Money > Florence > Summer > First Class > $4,451 to $5,692 R/T

Money > Geneva > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > from Phoenix, New York, and Orlando from $2,741 to $3,078 R/T

Money > Lisbon > All Year > First Class > $4,670 to $5,506 R/T

HAWAII

Money > Kona > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > $973 to $1,440 R/T

Money > Maui > Summer/Winter > Biz Class > $910 to $1,471 R/T

Money > Honolulu > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > $948 to $1,472 R/T

INDIA

Money > India > All Year > Biz Class > from Toronto and Vancouver from $2,849 to $3,175 USD R/T

Money > Mumbai > All Year > Biz Class > $3,235 to $3,807 R/T

Money > New Delhi > All Year > Biz Class > $2,656 to $3,902 R/T

Money > Bengaluru > Winter/Spring > Biz Class > $3,342 to $3,831 R/T

MEXICO

Money > Cozumel > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > $682 to $888 R/T

Money > Cabo San Lucas > All Year > Biz Class > $661 to $926 R/T

Money > Acapulco > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > $785 to $906 R/T

MIDDLE EAST

Money > Istanbul > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > $2,895 to $3,311 R/T

NORTH AMERICA

Money > Domestic Transcon > All Year > Biz Class > $762 to $1,217

SOUTH AMERICA

Money > Buenos Aires > All Year > Biz Class > from Miami and New York from $2,718 to $3,049 R/T

Money > Santiago > All Year > Biz Class > $2,097 to $3,212 R/T

SOUTH PACIFIC

Delta, United, and Air Canada Business Class fares to New Zealand: 20% to 50%+ Off

Money > Australia > All Year > Biz Class with Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines > 25%+ OFF

Money > Tahiti > All Year > Biz Class > from Los Angeles, Seattle, and Las Vegas from $3,424 to $4,262 R/T

Europe: 10 Ways to Fly Better that Fly Below the Radar

June 2024

Through the upgrade looking glass

Our philosophy here at FCF is that there are *many* more ways to upgrade than merely winning the “gate lottery” (i.e. where an airline employee decides to move you up a cabin).

Bypassing the gate upgrade may seem counter-intuitive (excuse the pun), but not to savvy travelers (many of whom read these pages) who fly better, smarter, cheaper, more comfortably, and more rested.

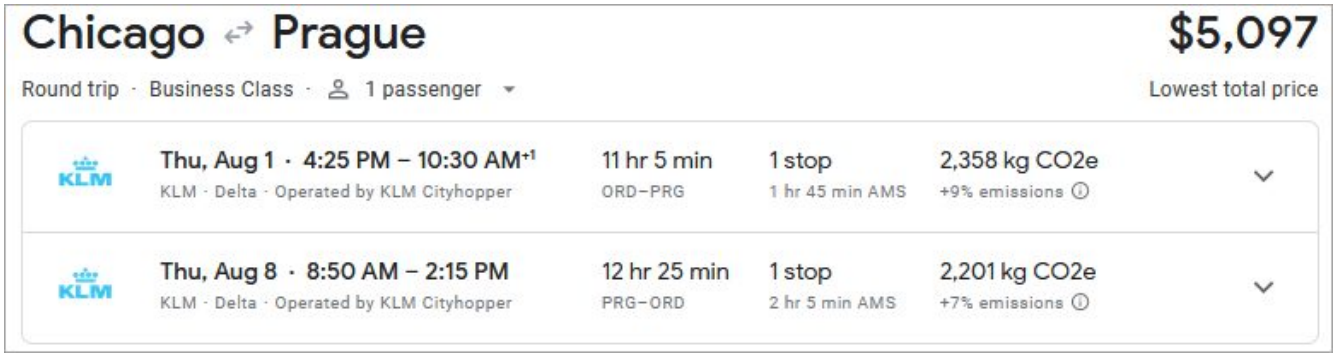
We’ve written about this subject before (most recently here and here) because we’re passionate about opening travelers’ eyes to the possibilities we see every day. They don’t call me Mr. Upgrade for getting lucky

at the gate, they call me Mr. Upgrade because of all the different *ways* I upgrade. Let's look at 10 examples of these hidden upgrade possibilities.

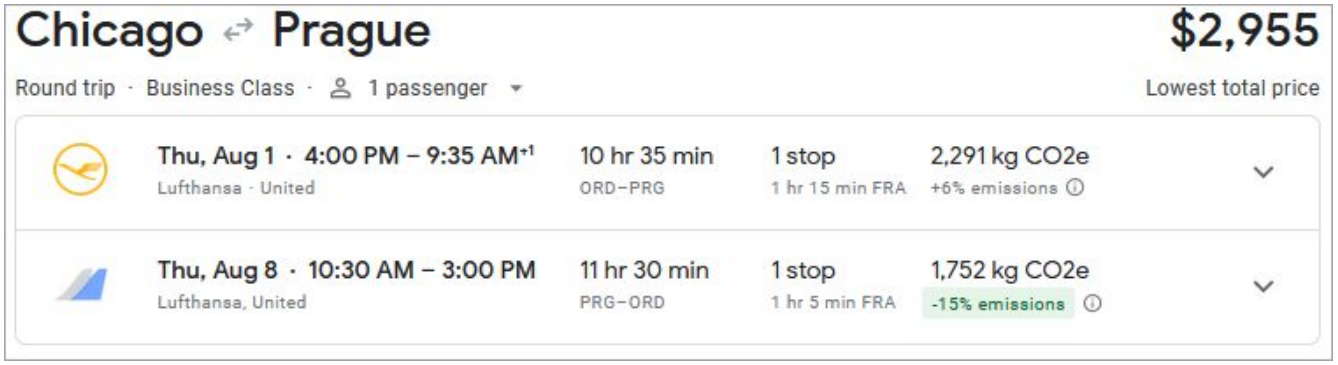
UPGRADE EXAMPLE #1: SHOPPING IN THE RIGHT STORE

Many travelers, especially "elite" travelers, go to their favorite airline websites and end up missing great flight opportunities as a result. For example, if you shop on Google Flights, look at the difference between these two Chicago-Prague Business Class fares: $2,955 on Lufthansa, and $5,097 on KLM. It's nearly the same itinerary, but if you are a one-eyed SkyTeam alliance loyalist, you'd be paying $2,142 more.

CHICAGO TO PRAGUE IN BUSINESS CLASS ON KLM FOR $5,097



CHICAGO TO PRAGUE IN BUSINESS CLASS ON LUFTHANSA FOR $2,955



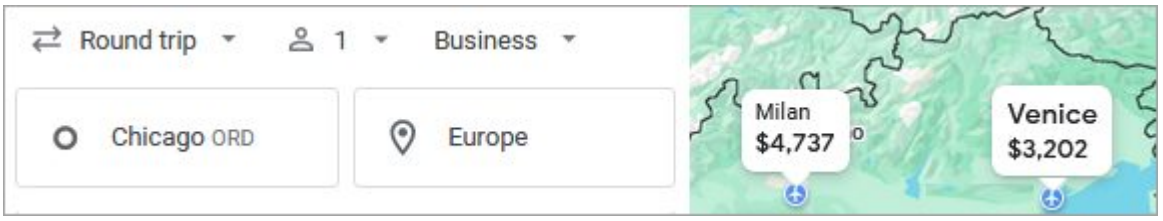
UPGRADE EXAMPLE #2: BETTER AIRLINE SEAT

Most people don't think about seat specifics when they're booking flights, but a little inside knowledge makes a big difference in comfort, particularly when it's a long-ish flight. Quick example: JetBlue's EvenMore Space seats are roomier. They offer 38 inches of legroom while Virgin Atlantic's Economy Delight is only 34 inches. As every hour ticks by, that extra legroom equals great value.

JetBlue EvenMore Space

UPGRADE EXAMPLE #3: DESTINATION BLINDNESS

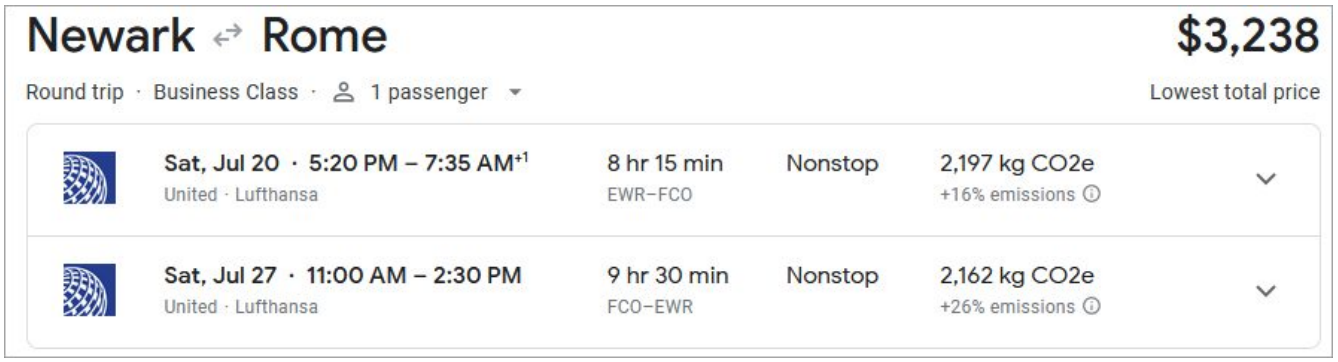
Most would think that flying to Venice is way more expensive than Milan, but that's not necessarily the case, as in this example. You can fly from Chicago to Milan for $4,737, or to Venice and pay $3,202, a $1,535 savings for each person. Multiply that for a family trip and it covers a lot of gondola rides. And if it is Milan you want to visit, consider a train ride from Venice that rolls through scenic Veneto and Lombardy. The high-speed rail option takes right around a couple of hours.



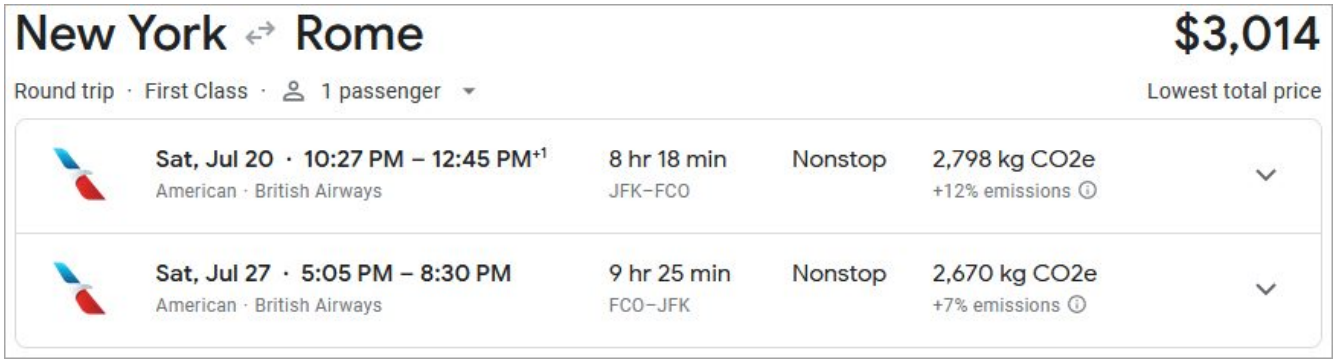
UPGRADE EXAMPLE #4: CLASS OF SERVICE

Keep an eye on FCF's flash fares to get First Class fares for less than Business Class. As seen in the screenshots below, United's Business Class from New York to Rome goes for $3,238, while American's **First Class** goes for $3,014. That's an upgrade they're paying *you* to get.

NEWARK TO ROME IN BUSINESS CLASS ON UNITED FOR $3,238



NEW YORK TO ROME IN FIRST CLASS ON AMERICAN FOR $3,014



UPGRADE EXAMPLE #5: WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES

Fly in Business Class on British Airways from Dallas to Copenhagen on Wednesday, September 25, and pay $4,082. Or you could fly on Tuesday or Thursday (September 24 or 26) and pay $2,819-$2,849. That's what Doctor Seuss would call "Wacky Wednesday" because you'd be wacky to fly on that day if you could choose the days around it.

GOOGLE FLIGHTS FARE CALENDAR FROM DALLAS TO COPENHAGEN IN BUSINESS CLASS

Round trip · 1 · Business

Dallas DFW ⇄ Copenhagen

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 $4,582	2 $3,137	3 $2,859	4 $2,832	5 $4,069	6 $3,349	7 $3,322
8 $4,582	9 $4,319	10 $2,819	11 $2,819	12 $5,347	13 $4,572	14 $3,319
15 $4,582	16 $4,332	17 $4,082	18 $4,069	19 $4,069	20 $3,349	21 $3,322
22 $3,319	23	24 $2,819	25 $4,082	26 $2,849	27 $4,569	28 $3,319
29 $4,582	30 $4,359					

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 $3,609	2 $3,597	3 $3,599	4 $4,099	5 $4,137
6 $3,477	7 $3,799	8	9 $3,559	10 $3,559	11 $4,559	12 $4,087
13 $3,827	14 $3,799	15 $3,549	16 $3,559	17 $3,559	18 $4,059	19 $4,059
20 $3,827	21 $3,799	22 $3,559	23 $3,559	24 $3,549	25 $4,049	26 $4,049
27 $3,827	28 $3,809	29 $3,559	30 $3,559	31 $3,559		

UPGRADE EXAMPLE #6: MAKE A CONNECTION

United's Newark-Mallorca nonstop goes for $3,837, while Air France's New York (JFK)-Mallorca goes for $3,075. So, if you're not all that bothered by a short stop in Paris on the way to Mallorca, you get upgrade-worthy savings of almost $800 per traveler.

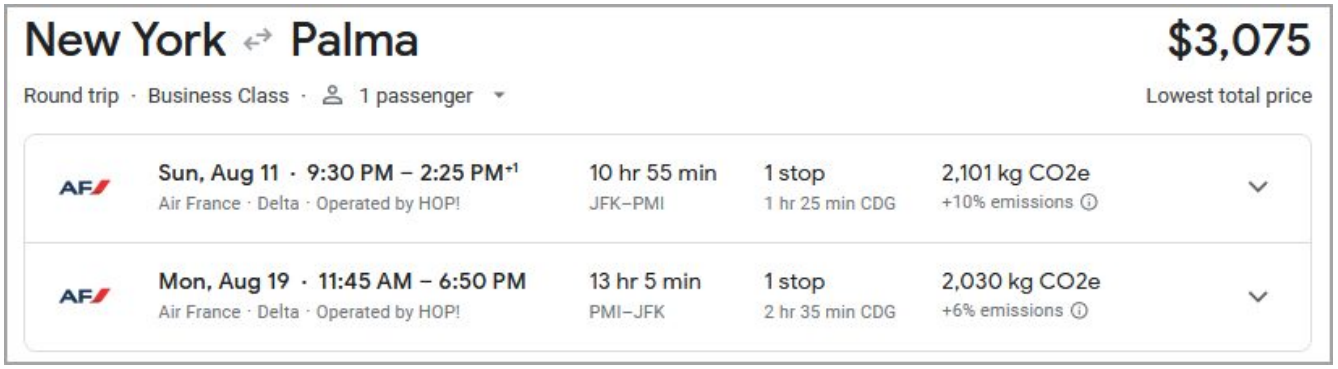
NEWARK TO PALMA DE MALLORCA IN BUSINESS CLASS ON UNITED FOR $3,837

Newark ⇄ Palma **$3,837**

Round trip · Business Class · 1 passenger — Lowest total price

Sun, Aug 11 · 7:05 PM – 9:10 AM+1 United · Lufthansa, Brussels Airlines	8 hr 5 min EWR–PMI	Nonstop	2,036 kg CO2e +6% emissions	⌄
Mon, Aug 19 · 11:10 AM – 2:20 PM United · Lufthansa, Brussels Airlines	9 hr 10 min PMI–EWR	Nonstop	2,036 kg CO2e +6% emissions	⌄

NEW YORK TO PALMA DE MALLORCA VIA PARIS IN BUSINESS CLASS ON AIR FRANCE FOR $3,075



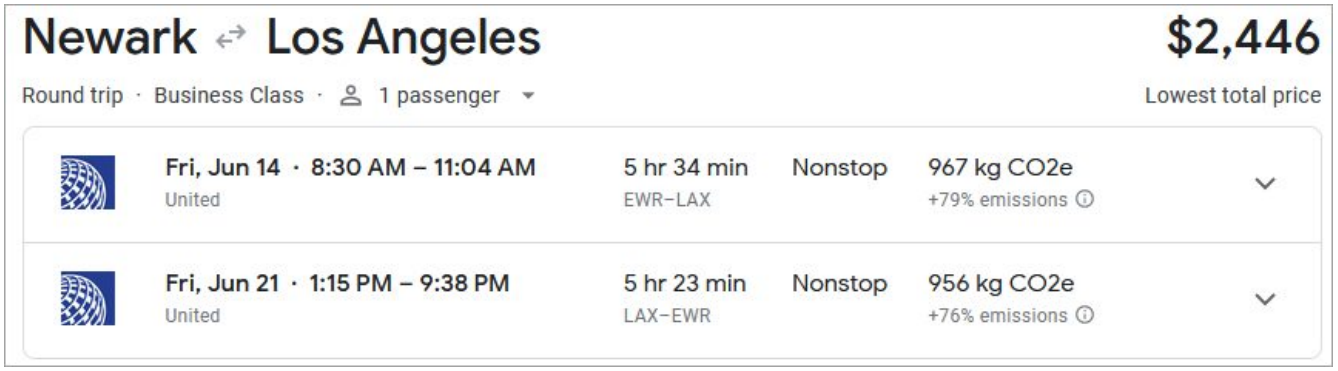
> FCF's Special Fare Finder makes it easier to find extraordinary flash and anomaly fare deals. [How to Leverage FCF's Special Fare Finder]

The art of upgrading is in how you look at it

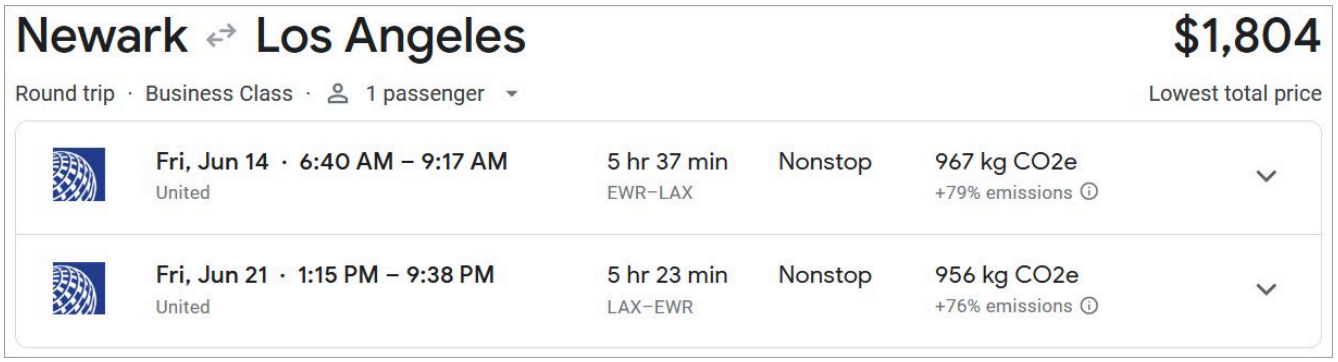
UPGRADE EXAMPLE #7: TIME IS MERELY A CONSTRUCT

Depart at 8:30 am and pay $2,446 or depart at 6:40 am and pay $1,804. Everything else on this Newark-Los Angeles flight is the same.

NEWARK TO LOS ANGELES IN BUSINESS CLASS ON UNITED DEPARTING AT 8:30 AM FOR $2,446



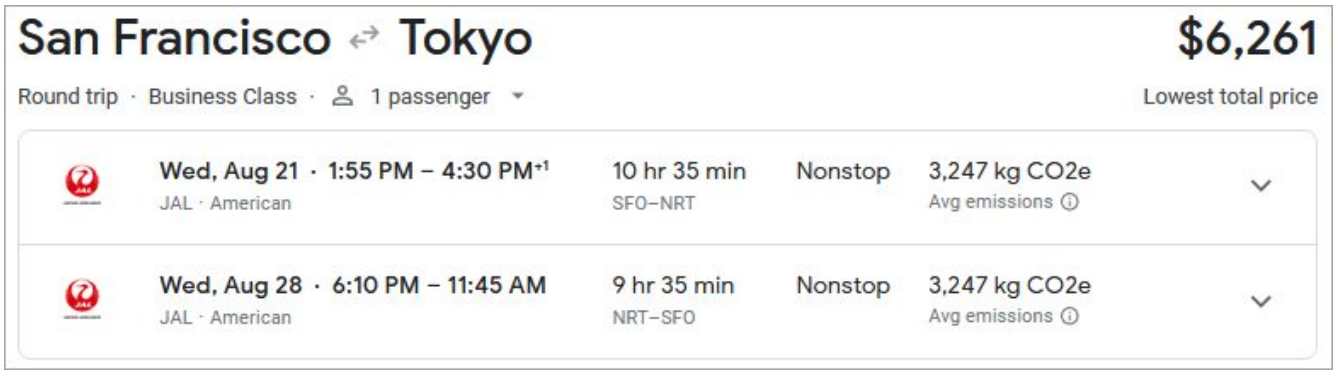
NEWARK TO LOS ANGELES IN BUSINESS CLASS ON UNITED DEPARTING AT 6:40 AM FOR $1,804



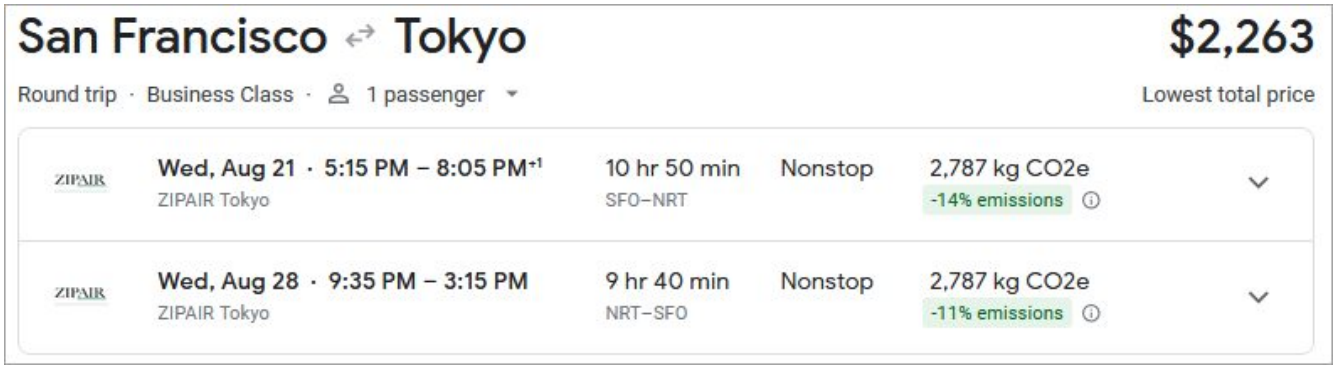
UPGRADE EXAMPLE #8: DON'T OVERLOOK LESSER-KNOWN AIRLINES

This is a beauty. Fly Business Class nonstop, round trip from San Francisco to Tokyo on JAL and pay $6,261, OR fly Zipair Business Class nonstop, round trip for $2,263. What's that you say? Zipair ain't no JAL? Well, that's a fair point. But is JAL's Business Class worth paying $3,998 MORE for than Zipair's? Fun fact: JAL owns Zipair, so in effect, you can pay JAL $6,261 or $2,263.

SAN FRANCISCO TO TOKYO IN BUSINESS CLASS ON JAPAN AIRLINES FOR $6,261



SAN FRANCISCO TO TOKYO IN BUSINESS CLASS ON ZIPAIR FOR $2,263



UPGRADE EXAMPLE #9: ADD A STOP

With FCF's Hula Loophole, sometimes you can get two domestic destinations for the price of one with a free stopover. The key is to find a low-fare route that allows a free stopover. On the transcontinental route, you can make a free stop in Hawaii going west and stop in the Caribbean going east. If you have to stop, those are the places to do so. More about it here.

For international destinations, we love the Leg Stretch Strategy (LSS), the Stopover Loophole Strategy (SLS), and the U-Turn Strategy.

The LSS makes use of round-trip itineraries between two continents with free stopovers each way on a third continent.

With the SLS you can often add a side trip **that can lower your total airfare cost.** That means you're actually *getting paid* to sneak in a great vacation in the middle of your trip! Sometimes, your side trip will come at a *small* additional cost (but it's still worth it).

UPGRADE EXAMPLE #10: EXPLORE POST-BOOKING UPGRADES

FCF always recommends grabbing your ticket when you come across a good deal or something you can live with — and if it's not perfect, upgrade later. Oftentimes, canceling and rebooking without penalty is a go-to play for savvy travelers.

A PERFECT 10

There you have it, 10 ways to upgrade that you may not have considered. Just like having a menu full of destinations, it's best to have a quiver full of upgrade tactics and use the one that suits the moment. Pretty soon you'll become a bullseye traveler, nailing Olympic-level travel deals that will inspire the envy of your friends.

Now more than ever, I'll see you up front.

Out-of-This-World Savings: Fly in Business Class for $609 LESS Than the Price of Economy on Delta

June 2024

How to Get Business Class to South America and Europe on One Ticket from $2,776

FCF'S LEG STRETCH STRATEGY STRETCHES ON

We've extolled the virtues of our **Leg Stretch Strategy** for many years now. While it's a nuanced offering, it offers quite spectacular savings. If your planets align for visiting two different continents other than the U.S. over a 12-month period (not so otherworldly, really) then it's a royal flush of a deal, and that's no stretch.

THE LEG STREEEEEEETCH ELEVATOR PITCH

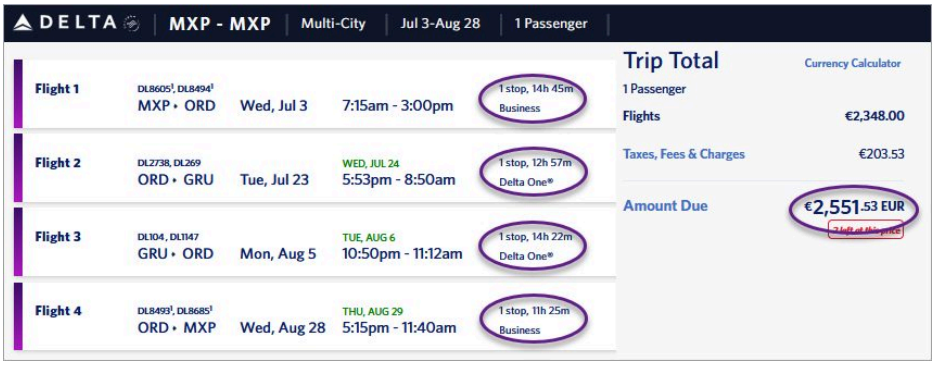
Here's how it works. As mentioned, you can travel to two other continents, including two stops back in the U.S., all on one Business Class ticket at a massive price reduction from what you would pay if you bought these trips separately, as most travelers do.

We call it the Leg Stretch Strategy because you're stretching one ticket to get four legs of flying to all corners of the world. It's quite unique and very lucrative. The Leg Stretch always begins *outside* of the U.S. That means you need to get to its starting point, say, Europe, and then fly back to the U.S at the end, or continue your next LSS itinerary from there. That will surely put some flyers off. But the savings way more than compensate for this cost, as many of our readers have happily discovered.

NANCY'S LEG STRETCH EXAMPLE: MILAN – CHICAGO – SÃO PAULO – CHICAGO – MILAN IN BUSINESS CLASS FOR $2,776

It's a big 12 months ahead for Chicagoan Nancy. She's a fashion buyer keen to catch the two upcoming Milan Fashion Weeks – Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer. At the same time, her crazy buddy Nina said, "Let's go to Brazil! It's one of my bucket list countries. COME ON, Nancy!!" (Nina is impossible to turn down.) But Nancy had a problem: how the heck was she going to afford a trip to Italy AND Brazil? Nancy, meet MrUpgrade, your traveling fairy Godfather.

Let's break down Nancy's journey. The only rule is that the Leg Stretch part has to be completed within one year.



At time of publication, 2,551 Euros = $2,776 US dollars

Nancy's Two-Continent Adventure

1. Nancy flies to Milan for Fall/Winter. She buys a one-way or an award ticket for that trip.

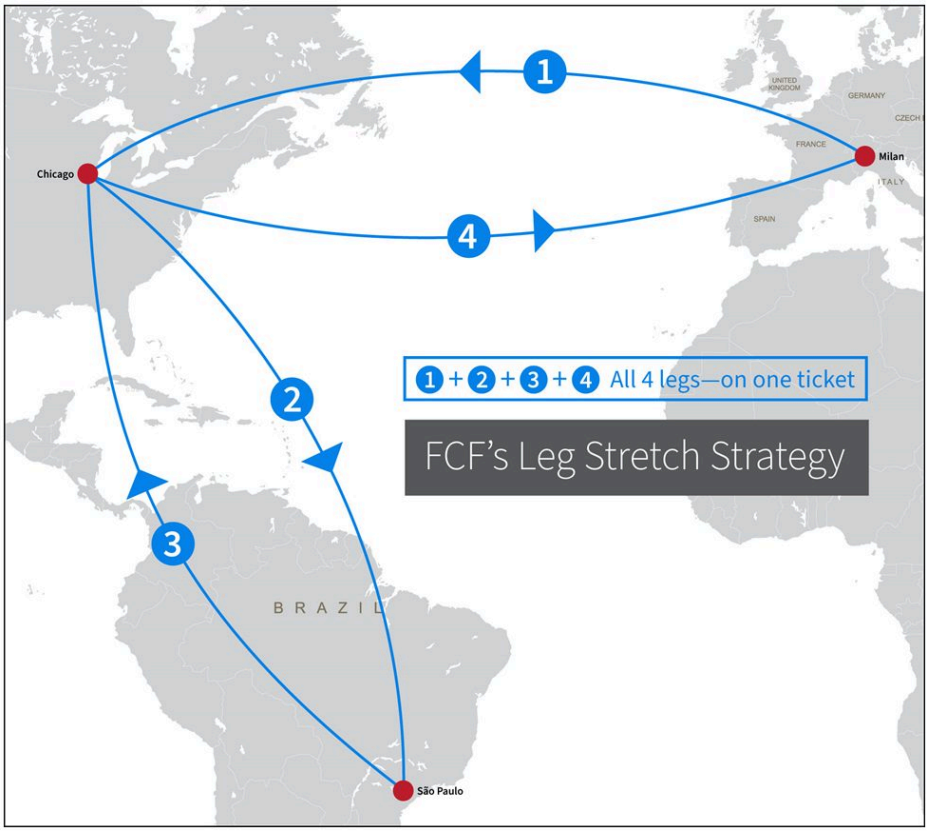
Nancy's Business Class One-Ticket $2,776 Leg Stretch Starts Here

2. Starting her Leg Stretch Strategy, Nancy flies home to Chicago. She resumes normal life as a fashion buyer. That flight is **Leg 1 of the Leg Stretch.**
3. Weeks or months later, Nancy flies to São Paulo with Nina. That flight is **Leg 2 of the Leg Stretch.**
4. Nancy Returns home again. She's exhausted! That flight is **Leg 3 of the Leg Stretch.**

5. Nancy goes back to Milan. That flight is **Leg 4 of the Leg Stretch, completing the ticket.**

Nancy's Leg Stretch Strategy Ends Here. Screenshot below.

6. Finally, Nancy returns home to Chicago, buying a one-way ticket to do so, or starting another Leg Stretch – more on that below.



Now, if Nancy were to buy the separate legs of the Leg Stretch part of the journey (B, C, D, and E), in Business Class, she would pay $11,980. So the strategy saves her a whopping $9,204!

DOUBLE OR TRIPLE THE STRETCH

At the end of her Leg Stretch, Nancy actually has *two* options. She can embark on ANOTHER Leg Stretch ticket, or just get a ticket that takes her back home, as per flight F above. Let's break this down.

Option #1: Book *another* LSS Ticket. Once she's back in Europe, Nancy is already at the starting point of *another* LSS. Two Leg Stretches back-to-back will save you a designer wardrobe full of dollars.

Option #2: Head Home. If Nancy's all done with travel, she can buy a one-way ticket home, or she could have nested the Leg Stretch within a round-trip Chicago-Milan ticket.

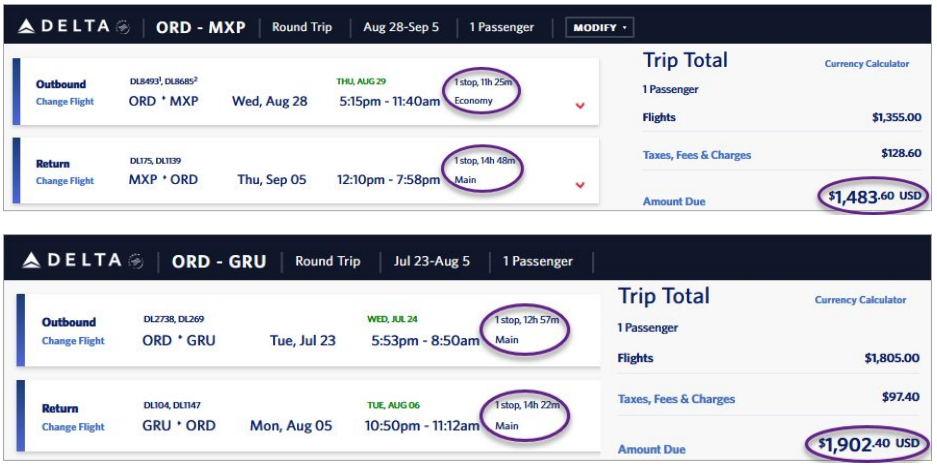
FCF has examined lots of Leg Stretches including Asia and the South Pacific.

HOW DOES THIS LOOK COMPARED TO FLYING IN ECONOMY?

Let's compare this Leg Stretch to a trip where those destinations are broken down into separate segments. In economy, the whole journey would cost around $3,385 at the time of publication.

$3,385 in economy versus $2,776 in Business Class. That's a *savings* of **$609, or 18%**. Nancy can put those savings toward the one-way flights, all while flying in **Business Class**. Lookin' good, Nancy!

TYPICAL DELTA ECONOMY FARES



There are plenty of options involving different U.S, European, and South American cities. For that continent, São Paulo costs the least, but you can easily add Buenos Aires or Santiago for just a bit more. (Our chart below shows a bunch of scenarios.)

Start Your SLS Ticket In:	Your U.S. Stop (Both Coming and Going)	Your South American Destination:	SLS Fare for Four Legs in Business Class (in Effect, Two Round-Trips)	Regular Fare for Two Round-Trips in Business Class	Savings	
Amsterdam	Atlanta	São Paulo	$2,667	$8,520	$5,853	69%
	Chicago		$2,667	$10,850	$8,183	75%
	Dallas		$2,901	$8,250	$5,349	65%
	Houston		$2,754	$10,120	$7,366	73%
	New York	Buenos Aires	$3,583	$5,800	$2,217	38%
		Santiago	$3,249	$6,020	$2,771	46%
		São Paulo	$2,667	$5,660	$2,993	53%
Copenhagen			$2,891	$6,452	$3,561	55%

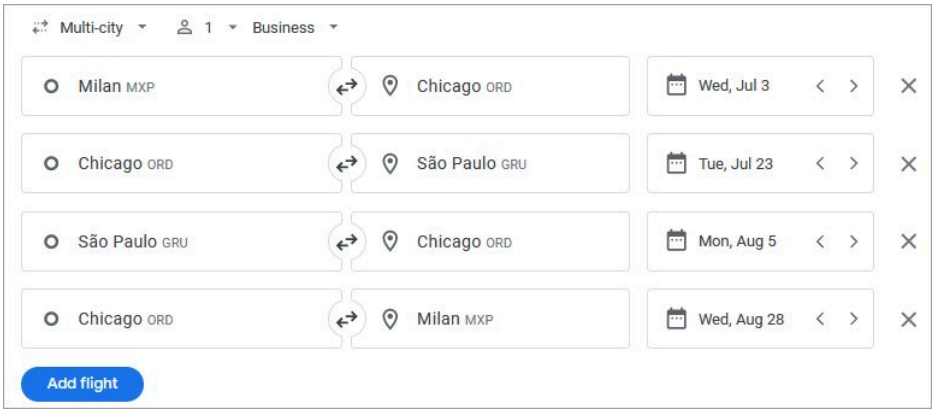
Start Your SLS Ticket In:	Your U.S. Stop (Both Coming and Going)	Your South American Destination:	SLS Fare for Four Legs in Business Class (in Effect, Two Round-Trips)	Regular Fare for Two Round-Trips in Business Class	Savings	
Frankfurt	Chicago		$2,868	$12,080	$9,212	76%
	New York	Buenos Aires	$3,567	$6,213	$2,646	43%
		Santiago	$3,511	$5,629	$2,118	38%
	Washington, DC	São Paulo	$2,850	$14,520	$11,670	80%
Geneva	Atlanta		$2,660	$8,470	$5,810	69%
	Chicago		$2,666	$10,469	$7,803	75%
	Miami		$2,797	$8,013	$5,216	65%
	New York	Santiago	$3,568	$6,420	$2,852	44%
		São Paulo	$2,660	$6,060	$3,400	56%
Milan	Boston		$2,775	$7,761	$4,986	64%
	Chicago		$2,776	$11,980	$9,204	77%
Munich			$2,838	$12,060	$9,222	76%
	New York		$2,837	$7,401	$4,564	62%
Rome	Chicago		$2,871	$10,410	$7,539	72%
	New York		$2,773	$5,940	$3,167	53%
Zurich	Atlanta		$2,647	$8,900	$6,253	70%
	Miami		$2,735	$7,323	$4,588	63%
	New York	Buenos Aires	$3,572	$6,030	$2,458	41%
		Santiago	$3,429	$6,250	$2,821	45%
		São Paulo	$2,647	$5,890	$3,243	55%

HOW TO BOOK

You have several options but booking through a travel agent is best because an agent has easy access to inventory information. You can also use Delta's website or your favorite online booking engines such as Google Flights, Expedia, Orbitz, or Kayak. Make sure to use the multi-city search feature.

N.B. One thing to note is that these fares change frequently, and they're particularly volatile. So play with the dates a day or two (or 20) before and after each of the segments, and more than likely you'll find fares in the same range as we did.

google.com/travel/flights **multi-city screenshot below:**



See you up front?

See It and Raise It: Score Business for the Price of Premium Economy on KLM and Air France, Now

June 2024

In April, many readers were excited by our report about scoring Premium Economy tickets for the price of coach. Well, let's dial it up because Air France's current bonus buy promotion is dealing you a hot hand. See it and raise it — to Business Class!

As we mentioned back then, Flying Blue is the joint loyalty program of Air France, KLM, and a few other European airlines. With aces still abundant, we've kept Flying Blue on our radar.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH FARES?

Air France and KLM's fares are often highest when booked within 14 days of departure. However, unlike other major airlines, they are not following the status quo by offering low summer fares on many routes.

- **Air France**
  - **Chicago to Paris:** typical Business Class fares through late October range from $4,280 to $6,610+. From late October to April, fares range from $2,900 to $3,800.
- **KLM**
  - **Chicago to Amsterdam:** typical Business Class fares through late August and in September range from $4,410 to $6,330+. From late August and late October to April, fares range from $3,280 to $4,480.

Consider positioning flights when lucky low fares are not offered on your route **or** when you don't have the minimum-stay requirement.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH MILES?

Air France and KLM both have a dynamic award pricing structure and have recently reduced the cost of awards on Air France to Paris and KLM to Amsterdam. Now they're starting at 50,000 miles each way on nonstop routes from the U.S.

Air France and KLM, via Flying Blue, continue to deal good hands

ARE THE BIG 3 DEALING LOSING HANDS?

American Airlines charges between 47,000 and 145,000 miles for Premium Economy and between 62,000 and 400,000 for Business Class from New York to Paris, each way.

Delta Airlines ranges from 90,000 to 160,000 miles for Premium Economy and between 255,000 and 375,000 for Business Class, each way.

United Airlines' miles cost is between 76,400 and 120,000 for Premium Economy and between 140,000 and 175,000 for Business Class, each way.

LOW ON CHIPS? JUST BUY SOME MORE

Typical everyday mileage costs are around 2.44 cents each. But Flying Blue frequently offers mileage purchase bonuses. The current one runs through June 10 with a 70% bonus if you buy 100,000 miles (the maximum allowed per year) directly from the airline. This means you can get up to 170,000 miles with the bonus.

What does that mean, money-wise? Well, it works out to about 1.79 cents each. On KLM's Chicago-Amsterdam route that's a savings of up to $2,028 / 46% when compared to typical published fares. That's a royal flush — using a strategy we love here at FCF.

We often talk about buying miles when published premium fares are high, specifically when prices are hovering at $4,000+ for Business Class international tickets. Here's a look at the savings:

Airline	From Chicago To	R/T Mileage	Cost of Miles at 1.79 Cents	Award Taxes	Total Cost Including Award Ticket Taxes	Typical Published Fare	Savings	
Air France	Paris	100,000	$1,794	$588	$2,382	$4,280	$1,898	44%
KLM	Amsterdam					$4,410	$2,028	46%

A TABLE FULL OF TRANSFER PARTNERS

Air France/KLM's Flying Blue loyalty program has lots of points-to-miles transfer partners including Amex Rewards, Capital One, Chase, and Citi.

You can buy up to 500,000 annually from Amex Membership Rewards for 2.5 cents each and transfer them to Flying Blue. Check out FCF's How to buy American Express Membership Rewards points, and Beginner's Guide: how to play the "Buy Miles to Fly In Style".

Air France and Amex offer transfer bonuses periodically. Their most recent bonus last September was 25%. This brings the mileage transfer cost down from 100,000 to just 75,000 miles for a round-trip ticket in Business Class.

MILEAGE AWARD TAXES

Air France/KLM typically charges around $588 in taxes for Business Class awards, round-trip, although it varies by route.

It's easy to search for award seats as we told you here. Below are the routes with award availability at the time of publication, but they will certainly change over time.

ACES IN THE HOLE

AIR FRANCE AWARD AVAILABILITY BETWEEN THE U.S. & CANADA AND PARIS

You can find wide-open four+ seat availability on their New York-Paris route outbound from January to March and November to May on the return flight.

You can find wide-open four+ seat availability on their New York-Paris route outbound from January to March and November to May on the return flight.

To/From Paris	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	July, Aug., Feb.	July	Jan.	May, June, July, Aug., Nov., March, April	Dec., Jan.	Feb.
Chicago		Jan.	Jan., Feb.	Dec., Jan., March	Jan., March	Feb.
Houston	Feb.	Jan.		Jan., Feb., April, May	Feb.	
Miami	Jan.			Jan, March	Feb., March	
New York	July, Aug., Dec., April	Aug.	Jan. to March	May to July, Aug., Sept.	June, July, Aug., Nov., April	Nov. to March, April, May

Months in black have at least one seat available; in blue, at least two seats; in green, at least four seats. Remember to use the data as a guide since availability can be volatile…

KLM AWARD AVAILABILITY BETWEEN THE U.S. & CANADA AND AMSTERDAM

You can find a handful of days with availability for four+ travelers both outbound and return in February on their Austin, Boston, Chicago, and Houston-Amsterdam routes.

To/From Amsterdam	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
Austin	Jan., Feb.			Jan., Feb.		
Boston	July, Jan., Feb.			June, Aug., Dec. to March, April		
Chicago	Jan., Feb.	Jan., Feb.		Jan., Feb., March, May	Feb.	
Houston	Feb.			Jan., Feb., April, May		
Minneapolis	Jan.			Jan., May	Feb.	
New York	Feb.			June, Jan., March, April, May	Jan., Feb., March	Feb.

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

NOT FLYING TO PARIS OR AMSTERDAM? CALL THE AIRLINE'S BLUFF WITH A CONNECTING FLIGHT

You can fly almost anywhere in Europe on one ticket. Air France and KLM offer awards that allow connections on the flights they operate, as well as their partners. That means you can add on the following destinations (as long as they're available beyond Paris or Amsterdam with the airline or its partners): Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, UK, and more. That's a pretty nice European bucket list selection.

When booking a connecting flight, check each segment separately first, starting with the most important over-the-water flight. You can add a connection to your nonstop route (depending on availability). However, you will have to spend more miles to add these connecting flights.

YOUR CALL

Travel is like poker. It's not only about being dealt a great hand — it's about leveraging that hand to snag a big win.

High Business Class Fares Got You Down? Try the Low-Fare Route Sidestep Hustle

June 2024

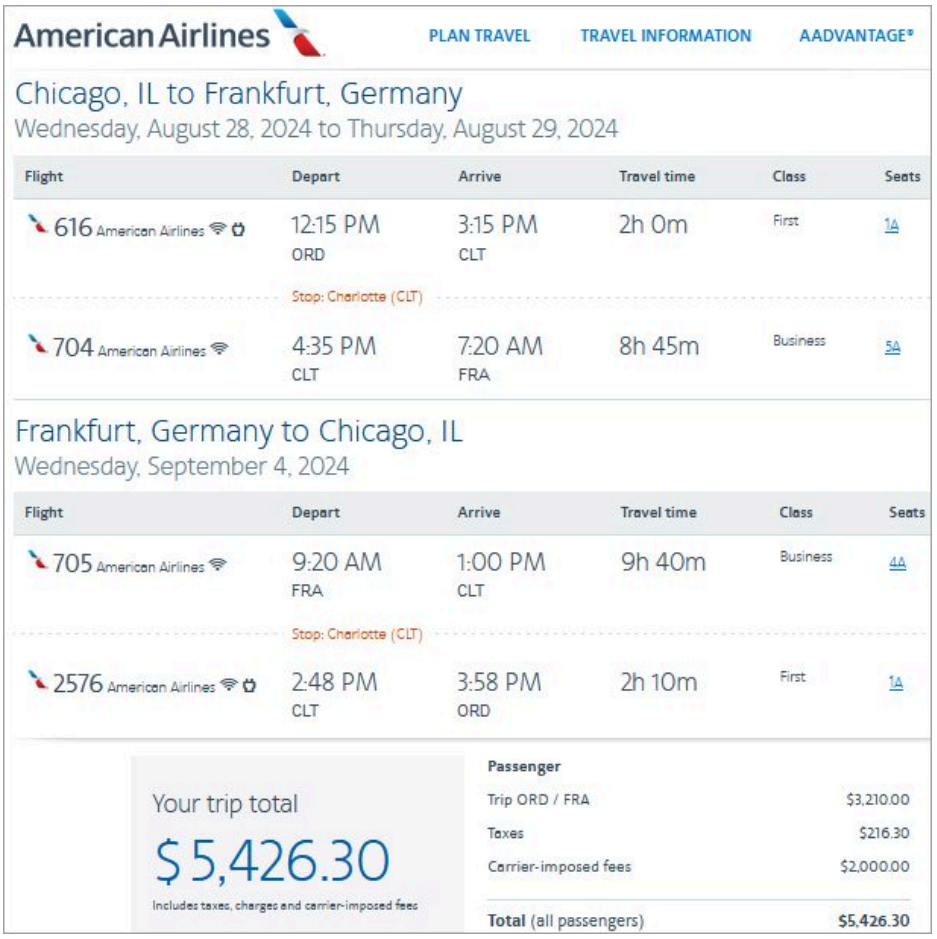
Business Class fares are a mixed bag these days. We're finding great fares one day, and *grate* fares the next. Well, they grate on my nerves when I see them. So it got us thinking — what if we got a bit lateral about the departure and arrival cities? Instead of just accepting the high fare, why not cast your net a little wider in terms of the cities you leave from and arrive to? Sometimes an alternative city is surprisingly close and offers a much better fare — which would way more than cover the cost of the short trip to get there.

This "sidestep hustle" is a handy hack when fares are high out of a major U.S. city like Chicago or New York. Let's look at some examples.

SIDESTEP HUSTLE #1 ALTERNATE U.S. DEPARTURE CITY

A typical Business Class fare on American Airlines from Chicago to Frankfurt is $5,426. Instead, you could sidestep to Milwaukee and fly from there to Frankfurt in Business Class on American for only $3,361. Milwaukee is just 67 miles from Chicago, a short trip for a $2,065, or 38%, savings. That could be a short "positioning flight" or even a car trip. Either way, you're well ahead. Screenshots follow.

CHICAGO TO FRANKFURT FOR $5,426



American Airlines — PLAN TRAVEL — TRAVEL INFORMATION — AADVANTAGE®

Chicago, IL to Frankfurt, Germany
Wednesday, August 28, 2024 to Thursday, August 29, 2024

Flight	Depart	Arrive	Travel time	Class	Seats
616 American Airlines	12:15 PM ORD	3:15 PM CLT	2h 0m	First	1A
Stop: Charlotte (CLT)					
704 American Airlines	4:35 PM CLT	7:20 AM FRA	8h 45m	Business	5A

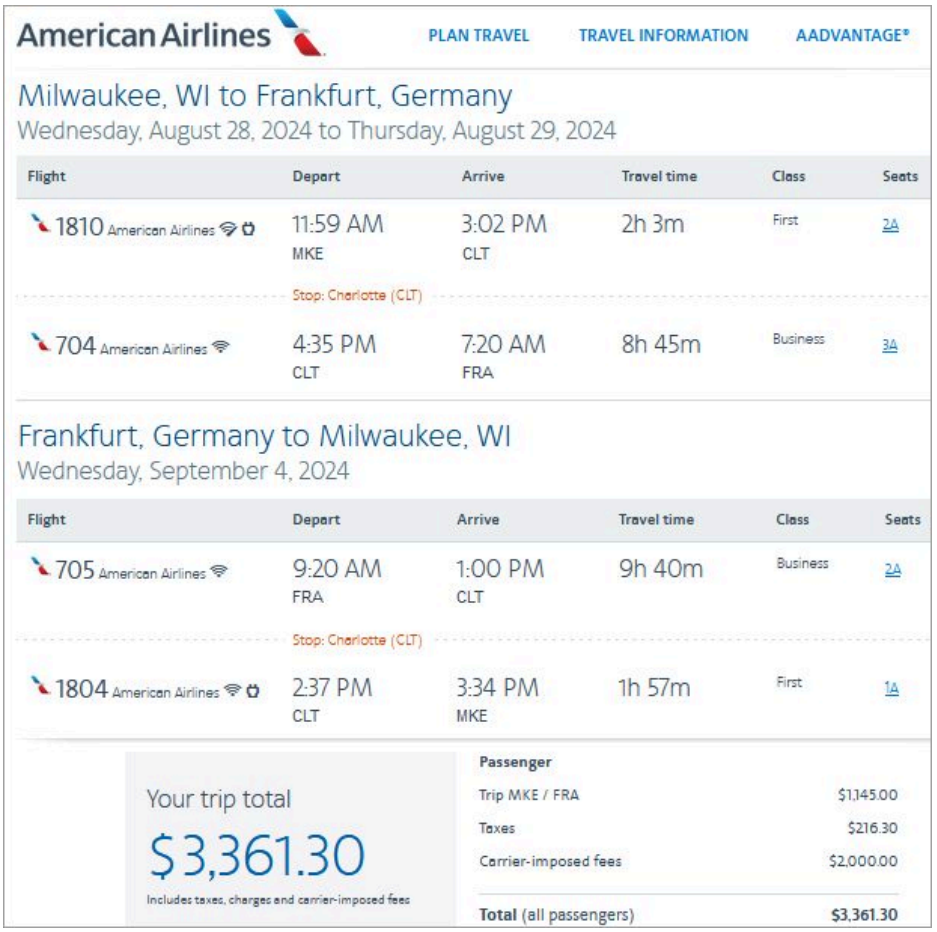
Frankfurt, Germany to Chicago, IL
Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Flight	Depart	Arrive	Travel time	Class	Seats
705 American Airlines	9:20 AM FRA	1:00 PM CLT	9h 40m	Business	4A
Stop: Charlotte (CLT)					
2576 American Airlines	2:48 PM CLT	3:58 PM ORD	2h 10m	First	1A

Your trip total
$5,426.30
Includes taxes, charges and carrier-imposed fees

Passenger	
Trip ORD / FRA	$3,210.00
Taxes	$216.30
Carrier-imposed fees	$2,000.00
Total (all passengers)	**$5,426.30**

MILWAUKEE TO FRANKFURT FOR $3,361 ON AMERICAN



American Airlines — PLAN TRAVEL — TRAVEL INFORMATION — AADVANTAGE®

Milwaukee, WI to Frankfurt, Germany
Wednesday, August 28, 2024 to Thursday, August 29, 2024

Flight	Depart	Arrive	Travel time	Class	Seats
1810 American Airlines	11:59 AM MKE	3:02 PM CLT	2h 3m	First	2A
Stop: Charlotte (CLT)					
704 American Airlines	4:35 PM CLT	7:20 AM FRA	8h 45m	Business	3A

Frankfurt, Germany to Milwaukee, WI
Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Flight	Depart	Arrive	Travel time	Class	Seats
705 American Airlines	9:20 AM FRA	1:00 PM CLT	9h 40m	Business	2A
Stop: Charlotte (CLT)					
1804 American Airlines	2:37 PM CLT	3:34 PM MKE	1h 57m	First	1A

Your trip total
$3,361.30
Includes taxes, charges and carrier-imposed fees

Passenger	
Trip MKE / FRA	$1,145.00
Taxes	$216.30
Carrier-imposed fees	$2,000.00
Total (all passengers)	**$3,361.30**

ALTERNATE U.S. DEPARTURE CITIES

It's not just the Chicago/Milwaukee sidestep that works. Here's a range of alternative departure options for nearby cities across the three alliances on major carriers.

ONEWORLD ALLIANCE

To	Flying From	High Fare	Instead Fly From	Lower Fare	Savings	
Copenhagen	Charlotte	$3,904	Atlanta	$2,708	$1,196	31%
Rome		$4,219	Greenville, SC	$3,390	$829	20%
Milan	Chicago	$4,750	Indianapolis	$3,262	$1,488	31%
Frankfurt		$4,836	Milwaukee	$3,474	$1,362	28%
Barcelona	Dallas	$4,363	Austin	$2,858	$1,505	34%
Milan		$4,072		$2,865	$1,207	30%
Dublin		$3,810		$2,920	$890	23%
London		$3,970	San Antonio	$3,090	$880	22%

To	Flying From	High Fare	Instead Fly From	Lower Fare	Savings	
Edinburgh		$4,395	Newark	$3,300	$1,095	25%
Athens		$4,160		$3,339	$821	20%
Munich	Washington, DC	$5,950	Richmond, VA	$3,210	$2,740	46%
Vienna		$4,780		$3,305	$1,475	31%
Salzburg		$4,220			$915	22%
Barcelona		$4,130		$3,220	$910	

SKYTEAM ALLIANCE

To	Flying From	High Fare	Instead Fly From	Lower Fare	Savings	
Manchester	Atlanta	$4,679	Chattanooga	$3,563	$1,116	24%
Frankfurt	Chicago	$6,016	Milwaukee	$3,474	$2,542	42%
Munich		$5,940		$3,461	$2,479	
Salzburg		$5,510		$3,461	$2,049	37%
Frankfurt		$5,450		$3,477	$1,973	36%
Thessaloniki	Detroit	$4,690	Toronto	$3,675	$1,015	22%
Cagliari	Seattle	$5,449	Vancouver	$3,128	$2,321	43%
Mykonos		$5,690		$3,391	$2,299	40%
Faro		$5,636		$3,398	$2,238	
Verona		$4,965		$3,138	$1,827	37%
Dublin	Washington, DC	$5,158	Richmond, VA	$2,958	$2,200	43%

STAR ALLIANCE

To	Flying From	High Fare	Instead Fly From	Lower Fare	Savings	
Munich	Boston	$4,350	Hartford, CN	$3,210	$1,140	26%
Zurich		$4,270		$3,130		27%
Edinburgh	Chicago	$4,980	Milwaukee	$3,560	$1,420	29%
Malaga	Dallas	$5,540	Austin	$3,680	$1,860	34%

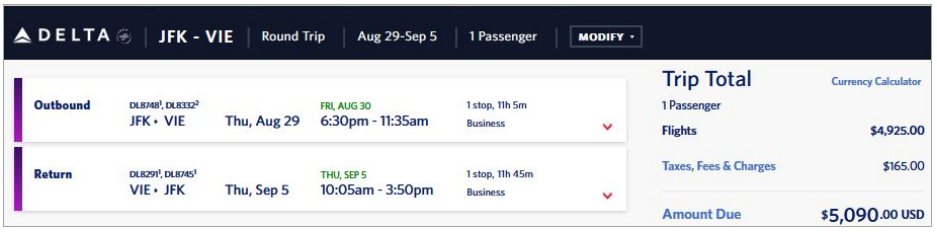
To	Flying From	High Fare	Instead Fly From	Lower Fare	Savings	
Barcelona	Houston	$3,980		$2,858	$1,122	28%
Rome		$4,380		$3,390	$990	23%
Barcelona	Washington, DC	$4,094	Richmond, VA	$3,025	$1,069	26%
Rome		$4,120		$3,044	$1,076	
Dublin		$4,089	Charlottesville, VA	$2,983	$1,106	27%

And, it's not only the U.S. departure cities that offer lots of alternatives. Arrival cities in Europe do so too, as this example shows.

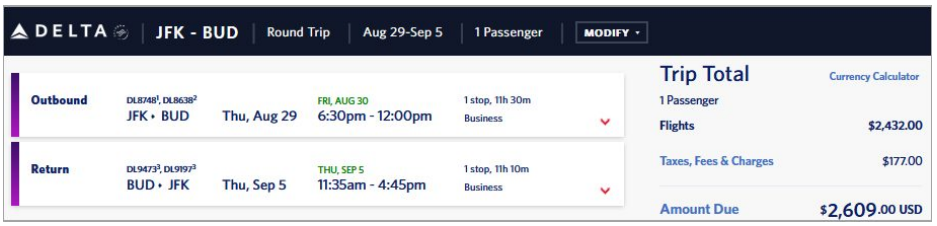
SIDESTEP HUSTLE #2 ALTERNATE INTERNATIONAL DESTINATION

A typical fare on Delta from New York to Vienna costs $5,090. So why not look at a nearby alternative — Budapest, for example? Budapest is only 133 miles from Vienna, and yet the New York-Budapest fare is just $2,609, a savings of $2,481, or 49%. That's an incredible price difference considering the 133-mile gap. You could take a high-speed train between the cities. Those take around 2 hours and 15 minutes and offer gorgeous scenery from rolling hills to quaint villages and dense forests. Or stay in Budapest for a few days; it's a beautiful city.

DELTA NEW YORK TO VIENNA FOR $5,090



DELTA NEW YORK TO BUDAPEST FOR $2,609



ALTERNATE INTERNATIONAL DESTINATION

ONEWORLD ALLIANCE

From	Flying To	High Fare	Fly Here Instead	Lower Fare	Savings	
Chicago	Brussels	$4,770	Paris	$2,810	$1,960	41%

From	Flying To	High Fare	Fly Here Instead	Lower Fare	Savings	
	Munich	$4,835	Venice	$3,210	$1,625	34%
	Vienna	$4,770	Budapest	$3,186	$1,584	33%
	Milan	$4,750	Turin	$3,300	$1,450	31%
Miami	Munich	$5,080	Prague	$3,228	$1,852	36%
	Zurich	$4,350	Milan	$2,873	$1,477	34%
New York	Vienna	$4,140	Budapest	$2,550	$1,590	38%
Washington, DC	Geneva	$4,160	Milan	$3,143	$1,017	24%

SKYTEAM ALLIANCE

From	Flying To	High Fare	Fly Here Instead	Lower Fare	Savings	
Boston	Basel	$4,970	Geneva	$3,260	$1,710	34%
Chicago	Vienna	$5,180	Budapest	$3,202	$1,978	38%
	Zurich	$4,990	Milan	$3,382	$1,608	32%
New York	Vienna	$5,090	Budapest	$2,609	$2,481	49%
San Francisco	Frankfurt	$5,090	Stuttgart	$3,909	$1,181	23%
	Zurich	$5,000		$3,909	$1,091	22%
Toronto	Munich	$4,751	Prague	$2,852	$1,899	40%
	Berlin	$4,643		$2,852	$1,791	39%
	Zurich	$5,189	Milan	$3,739	$1,450	28%
Vancouver	Zurich	$5,357		$3,137	$2,220	41%
	Munich	$5,091	Prague	$3,128	$1,963	39%

STAR ALLIANCE

From	Flying To	High Fare	Fly Here Instead	Lower Fare	Savings	
Chicago	Malaga	$4,530	Seville	$3,336	$1,194	26%
Houston	Brussels	$4,085	Amsterdam	$3,181	$904	22%
Miami	Zurich	$5,050	Milan	$2,865	$2,185	43%

From	Flying To	High Fare	Fly Here Instead	Lower Fare	Savings	
Newark	Dubrovnik	$5,107	Split	$3,290	$1,817	36%

SIDESTEP HUSTLE IS JUST ONE OF MANY UPGRADE TOOLS IN YOUR KIT

It's easy to be one-dimensional when it comes to travel. We can literally get set in our ways. For example, many Chicagoans would never think to go to Milwaukee for a better deal, and yet there it is, just 133 miles away. The same approach applies to the destination city. Here are some other smart travel plays to make you a winner.

We mentioned position flights above, here's more about them. Positioning Flights: FCF's Mindset on Getting Where the Getting is Good

Maybe you're thinking about travel the wrong way around. Here's where you'll find out. Are You An Opportunity Traveler?

The IAP is a no-brainer for easy savings. Knock off hundreds of dollars (and sometimes even thousands) on lots of premium fares on 26 airlines, thanks to Amex's International Airline Program (IAP).

FCF's Rare Fares page has all the needles without the annoying haystack. Here's… How to Leverage FCF's Special Fare Finder

Airline hold policies are a handy tool you can use for finding a better fare after you've already bought your ticket. Hold This, Dear: A Way to Have Your Deal and Fly It Too

Come to think of it, there are still lots of ways to upgrade after you have a ticket in hand. Buy the Dip, Upgrade Your Trip

As we said in the intro, prices are up and down right now, so here's a strategy to even out the roller coaster ride. Seeing Rollercoaster Fares? Have FCF's 2-Step Plan in Your Pocket

And finally, we always talk about being as flexible with dates, airlines, and routes as you possibly can — *until you can't*. So here's a plan. If You're NOT Flexible: 11 Ways to Save on Premium Flights.

Upgrade Economics 101, Part 11: Upgrade to Europe from Premium Economy to First Class for $176 Round-Trip

June 2024

A strategy that's hidden in *plane* sight

Good morning, class. I trust you've been studying hard and putting what you've learned into practice by upgrading your travel as much as possible. Today I'd like to talk to you about being strategic *and* opportunistic.

Business Class fares to Europe have been painfully high ever since Lockdown has waned — a classic case of demand outstripping supply, forcing prices to rise. Well happily, that phenomenon has finally plateaued, and is even beginning to trend down now. Just as in life, change is the norm. It's how you deal with change that determines if you win. That's the heart of what we at FCF call the Upgrade Mindset.

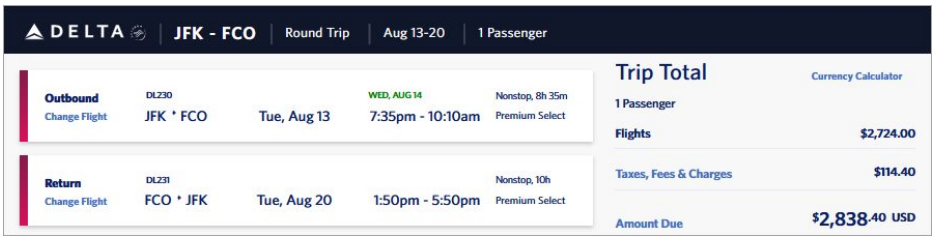
In today's class, our goal is to shift your mindset, based on the fares we are currently seeing, along with other ticketing options like FCF's Horses for Courses strategy. With Horses for Courses, you fly one way in one cabin class and return on another, maximizing value and comfort within a budget.

Now, given the fluctuating airfare climate, what else has changed? Let's dive into the impact on our Horses for Courses strategy when Business and First Class fares drop.

Our degrees take you further

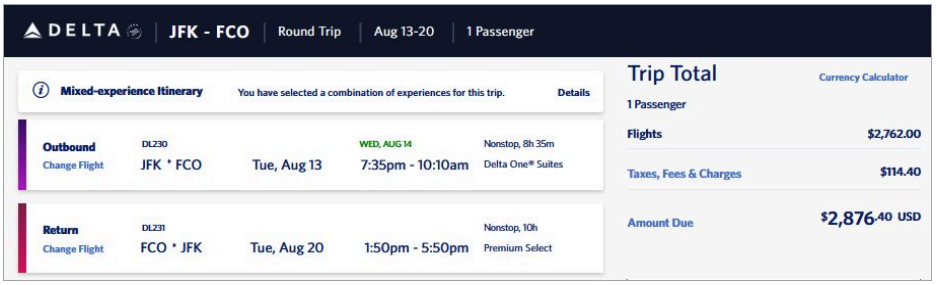
NONSTOP ON DELTA IN PREMIUM ECONOMY FOR $2,838

Let's say you're on a budget or your company only pays for Premium Economy on international flights. In this case, you'd be looking at a nonstop JFK-Rome trip (for example) on Delta for $2,838.



HORSES OF COURSES UPGRADE FOR $38 ROUND-TRIP

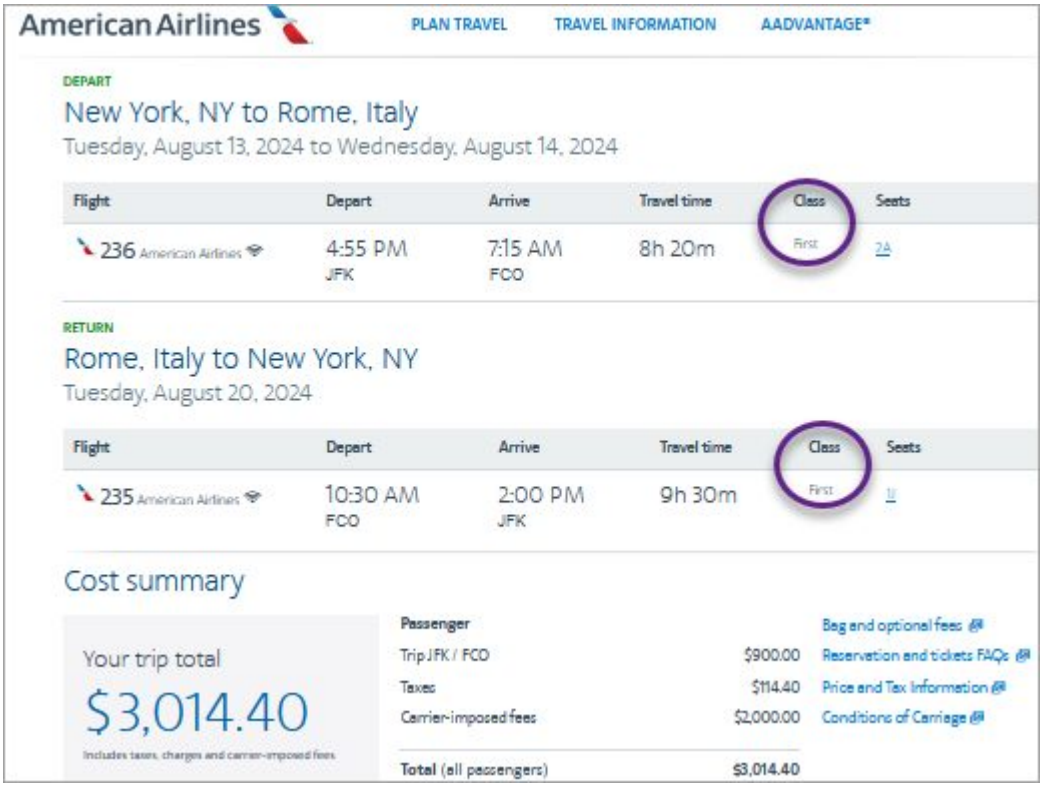
Or you could "one-up" them with FCF's Horses of Courses strategy and fly nonstop on Delta in on the return (a day flight to finish your paperwork) for $2,876. That's an upgrade in one direction for $38, or just $2 per flight hour.



FIRST CLASS UPGRADE FOR $176 ROUND-TRIP

Or, because you receive FCF's fare alerts and thanks to some low fares and some out-of-the-box thinking, you could fly nonstop on American in
for just $3,014. That's an upgrade from your original Premium Economy Class itinerary to First Class for a paltry $176, or $9.50 per flight hour, round-trip.

That's a *double upgrade*, jumping two cabins. Screenshot below. If I were your boss, I'd give you an **on-the-spot promotion for smart thinking.**



American Airlines

PLAN TRAVEL | TRAVEL INFORMATION | AADVANTAGE®

DEPART

New York, NY to Rome, Italy

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 to Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Flight	Depart	Arrive	Travel time	Class	Seats
236 American Airlines	4:55 PM JFK	7:15 AM FCO	8h 20m	First	2A

RETURN

Rome, Italy to New York, NY

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

Flight	Depart	Arrive	Travel time	Class	Seats
235 American Airlines	10:30 AM FCO	2:00 PM JFK	9h 30m	First	1J

Cost summary

Your trip total

$3,014.40

Includes taxes, charges and carrier-imposed fees

Passenger	
Trip JFK / FCO	$900.00
Taxes	$114.40
Carrier-imposed fees	$2,000.00
Total (all passengers)	$3,014.40

Bag and optional fees

Reservation and tickets FAQs

Price and Tax Information

Conditions of Carriage

That's a double upgrade!

Other sample routes follow.

Route	Airline	First Class Cost R/T	Airline	Premium Economy Cost R/T	Cost to upgrade to First Class from Premium Economy
Los Angeles-Glasgow	American	$3,408	KLM	$3,028	$380
Los Angeles-Edinburgh		$3,395	Air France	$2,953	$442
San Francisco-Glasgow		$3,405	KLM	$2,726	$679
New York-Edinburgh		$3,396	Delta	$2,526	$870
New York-Milan		$3,058	Delta	$2,098	$960

Thanks for listening class, if you keep putting these lessons to use, I will definitely see you up front.