



Use FCF's Stopover Double Upgrade Strategy to Europe to Net Savings Up to 47% + Free Flight

June 2025

Turn every expensive European fare into a double-destination adventure that costs less than flying direct

In our previous Stopover Double Upgrade Strategy (SDUS) reports in [March](#) and [May](#), we showed you how SDUS could slice up to 51% off domestic routes **and** deliver *free* Caribbean side trips.

A Los Angeles-Miami round-trip dropping from \$1,942 to \$960 in Business Class when you add San Juan? Yep, we proved the concept and gave you a cheat sheet on where to score the deals.

Now we've taken SDUS global. We systematically researched European routes across all three major alliances, and the results validate what we hoped: The cracks in airline pricing algorithms extend far beyond North America.

Europe's most expensive destinations can become affordable multi-city adventures. Sample pre-baked itineraries in a minute.

The concept remains elegant: You're not breaking the system, you're dancing between its cracks. Think of Amalfi Coast, Athens, Delhi, Dubai, French Riviera, Nice, Rome, Santorini, or Venice not as tourist destinations, but as a scalpel — **slicing thousands off expensive European fares.**

WHAT IS SDUS? THE EUROPEAN EXPANSION

The **Stopover Double Upgrade Strategy** exploits Business Class pricing blind spots by adding strategic European cities as "connections" to otherwise expensive destinations. Airlines charge massive premiums for many direct flights to places like Zurich (\$7,066 from San Francisco) or Frankfurt (\$6,731). But route through Rome, Nice, or Venice? Suddenly you're paying standard European pricing while getting a **bonus bucket-list destination.**

Here's the insight: Even a 1% SDU savings means you're getting another destination thrown in for **free.** Or, pay a bit more and hit a different destination you've been dreaming about, while you're already *out and about.*

EXAMPLE SDUS DEALS THE EUROPEAN DOUBLE UPGRADE IN ACTION

Star Alliance Example

Trip Type	SWISS Itinerary	Business Class
Normal Non-stop Round-Trip	San Francisco → Zurich	\$7,826
SDUS Strategy	San Francisco → Zurich → Nice (Free Side Trip)	\$4,185

The SDUS Difference: COST SAVINGS: \$3,641 / 47% LESS + FREE French Riviera stop

Compare Fares on [United.com](#)

ROUND TRIP

ORD to CDG

Thursday, August 7, 2025 to Thursday, August 14, 2025

American Airlines

Your trip total

\$4,628.81

Price for all passengers

Price and tax information

Includes taxes and carrier imposed fees

Bag and optional fees

MULTI CITY

ORD to CDG to FCO to ORD

Thursday, August 7, 2025 to Thursday, August 14, 2025

American Airlines

Your trip total

\$3,131.71

Price for all passengers

Price and tax information

Includes taxes and carrier imposed fees

Bag and optional fees

SkyTeam Example

Trip Type	Virgin Itinerary	Business Class
Normal Non-stop Round-Trip	San Francisco → London	\$5,604
SDUS Strategy	San Francisco → London → New Delhi (Free Side Trip to the Taj Mahal)	\$4,636

The SDUS Difference: COST SAVINGS: \$968 / 17% LESS + FREE New Delhi stop

Compare Fares on [Virginatlantic.com](https://virginatlantic.com)

(San Francisco-London on the left, add Delhi fare on the right)

			
Price summary		Price summary	
Flights	\$5,604.71	Flights	\$4,636.67
Taxes, fees and charges	\$2,516.71	Taxes, fees and charges	\$2,026.67
Subtotal	\$5,604.71	Subtotal	\$4,636.67
Total to pay \$5,604⁷¹ Total price for 1 person including taxes, fees, charges and carrier imposed charges Fare Conditions Key booking terms		Total to pay \$4,636⁶⁷ Total price for 1 person including taxes, fees, charges and carrier imposed charges Fare Conditions Key booking terms	

WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM EUROPEAN SDUS?

Traveler Type	Your Baseline?	Desire This?
Travel for Business	Normally come right home after a meeting or conference AND/OR faced with Business/First Class fare that's not cheap?	Could you use a little more rest and relaxation or adventure away? AND/OR Would you travel more for business if you could "expense" vacation flights?
Travel for Leisure	Do you have a trip in mind?	Wouldn't mind hitting the French Riviera, Italian Riviera, or the Taj Mahal for a few days or longer while you're already out and about AND Save money in the process?

Loyalty-Free Flyer	Always fly with the airline with the best routing/schedule or deal?	The world evermore is your oyster!
Already Have a Flight Booked	Open to saving money	
	AND/OR	A cheaper trip
	Getting a cheap, free, or less than free cool bonus destination	AND/OR
	AND	A bonus side trip
	Forgot or don't know that you can exchange the ticket you already have bought (without fees or penalty) for a new ticket?	AND/OR Earn more miles or elite credit?

SECRET DESTINATIONS WITH THE LOWEST FARES

Start seeing destinations like these as cost-cutting scalpels that slice thousands off expensive European Business Class fares.

Executive Summary

Tier 1 Savings:

- **Rome** — Works across all carriers, consistently 7%-40% savings
- **Nice** — Star Alliance gold, mixed results elsewhere
- **Venice** — Strong on Star Alliance

Tier 2 Savings:

- **Milan** — Reliable 15%-37% performer on OneWorld
- **Naples** — OneWorld's European sweet spot
- **Santorini** — Strong 8%-30% performer across carriers

53 PRE-BAKED FARE-SLASHING ITINERARIES TO USE NOW

Star Alliance European

Airline	Home Airport	Originally Planned Destination	Normal Business Class Round-Trip	Add-On Option with SDUS	SDUS Biz Class Fare	Bonus SDUS City Savings \$	Bonus SDUS City Savings %
Lufthansa	Chicago	Munich	\$4,016	Delhi	\$3,797	\$219	0.0577
Lufthansa / United	Chicago	Munich	\$4,016	Rome	\$4,006	\$10	0.0025
Lufthansa	Newark	Frankfurt	\$3,548	Santorini	\$3,276	\$272	0.083
United / Lufthansa	San Francisco	Frankfurt	\$6,731	Venice	\$4,536	\$2,195	0.4839
United / Lufthansa	San Francisco	Frankfurt	\$6,731	Nice	\$4,655	\$2,076	0.446
United / Lufthansa	San Francisco	Zurich	\$7,066	Rome	\$5,391	\$1,675	0.3107
United / SWISS	Chicago	Zurich	\$3,945	Nice	\$3,896	\$49	0.0126
United / SWISS	Chicago	Zurich	\$3,945	Venice	\$4,274	-\$329	-0.077
United / SWISS	Houston	Amsterdam	\$4,514	Santorini	\$4,454	\$60	0.0135
United / SWISS	Houston	London	\$4,157	Santorini	\$4,133	\$24	0.0058
United / SWISS	San Francisco	Amsterdam	\$4,152	Naples	\$4,322	-\$170	-0.0393
United / SWISS	San Francisco	Zurich	\$7,066	Nice	\$4,185	\$2,881	0.6884
United / SWISS	San Francisco	Zurich	\$7,066	Naples	\$4,322	\$2,744	0.6349

United / SWISS	San Francisco	Zurich	\$7,066	Athens	\$6,226	\$840	0.1349
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Even 1% savings equals a FREE European city worth \$2,000+. The real win is the geographic upgrade, not just money saved.

OneWorld European Steals

Airline	Home Airport	Originally Planned Destination	Normal Business Class Round-Trip	Add-On Option with SDUS	SDUS Biz Class Fare	Bonus SDUS City Savings \$	Bonus SDUS City Savings %
American / British Airlines	Chicago	London	\$4,378	Rome	\$3,132	\$1,246	0.3978
American / British Airlines	Dallas	Amsterdam	\$4,543	Santorini	\$3,859	\$684	0.1772
American / Iberia	Dallas	Dublin	\$5,446	Naples	\$4,287	\$1,159	0.2704
American / Iberia - British Airlines	Dallas	Frankfurt	\$5,428	Santorini	\$4,185	\$1,243	0.297
American / Iberia / British Airlines	Dallas	Frankfurt	\$5,428	Cairo	\$4,551	\$877	0.1927
American / British Airlines	Dallas	London	\$4,471	Milan	\$3,865	\$606	0.1568
American / British Airlines	Dallas	London	\$4,471	Rome	\$4,168	\$303	0.0727

American / Iberia	Dallas	Madrid	\$5,212	Milan	\$3,810	\$1,402	0.368
American / Iberia	Dallas	Madrid	\$5,212	Santorini	\$4,031	\$1,181	0.293
American / Iberia	Dallas	Madrid	\$5,212	Nice	\$4,673	\$539	0.1153
American / Iberia	Dallas	Madrid	\$5,212	Venice	\$5,062	\$150	0.0296
American / British Airlines	Los Angeles	London	\$3,982	Delhi	\$3,782	\$200	0.0529
American / British Airlines	Los Angeles	London	\$3,982	Naples	\$3,618	\$364	0.1006
American / British Airlines	Los Angeles	London	\$3,982	Venice	\$3,766	\$216	0.0574
American / British Airlines	Miami	London	\$3,660	Naples	\$3,462	\$198	0.0572
American / British Airlines	New York - JFK	London	\$3,327	Rome	\$2,821	\$506	0.1794
American / British Airlines	New York - JFK	London	\$3,327	Milan	\$2,936	\$391	0.1332
American / Iberia - British Airlines	New York - JFK	London	\$3,327	Nice	\$3,134	\$193	0.0616
British / Iberia	Los Angeles	London	\$3,982	Nice	\$3,165	\$817	0.2581
British	Los Angeles	London	\$8,882	Dubai	\$8,140	\$742	0.0912

SkyTeam European Steals

Airline	Home Airport	Originally Planned Destination	Normal Business Class Round-Trip	Add-On Option with SDUS	SDUS Biz Class Fare	Bonus SDUS City Savings \$	Bonus SDUS City Savings %
Virgin Atlantic - Delta	Atlanta	London	\$4,268	Delhi	\$4,221	\$47	0.0111
Delta - Air France	Atlanta	Paris	\$4,168	Santorini	\$3,898	\$270	0.0693
Delta - Air France	Atlanta	Paris	\$4,168	Rome	\$3,902	\$266	0.0682
Air France	Atlanta	Paris	\$4,289	Naples	\$4,229	\$60	0.0142
Air France	Atlanta	Paris	\$4,289	Venice	\$4,256	\$33	0.0078
KLM	San Francisco	Amsterdam	\$6,039	Rome	\$5,973	\$66	0.011
Virgin Atlantic - Delta	New York - JFK	Dublin	\$4,551	Madrid	\$3,653	\$898	0.2458
Virgin Atlantic - Delta	San Francisco	London	\$4,818	Delhi	\$4,332	\$486	0.1122
Virgin Atlantic - Air France	New York - JFK	Zurich	\$5,147	Nice	\$4,485	\$662	0.1476
Delta - Air France	New York - JFK	Zurich	\$5,147	Venice	\$4,988	\$159	0.0319

Delta - Air France	New York - JFK	Zurich	\$5,147	Venice	\$4,989	\$158	0.0317
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CRACKING THE ELITE CURSE & THE UPGRADE MINDSET

Your mindset on airline loyalty elite status programs **frames** your travel life. It filters what you **want** and what you think you can have. Elite status expectations shape much of what many travelers perceive, choose, and experience when they fly .

But be **honest** with yourself. The loyalty you're giving to American, Delta, and United isn't being reciprocated, is it? Elite travelers know the drill too well — those **tantalizing benefits** dangling free upgrades like a carrot on a stick, but the line's so long you're left chewing on coach.

Different airlines now offer different European SDUS deals and schedules — so locking yourself into loyalty to one airline locks you out of options.

That's as true with European SDUS as any other strategy. That's why I've been advocating for **loyalty-free agency** for decades.

Why settle for one otherwise expensive destination when you could add a European bonus bucket-list visit that turns a routine trip into a jackpot?

CLOSING ARGUMENTS

You've already secured time off and prepared for premium European travel.

The Strategic Insight: This isn't about finding "cheap flights" — it's about transforming how you think about European travel. Instead of "I can't afford Switzerland," it becomes "Which European city should I visit for free on my way to Switzerland?"

The Compound Effect: You're building a travel lifestyle where you experience twice as many places while spending less money. Your European travel wealth compounds through continuous geographic upgrades.

See you up front — and perhaps on the Italian Riviera.



Apply the upgrade mindset to one of luxury's most exclusive brands

I love to stay in nice hotels and resorts. I'm obviously not the Lone Ranger on this point. In fact, there's nothing quite like being in a gorgeous suite, overlooking the ocean, and enjoying the facilities of a top-notch Four Seasons hotel or resort.

These days, even Hiltons and Hyatts often charge \$300+ a night. For *basic* hotels. Basic rooms. Meanwhile, everyone assumes Four Seasons costs double or triple that.

Not always.

In our research this month, we discovered how an an association membership – which **is available to anyone** – unlocks incredible opportunities at luxury hotels. I'm going to double down on that awesome strategy again this month with some added perspectives — showing how it works brilliantly at 11 Four Seasons properties (and probably more).

But first, let me paint you a picture of what's possible.

VIEW UPGRADES FOR FREE

What image does the phrase "ocean-view upgrade" conjure up in your mind? Good things, right? Maybe a yacht on the horizon, seashells revealed from a retreating tide, happy people frolicking on the beach.

Regardless, it sure beats "parking lot view" or "dumpster view" or "brick-wall view." So, imagine replacing those less attractive views with a stunning vista of the calming ocean — an upgrade, anyway you look at it — *without paying any more.*

So, what if I told you that at Four Seasons Fort Lauderdale, you'd normally pay a refundable rate of \$519 for an "Intercoastal Room" for two nights on August 22. BUT, if you had access to a particular strategy... voilà, you could get a "Prime Ocean-View Room" for \$448. For \$71 less. More. For. Less.

Normal Room / View Rate Without Promo Code



Lauderdale-View Room →

-  One king bed, two double beds or two queen beds, One rollaway bed (with king-bedded room only) or one crib on request
-  439-675 sq. ft. (40-62 m2)
-  King: 3 adults, or 2 adults and 1 child; Queens/Doubles: 4 adults, or 2 adults and 2 children

ROOM RATE

[Rate Details](#)

 Free Cancellation until Aug 19, 2025

Avg. price per night **From USD 519**

Includes Mandatory Fee (taxes calculated at checkout)

SELECT BED OPTIONS

Ocean-View Room With Promo Code

Ocean-View Room →

- One king bed or two queen beds. One rollaway bed (with king-bedded room only) or one crib on request
- 439-640 sq. ft. (40-59 m2)
- King: 3 adults, or 2 adults and 1 child; Queens: 4 adults, or 2 adults and 2 children

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AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Rate Details

Free Cancellation until Aug 19, 2025

Avg. price per night **USD 448**

Includes Mandatory Fee (taxes calculated at checkout)

SELECT BED OPTIONS

I'd call that a free view upgrade. Wait, the ocean-view room is cheaper. That means it's a less-than-free upgrade, right?

SUITE UPGRADE FOR FREE

Views are one thing, nice big suites are another. So the idea of a free suite upgrade kind of explains itself.

You know what drives me crazy? Those credit card programs like American Express Fine Hotels & Resorts that promise "complimentary upgrades upon arrival, *when available*." When available? Who wants to grovel at check-in, hoping the front desk agent takes pity on you?

If you don't use my approach, you'd pay \$547 per night for a basic "Deluxe Room" (315 square feet) at the Four Seasons Houston for a two-night stay on August 12. On the other hand, an ABA member can book an "Executive Suite" (606 sf) for just \$544.

That's \$3 less for a *much* better hotel experience, AKA an upgrade no-brainer.

Normal Room Without Promo Code



Deluxe Room →

- One king or two double beds, One rollaway or one crib in king-bedded rooms; One crib in double-bedded rooms
- 315-378 sq. ft. (29-35 m2)
- King-bedded rooms: 3 guests, including up to 2 children
Double-bedded rooms: 4 guests, including up to 3 children

ROOM RATE

[Rate Details](#)

Free Cancellation until Aug 9, 2025

Avg. price per night **USD 547**

Includes Mandatory Fee (taxes calculated at checkout)

SELECT BED OPTIONS

Executive Suite With Promo Code



Executive Suite →

- King bed, One sofa bed, one rollaway or one crib
- 606 sq.ft. (56 m2)
- 3 adults, or 2 adults and 2 children

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

[Rate Details](#)

Free Cancellation until Aug 9, 2025

Avg. price per night **USD 544**

Includes Mandatory Fee (taxes calculated at checkout)

ADD TO CART

Do the math: That is a cheaper than free upgrade.

Or, you could just save 27% off the normal room by paying \$369 instead of \$547 (\$178 / 33% off).

THE STRATEGY EVERYONE'S MISSING

Here's where people get elite status wrong. They chase elite status, staying 50-100 nights a year at mediocre properties, all for the *chance* at an upgrade.

Maybe you'll get a suite. If they're not sold out. Perhaps during off off-season.

What if I told you there's a way to lock in these upgrades at the time of booking? No begging. No uncertainty. No disappointment at check-in.

For just \$195 per year, you can become a [member of the American Bar Association](#) in the “**Friends of the ABA**” category. And no, you don't have to be a lawyer, pass the bar, or say things like “I object!” Instead, this membership lets you access negotiated rates at Four Seasons hotels that'll dwarf that \$195 fee in the time it takes to bring a gavel down.

“Sustained!”

Now let's get back to how this helps you lock in those upgrades.

HOLIDAY MAGIC — WHEN EVERYONE ELSE GETS PRICE GOUGED

“Never travel during holidays,” they say. “Hotels triple their rates.”

Often true. But not often with this strategy.

Look at these Thanksgiving rates at Four Seasons Westlake Village in Los Angeles. A regular Deluxe Room (450 sf) normally runs \$585. But with the ABA rate, you can book a Corner Studio Suite (644 sf) for just \$495. That's \$90 less for a *suite* during *Thanksgiving week*.

In two words, I call this “cheaper better.”

Or, just save 41% off the normal room by paying \$340 instead of \$585.

THE 11 HOTELS WHERE THIS OFTEN WORKS LIKE MAGIC

We checked hundreds of date combinations across Four Seasons properties. Here are the 11 hotels where we consistently found fantastic deals:

- Four Seasons Hotel Baltimore
- Four Seasons Hotel Beverly Wilshire
- Four Seasons Hotel Boston – One Dalton Street
- Four Seasons Hotel Chicago
- Four Seasons Hotel Fort Lauderdale
- Four Seasons Hotel Houston
- Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia
- Four Seasons Hotel Seattle

- Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis
- Four Seasons Hotel Washington DC
- Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village Los Angeles

Some hotels like Baltimore and St. Louis had deals available almost every date we checked. Others showed deals about half the time. I'm sure other Four Seasons properties offer similar opportunities if you play around with dates. We checked many hundreds of variables, but millions of combinations exist among 100+ properties and 365 days a year.

SAMPLE RATES FOR TWO-NIGHT STAY IN AUGUST (8-22 TO 8-24)

Hotel	Room Type	Square Feet	Normal Cost	ABA Member Cost	Savings
Four Seasons Baltimore	Harbour-View Room	502	\$900	\$410	\$490 (54%)
Four Seasons Fort Lauderdale	Prime Ocean-View Room	600	\$776	\$399	\$377 (49%)
Four Seasons St. Louis	City-View Room	511	\$530	\$269	\$261 (49%)
Four Seasons Washington DC	Grand Premier Room	470	\$1,600	\$815	\$785 (49%)
Four Seasons Seattle	Seattle-View Room	450	\$750	\$430	\$320 (43%)
Four Seasons Philadelphia	Arch-View Room	430	\$700	\$405	\$295 (42%)
Four Seasons Chicago	Lake-View Room	450	\$885	\$520	\$365 (41%)

SAMPLE RATES FOR FOUR-NIGHT STAY DURING THANKSGIVING (11-25 TO 8-30)

Hotel	Room Type	Square Feet	Normal Cost	ABA Member Cost	Savings
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Four Seasons Westlake Village	Corner Studio Suite	675	\$976	\$495	\$481 (49%)
Four Seasons Westlake Village	Studio Suite	650	\$889	\$495	\$394 (44%)
Four Seasons Westlake Village	Deluxe Room	525	\$585	\$340	\$245 (42%)
Four Seasons Seattle	Deluxe Room	400	\$850	\$516	\$334 (39%)
Four Seasons Houston	Deluxe Room	485	\$696	\$440	\$256 (37%)
Four Seasons Fort Lauderdale	Intracoastal Room	435	\$620	\$399	\$221 (36%)
Four Seasons Philadelphia	Center City Room	430	\$820	\$555	\$265 (32%)

SUITE DEALS FOR TWO-NIGHT STAY AUGUST 22-24

Hotel	Suite Type	Square Feet	Normal Cost	ABA Member Cost	Savings
Four Seasons Westlake Village	Corner Studio Suite	675	\$976	\$495	\$481 (49%)
Four Seasons St. Louis	Riverfront Studio Suite	722	\$920	\$495	\$425 (46%)
Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire	BW Studio Suite	650	\$945	\$546	\$399 (42%)
Four Seasons Fort Lauderdale	Lauderdale-View Suite	700	\$995	\$599	\$396 (40%)
Four Seasons Houston	Executive Suite	785	\$900	\$540	\$360 (40%)
Four Seasons Chicago	City-View Executive Suite	650	\$1,100	\$682	\$418 (38%)

Four Seasons Baltimore	Executive Suite	953	\$1,380	\$670	\$710 (51%)
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THE BOTTOM LINE

Think twice about chasing elite status so much, that *might* get you an upgrade. Stop hoping the front desk agent is in a good mood. Stop paying more for less.

Because while everyone else is collecting points and crossing their fingers, you'll be checking into guaranteed suites with guaranteed views at guaranteed prices — a guaranteed upgrade in every way.

"Case closed."

A close-up photograph of two young women with long brown hair. The woman on the left is wearing a denim shirt and has her hand near her mouth, appearing to be part of a group conversation or a secret. The woman on the right is also looking towards the same direction with an open-mouthed, surprised expression. The background is blurred, showing hints of green foliage and other people.

38 Secret Routes to Fly Business Class to Europe for \$703 to \$970 on Major Airlines

June 2025

Any opportunity traveler can participate

Look, I get it. Coach feels like you're playing human Tetris while Business Class costs more than some people's cars. But what if I told you there's a sweet spot in between?

I was thrilled when my team discovered Business Class flights to Europe starting at \$703 one-way—taxes included. Sure, it's not exactly pocket change, but compared to the \$3,500 to \$6,500 round-trip major airlines usually charge? Now we're talking.

Through some clever maneuvering with airline miles and **knowing exactly where to look**, you could save up to 75% on Business Class to Europe. And before you ask—yes, this works on real airlines like United, SWISS, and Lufthansa, not Bob's Discount Sky Service.

THE SECRET SAUCE & HOW ANYONE CAN DO THIS

Here's the deal: Avianca (a Star Alliance member) sells their miles, called LifeMiles, like clockwork. Sales pop up once or twice monthly, lasting 1-3 weeks. Just 1.29¢ per mile on its last sale.

Combine that with knowing which specific routes offer crazy-good redemption values, and suddenly you're flying Business Class **for less than what some people pay for Premium Economy**. Math has never been this fun.

Quick heads up: These sales only work for existing LifeMiles members. If you're not one yet, take three minutes to [sign up free](#). With sales happening practically monthly, you won't be waiting long.

THE CHERRY ON TOP: LIFEMILES+ SUBSCRIPTION

For \$20, LifeMiles+ gives you 10% off all award tickets. It's like a coupon that actually works at checkout. I've included this discount in all my calculations because, honestly, why wouldn't you?

THE NUMBERS THAT MADE ME DO A DOUBLE-TAKE

After analyzing hundreds of routes, we found 38 that work. Here's what jumped out:

The Absolute Steal Routes

New York to Zurich on SWISS: 49,500 miles one-way With the 10% discount: 44,550 miles × \$0.0129 = \$575 + \$128 taxes = **\$703 total**

That's it. \$703 for SWISS Business Class across the Atlantic.

New York to Geneva on SWISS: 54,000 miles 48,600 miles after discount × \$0.0129 = \$627 + \$128 taxes = **\$755 total**

Routes With Incredible Availability

Here's where it gets interesting. Some routes have availability scattered here and there, while others are practically giving seats away:

LOT Polish Airlines is very generous:

- **Chicago to Warsaw:** August through April (that's 9 months!)
- **Miami to Warsaw:** September-November, then April-May
- **New York to Warsaw:** Available in March, July-August, and January-February

At 62,100 miles (55,890 after discount), that's \$721 + \$128 taxes = **\$849 total**

Turkish Airlines wants everyone to visit Istanbul:

- **Boston to Istanbul:** December through April
- **Miami to Istanbul:** December through April
- **San Francisco to Istanbul:** January, February, March

Same 62,100-mile sweet spot = **\$849 total**

The Swiss Army Knife of Availability

SWISS dominates the availability game with routes from:

- New York, Newark, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington DC, and Los Angeles

Most hover around 62,100 miles, with some pleasant surprises like Newark to Paris at 49,500 miles (another \$703 special).

The Lufthansa Loophole

Usually, Lufthansa hits you with fuel surcharges that would make your accountant cry. But book through LifeMiles? Those disappear faster than free samples at Costco. Routes worth grabbing:

- **Atlanta to Frankfurt:** July-August and February-August
- **Boston to Munich:** July and August
- **Newark to Frankfurt:** Available in March and February
- **New York to Frankfurt:** January through March

All at 62,100 miles = **\$849 total**

THE FULL MONTY: ALL 38 ROUTES ANALYZED

Best Bang for Buck (Under 60,000 miles)

These 5 SWISS routes cost between \$703-\$810 total:

- Newark to Dublin – 54,000 miles
- Newark to Paris – 49,500 miles
- New York to Geneva – 54,000 miles
- New York to Paris – 59,000 miles
- New York to Zurich – 49,500 miles

The Sweet Spot (62,100 miles)

28 routes at this level = \$849 total. Pick your poison:

- 8 Turkish Airlines routes (great for connections beyond Europe)
- 7 SWISS routes to Zurich from various US cities

- 5 LOT Polish routes to Warsaw
- 8 Lufthansa routes without their usual surcharge nonsense

Premium Options (67,500-80,000 miles)

5 routes costing \$898 – \$970:

- Newark to London/Venice (United)
- San Francisco to Zurich (SWISS)
- Washington to Rome (United)

FCF'S TREASURE MAP TO WHEN THE GETTING IS GOOD

Airline	Route	# of Miles Required	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
Austrian	Montreal - Vienna	62100	June, Jan., March			March	June	
LOT	Chicago - Warsaw	62100	July, Aug., Feb., March, April	Aug., Jan., Feb., March, April.	Jan.	May, June, Aug., Nov., Jan., March, April	Feb.	
LOT	Miami - Warsaw	62100	Sept., Nov.			April		May
LOT	New York - Warsaw	62100	March	July, Aug., Jan., Feb.		Jan., Feb.	July, March	Aug.
Lufthansa	Atlanta - Frankfurt	62100	July, Feb.		Aug.	Feb.	Aug.	
Lufthansa	Boston - Munich	62100	July, Aug.	July, Aug.	July	July, Aug., Oct.	Sept.	June
Lufthansa	Los Angeles - Munich	62100				Aug.		
Lufthansa	New York - Frankfurt	62100	July, Aug., March		Jan., Feb.			Jan., Feb.

ifthansa	Newark - Frankfurt	62100	March	Jan., Feb.		Jan., March	Feb.	
SWISS	Boston - Copenhagen	62100	Oct., Jan., Feb., March	Jan.		Oct., Jan., March	Jan., Feb.	
SWISS	Boston - Dublin	62100	June, July, Aug., Oct., Nov.	July		June, Aug., Oct., Jan	June	
SWISS	Boston - Geneva	62100	June, July, Aug., Oct., Jan., Feb., Feb.	Jan.	July	Jan.	Feb.	
SWISS	Boston - Paris	62100	July, Oct., Jan., Feb., March	July		Jan., March	Feb.	
SWISS	Chicago - Copenhagen	62100	July, Aug.		Aug.	July	Aug.	Aug.
SWISS	Chicago - Paris	62100	July, Aug.	July		Aug.	Aug.	
SWISS	Chicago - Zürich	62100		Aug.	July	July		Aug.
SWISS	Los Angeles - Zürich	62100	Jan.				Jan.	
SWISS	New York - Dublin	62100	Jan., March	Feb.				
SWISS	New York - Geneva	54000	May, Aug., Nov, March	Aug., Oct., Jan.	July, Oct., Jan., Feb.	March	May, July, Oct.	July, Aug, Nov., Jan., Fe
SWISS	New York - Paris	69000	Jan., March	Feb.	Feb.	Jan., March	Feb.	Feb.
SWISS	New York - Zürich	49500	July, March	Jan., Feb.		March	July	Jan., Fe
United	Newark - Amsterdam	72000	July, Aug.			July	Aug.	
SWISS	Newark - Dublin	62100	Jan., Feb., March			March	March	Jan., Fe

SWISS	Newark - Copenhagen	62100	Oct., March	Jan., Feb., March	Jan., Feb.	March	Jan., Feb.	
SWISS	Newark - Paris	62100	Feb., March	Jan.			March	Jan., Fe
SWISS	Newark - Zürich	62100	July, Jan., March	Jan., Feb.	Feb.	March		Jan., Fe
SWISS	San Francisco - Zürich	67500	Jan.					
SWISS	Washington - Copenhagen	62100	Aug., Oct., Nov., Feb.	Aug., Jan.		Jan.	Aug., Feb.	Nov.
SWISS	Washington - Paris	62100	Oct., Jan., Feb.	Aug.	July	July, Oct.	Aug., Jan., Feb.	
SWISS	Washington - Zürich	62100	Nov., Jan., Feb.		July., Aug.	May, March	Jan., Feb.	June, July, Aug Nov., De
United	Newark - London	80000		July, Aug.		June	June, Aug.	June
United	Newark - Venice	72000	Aug.			Aug.		
United	Washington - Rome	72000	July	Aug.		July	Aug.	
Turkish	Boston - Istanbul	62100	Dec., April	Jan., March	March	Jan.	Dec., Jan., March, April	
Turkish	Miami - Istanbul	62100	Dec.		Jan, Feb., March, April	Dec.		Feb., March April
Turkish	San Francisco - Istanbul	62100	Jan., April	Feb.	March	Jan., Feb.		March

REAL TALK: MAKING THIS WORK

#1 The LifeMiles website has personality quirks Sometimes it's moody. Refresh, try again, maybe sweet-talk it a little. It'll work.

#2 Taxes stay reasonable Unlike booking directly with some airlines (*cough* Lufthansa *cough*), taxes through LifeMiles typically run \$100-\$375. No surprise \$1,000+ fuel surcharge ambushes.

#3 Keep those miles alive Miles expire after 12 months of inactivity. Buy \$20 worth annually, and they're immortal.

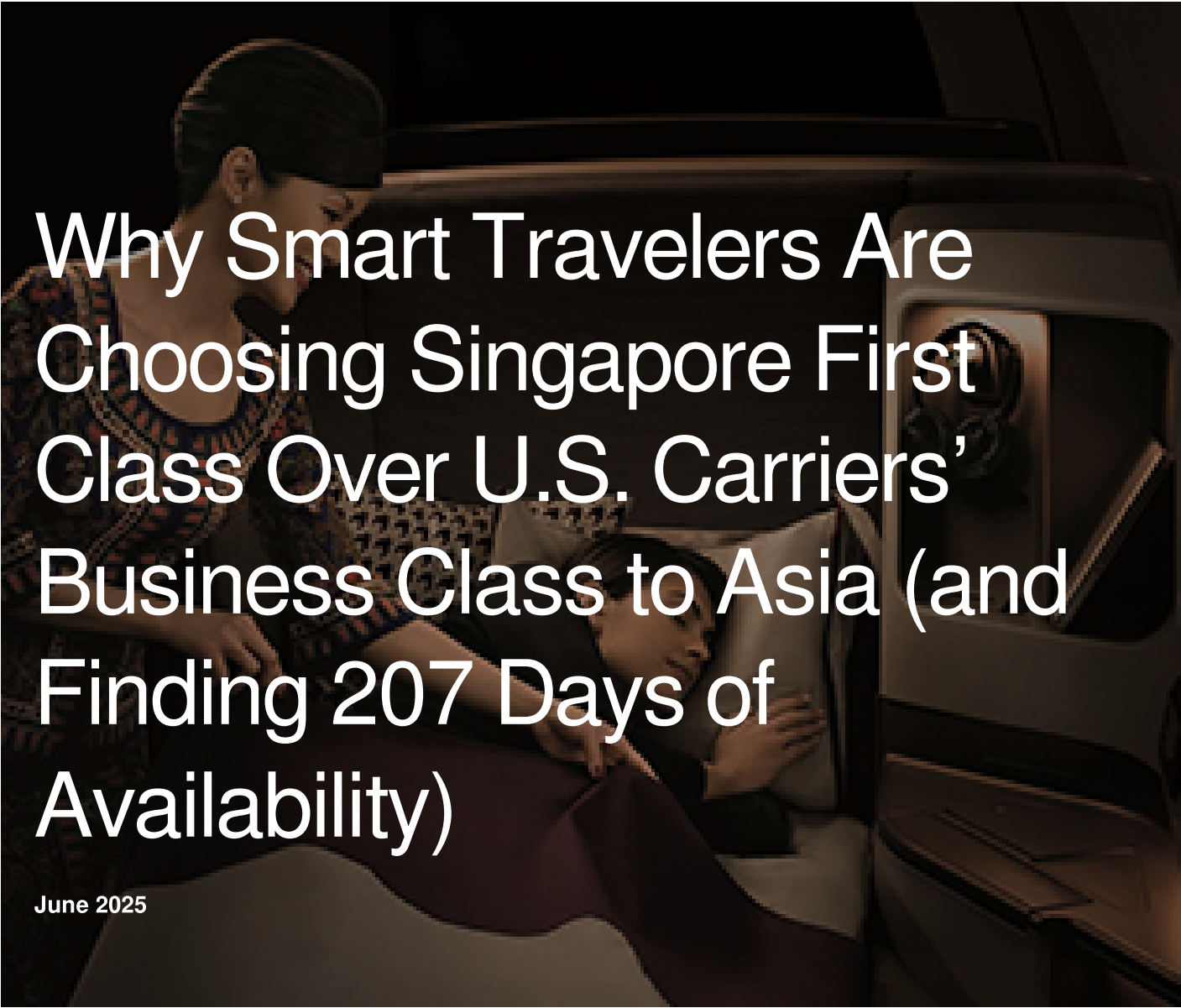
#4 Sales are basically monthly Miss this one? Another's coming.

BOTTOM LINE

For \$703 to \$970, you can fly Business Class to Europe on major airlines. Not some mythical "if the stars align" deal —real availability on real airlines, happening right now across 38 different routes.

Remember: perfection is the enemy of good deals. Find something that works, book it. You can always [fine-tune later](#).

See you up front.



Why Smart Travelers Are Choosing Singapore First Class Over U.S. Carriers' Business Class to Asia (and Finding 207 Days of Availability)

June 2025

If you have points with Amex, Capital One, Citi, or Chase, this \$23,128 seat should be on your upgrade radar

Here's something that'll make you **rethink** everything about using miles for premium travel to Asia: While everyone else is fighting over Business Class seats and paying 200,000+ miles one-way, there's a First Class secret **hiding** in plain sight.

I'm talking about **Singapore Airlines First Class for 187,000 miles**. Yes, that's more than the theoretical "saver" price (120,000). But here's the thing: Those saver awards with Singapore are like unicorns. Beautiful in theory, but extinct in practice.

THE UGLY TRUTH ABOUT U.S. CARRIER PREMIUM AWARDS

Let's start with reality. Try booking Business Class to Asia on American, Delta, or United right now. Go ahead, I'll wait.

What you'll find is a **masterclass in frustration**. Delta wants **290,000 miles one-way** for Business Class. American's dynamic pricing bounces **between 122,000 and 240,000**, depending on how the algorithm feels that day. United? Good luck finding anything under **170,000 to 250,000** that isn't connecting through three time zones and a prayer.

MEANWHILE, IN THE LAND OF ACTUAL AVAILABILITY...

Now here's where it gets interesting. Singapore Airlines' First Class from Los Angeles to Tokyo shows availability on 207 days over the next year. That's not a typo. Two hundred and seven. 134 on the outbound, 73 on the return.

How about for two travelers? Would you believe: 96 days outbound and 44 days return through May 2026.

Think about that. When's the last time you found TWO Business Class seats together on any U.S. carrier to Asia for any reasonable number of miles?

LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU ACTUALLY GET

This isn't just about availability. It's about what happens when you close that suite door.

U.S. Business Class: A nice seat that lies flat. An amenity kit with socks you'll never wear again.

Singapore First Class: Your own private suite. A 35-inch wide bed. Dom Pérignon and Krug champagne. Caviar service. Pajamas that some actually want to keep, lol.

It's like comparing a nice hotel room to a penthouse suite. Sure, they both have beds, but that's where the similarity ends.

Singapore Airlines' \$23,128 First Class Seats



THE MATH THAT'LL MAKE YOU A BELIEVER

"But 187,000 miles is a bit much." I hear you say.

Is it though? Let's do some math:

- American Business Class: 122,000-240,000 miles
- Delta Business Class: 290,000 miles typically, or more
- United Business Class: 170,000-250,000 miles
- **Singapore First Class: 187,000 miles**

THE ROUTE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

Singapore flies First Class on exactly one route from the U.S. to Asia, with a B777-300ER: Los Angeles to Tokyo.

Outbound flight SQ11 departs at 12:45 p.m. and gets you to Tokyo at 5:40 p.m. the next day. Return flight SQ12 leaves Tokyo at 6:15 p.m. and has you back in LA at 11:15 a.m.

Not in LA? Neither are most people. But connecting to LA is easier than finding Business Class award space on your preferred carrier. And Tokyo? It's the gateway to everywhere in Asia.

Make sure you're **mindful** of [FCF's take on positioning flights](#).

HERE'S THE MILES / POINTS AVAILABILITY WE FOUND FOR SINGAPORE'S \$23,128 FIRST CLASS SEATS YOUR CHEAT SHEET

Route	Airline	Outbound			Return		
		4 to 8 Days per Month	9 to 12 Days per Month	13+ Days per Month	4 to 8 Days per Month	9 to 12 Days per Month	13+ Days per Month
Los Angeles - Tokyo	Singapore	June, July , Sept. , Nov., March	Dec.	Aug. , Dec., Jan. , Feb. , March, April , May	Aug. , Sept., Dec., Jan. , March , April	Jan., May	Feb., March, May

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

THE STRATEGIC PLAY

Here's how the value-seekers are thinking about this:

Option 1: The Full Experience. Book round-trip for 374,000 miles and experience both flights in First Class. When you consider what U.S. carriers are charging for Business, this isn't the splurge it seems.

Option 2: The Hybrid. Book First Class one-way (I'd choose the return red-eye flight) and find something else for the outbound. Maybe you'll get lucky with a saver award. Maybe you'll book a positioning flight on ANA or JAL. The flexibility is yours.

Option 3: The Cash Alternative. Don't have 187,000 miles lying around? If you've got an Amex card, you can buy them for \$4,675 through [their mileage purchase program](#). That's over 50% off the otherwise \$23,128 round-trip cash price.

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

The premium travel landscape has shifted. The days of reliably finding 70,000-mile Business Class awards to Asia are over. Dynamic, inflationary pricing killed that dream.

While U.S. carriers race to the top with their Business Class pricing, Singapore's First Class sits there at 187,000 miles, available and bookable.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Is 187,000 miles a lot? In absolute terms, yes. In relative terms—compared to what you'll actually pay for **inferior** Business Class products—it's arguably the best value in premium travel to Asia today.

Sometimes the **best value** isn't the cheapest option. It's the one that actually exists, delivers incomparable value, and creates a memory that makes you smile every time you talk about it, which will be often.

Those 207 days of First Class availability aren't going to last forever. Neither is this pricing sweet spot.

What are you waiting for?



On Sale in June: Airline Miles and Hotel Points, Save Up to 88% on Premium Flights and Hotels

June 2025

HILTON POINTS: 50% OFF
(ENDS 7/24)

Related Special Reports:

[How to Save Up to 75% at Hilton and Hyatt On Peak Dates Like the Formula 1 in Austin](#)

[Save Up to 80%: Unleashing the Potential of Your Trip to Bali, the Maldives and the Seychelles with the Power of Buying Hilton Points](#)

AIR FRANCE: UP TO 80% BONUS
(ENDS 6/25)

Related Special Reports:

[213 Secret Cheap Routes to Europe in Business Class with Your Miles or Points – Enough to Take the Baseball Team](#)

ALASKA MILES: UP TO 70% BONUS
(ENDS 6/26)

Related Special Reports:

[Making the Most of Alaska Airlines New Award Chart – Huge Savings Still Available on Many Top Airlines](#)

[The Cheapest Business Class Round-Trip I Ever Found to Australia? Maybe This \\$2,232 One](#)

[How Alaska Is Letting You Skate Around High Premium Prices to Destinations All Over the World](#)

[Buy Frozen Alaska Miles, Then Thaw with a Range of Partners for Up to 87% Off First & Business Class](#)

AMERICAN MILES: SAVE UP TO 35%
(NO PUBLISHED END DATE)

Related Special Reports:

[How Secret \(Last-Minute\) Cheap Seats Can Vastly Improve Your \(Already-Booked\) Flight: The Iterative Upgrade Mindset, Part I](#)

UNITED: UP TO 100% BONUS
(ENDS 6/29)

Related Special Reports:

[23 Secret Routes with Business Class for \\$1,453 to \\$1,912 R/T to Europe, Part I](#)

[Pro Tips for United Mileage Award Seat Searches, Plus Treasure Map to Availability](#)

[Euro-logist Needed to Unblock the Star Alliance Award Availability Crisis Across the Pond, Part 1](#)

[How Secret \(Last-Minute\) Cheap Seats Can Vastly Improve Your \(Already-Booked\) Flight: The Iterative Upgrade Mindset, Part I](#)

[United Mileage Upgrades: The Last Refuge After the Latest MileagePlus Devaluation Still Saves Up to 69%](#)

MORE FCF BUY MILES TO FLY IN STYLE RELATED REPORTS:

[Beginner's Guide: How to Play the "Buy Miles to Fly In Style" Strategy to Net Up to 86% Off Premium Travel](#)

[How to Get Around Buying Miles Maximum Limits](#)

[How to Buy American Express Membership Rewards Points](#)

[Part II–The Golden Key to Unlocking Lucrative Miles & Points: How to Use FCF's Sweet Redeems to Save Up to 92% on First Class Flights \(When You Don't Have Any or Enough Miles or Points\)](#)



June's Top 39 Mileage Awards & Special Fares Greatest Hits (Still Available)

June 2025

Cool 2025 Deals

There are lots of oohs and ahhs this month that can save you a load of miles, points, and dollars. As we always say, however, don't delay, because some will be out-of-date fast!

Sweet Redeems

EUROPE

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Lufthansa > Business Class > New York to Frankfurt](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > SWISS > Business Class > Washington, DC to Zurich](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Lufthansa > Business Class > Newark to Frankfurt](#)

[Miles / Points > 2026 Travel > SWISS > Business Class > Newark to Dublin > 4+ Seats](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > United > Close In > Business Class > Newark to Naples](#)

[Discount SWISS Business Class with Miles/Points Availability from Newark to Amsterdam and Beyond > 4+ Travelers](#)

[Discount SWISS Business Class with Miles/Points Availability from Newark to Zurich and Beyond > 4+ Travelers](#)

[Miles > Europe > Close In > Scads of Singapore Business Class Opportunities from New York to Frankfurt / 4+ Seats](#)

[Miles / Points > 2026 Travel > SWISS > Business Class > Los Angeles to Paris > 2+ Seats](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from the East Coast to Naples](#)

[Miles or \\$ > United > Business Class > Newark to Naples > 4+ Seats](#)

[From 101,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Travelers > Iberia > Florida to Spain](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Lufthansa > Close In > Business Class > Boston to Munich](#)

[From 81,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Travelers > Iberia > New York to Spain](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > United Airlines > Business Class > Washington, DC to Brussels](#)

[From 101,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Travelers > Iberia > Texas to Spain](#)

[Miles or \\$ > United > Business Class > Washington, DC to Frankfurt > 4+ Seats](#)

[From 81,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 4+ Travelers > Iberia > Boston to Spain](#)

[United > Miles or \\$ > Business Class > East Coast to Europe > 4+ Seats](#)

[United > Miles or \\$ > Business Class > East Coast to Europe > 4+ Seats](#)

[From 81,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Travelers > Iberia > Washington DC to Spain](#)

[Miles or \\$ > United > Business Class > Close In > Newark to Rome > 4+ Seats](#)

[From 81,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 4+ Travelers > Iberia > Chicago to Spain](#)

[Miles or \\$ > United > Business Class > Close In > Newark to Geneva](#)

MIDDLE EAST

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Turkish Airlines > Business Class > Boston to Istanbul](#)

ASIA

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > 2026 Travel > Asiana Airlines > Los Angeles to Seoul](#)

[Cash OR Miles > *First Class* > 2026 Travel > All Nippon Airways > Chicago to Tokyo](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > 2026 Travel > Asiana Airlines > Los Angeles to Seoul](#)

Special Published Fares



CARIBBEAN

[Money > The Bahamas > All Year > Biz Class > \\$521 to \\$900 R/T](#)

EUROPE

[Money > Lisbon > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,848 to \\$3,245 R/T](#)

[Money > Helsinki > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,839 to \\$3,224 R/T](#)

[Money > Poland > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,834 to \\$3,281 R/T](#)

[Money > Vienna > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > \\$2,855 to \\$3,246 R/T](#)

[Money > Prague > Summer > Biz Class > \\$2,592 to \\$3,289 R/T](#)

[Money > Switzerland > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,842 to \\$3,233 R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > All Year > First Class > \\$3,870 to \\$5,370 R/T](#)

[Money > Barcelona > All Year > Premium Economy > \\$851 to \\$1,019 R/T](#)

[Money > Italy > All Year > First Class > \\$3,795 to \\$5,556 R/T](#)



MEXICO

[Money > Cancun > All Year > Biz Class > \\$554 to \\$913 R/T](#)

MIDDLE EAST

[Money > Istanbul > Winter > Biz Class > \\$2,840 to \\$3,391 R/T](#)