



Place the Floor, Chase the Ceiling – How Upgrade Thinkers Lock In Japan Airlines Premium Seats to Asia

September 2026

Two seats at a time, and still trade up to First

Four months ago, we showed you how upgrade thinkers can [land a \\$30,000 Japan Airlines First Class suite to Asia for 82% off](#).

Some of you set the alarm.

Some of you are flying in that suite next spring.

This month: It's the seat next door. Japan Airlines Business Class, round-trip to Tokyo. Depending on where you start, the airline wants somewhere between \$3,300 and \$6,700+ for it.

Or you pay in miles you already have, plus about \$755 in taxes.

Now the part that should make you sit up.

Thirty days of inventory. Three West Coast gateways. Both directions. Two seats on roughly half the dates we checked.

That isn't a lucky find.

That's a pattern.

And Pattern Recognition – seeing what repeats while everyone else sees what's missing – is where Upgrade Intelligence begins.

May's First Class report was [the trophy](#).

This is the system.

WHERE YOU STAND, NOT WHERE YOU WISH

The Upgrade Process starts where every honest plan starts: Baseline. Not where you'd like to be. Where you are.

If you read the May report, your Baseline has already moved. You know the 360-day window exists, and you know who gets there first.

That is a different starting line than you had in April.

If you didn't read it, your Baseline is simpler. A cash fare that swings by thousands depending on your zip code, or a quiet belief that saver awards went extinct years ago.

Either way, one fact stands.

Between Day 330 and Day 360 before departure, **JAL Business Class** from San Diego, Seattle, and San Francisco is open. Outbound and return. Dozens of dates, two seats on about half of them.

A Baseline is a fact, not a forecast.

The forecast is what you do next.

NAME IT TO CLAIM IT

Desires, Step #2, come next – and this is where a little Reality Navigation earns its keep.

This is not a report about the best Business Class seat in the sky.

JAL flies its B777 on these routes: lie-flat, roughly 12 hours across the Pacific, entirely comfortable, but not the new suite with the door.

Sometimes it's not about the best seat. It's about securing one cheaply.

So name the desire with precision. Tokyo. Two weeks. Lie-flat both ways. Two seats together. A live shot at First Class on at least one leg.

Vague desires produce vague itineraries.

Precise ones produce positions.

TWO ASSETS, ONE PORTFOLIO

Options, Step #3, is the step where most award travelers never arrive.

They find one seat, book one seat, and stop thinking.

In May you learned to think like an options trader instead: take the position nearly a year out, hold it, exercise it, or walk away.

One asset. One position.

This month the portfolio holds two.

Business Class is the floor. Reliable inventory, 30 days deep, two seats on half the dates. The position you can hold easiest.

First Class is the call option. Scarce, volatile, and it tends to surface in the last week or two before Day 360.

The floor is not the consolation prize.

The floor is what lets you chase the ceiling without fear.

Now multiply. Three gateways. Two directions. Two cabins. Six programs.

You can hold as many options as you have miles.

The early bird still gets the suite. But now the early bird has somewhere to sit while waiting.

THE WINDOW, THE WAIT, AND THE RETURN-FLIGHT GAP

The window works the way it did in May, so here is the short version.

JAL releases award seats to partners at Day 360. Japan Airlines Mileage Bank, Cathay Pacific Asia Miles, and Qantas see them first.

British Airways gets its look at Day 355, and American and Alaska don't arrive until Day 331 – nearly a month after the inventory this report is about.

Leverage Intelligence means finding the exact point where a small move produces an outsized result. Five minutes at Day 360 is that point.

Now the gap nobody talks about.

You're planning two weeks in Japan. The morning your outbound hits Day 360, your return is sitting at Day 374.

You can't search it. It doesn't exist yet.

Most travelers book the outbound and hope.

The upgrade thinker books the outbound, waits 14 days or whenever the ideal return date is, and places the Business Class floor on the return the moment it opens if First Class is not available.

Then keeps hunting for First.

The calendar has a gap. The upgrade thinker has a floor.

THE BOOKING WINDOW & COST COMPARISON JAL BUSINESS CLASS TO TOKYO ROUND TRIP

Program	Booking	Miles Required, Round Trip	Buy Miles If Needed /	Total Cost RT
	Window	(SAN / SEA / SFO – Tokyo)	Source / Typical Cost	w/ ~\$755 Taxes
Japan Airlines Mileage Bank	Day 360	110,000 / 110,000 / 110,000	Via Bonvoy at 3.75¢	\$4,880
Cathay Pacific Asia Miles	Day 360	186,000 / 126,000 / 186,000	Via Amex at 3.125¢	\$4,692-\$6,567
Qantas Frequent Flyer	Day 360	216,000 / 216,000 / 216,000	Via Amex at 2.5¢	\$6,155
British Airways Avios	Day 355	216,500 / 216,500 / 216,500	Via BA at 1.64¢	\$4,305
American Airlines AAdvantage	Day 331	120,000 / 120,000 / 120,000	Via AA at 2.5¢	\$3,755
Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan	Day 331	150,000 / 150,000 / 150,000	Via Alaska at 1.85¢	\$3,530

MILES DON'T READ THE FARE SCREEN

Here is where Reality Navigation matters most, so let's be straight.

Cash fares for this seat are all over the map. Roughly \$3,300+ from San Francisco, \$3,500 from Seattle, \$6,700 from San Diego – and connect in from Denver, Phoenix, or Boise and the number moves again.

The miles don't move.

A JAL Business Class award costs the same 186,000 Cathay miles from San Diego whether the cash fare that day is \$3,300 or \$6,700.

The miles don't know what the cash fare is. You do.

That is exactly why the Upgrade Formula measures against your own Baseline, not against a published discount. If you're sitting on points that have been idle since 2023, the real comparison is a seat you'd never buy versus a seat you now hold.

If you'd have to buy the miles, the math tightens. Check the table, run your own fare, and decide with your eyes open.

And carry the connecting-flight play forward from May. JAL onward flights to Osaka, Bangkok, and beyond often add little or nothing to the award.

Think Tokyo now, refine later.

[FCF's positioning-flight strategies](#) – and [the Art of Skipping Stones](#) – apply exactly as they did in May.

TWO SEATS, ONE SCREEN

Here is the finding that separates this month from May.

First Class inventory almost never shows two seats. Business Class showed two on about half the dates we checked, in both directions, from all three gateways.

For anyone traveling as a pair, that changes the entire chase.

Book two Business seats outbound as the floor. When a single First seat opens, one of you moves up and the other holds the floor – then trade places on the return.

Or split the gateways: a full set of dates from Seattle, a backup from San Francisco, cancel the loser.

The pair that plans together flies together.

And the pair that holds a floor never watches the calendar in fear.

NO MILES? NO MYSTERY. JUST METHOD.

Decisions is step four, and with two cabins in play the Decision is no longer which seat.

It's which program gets you to the inventory first.

Three plays, same as May, with the two-cabin twist.

The Pole Position Play. Citi or Capitol One to JAL. Amex Rewards to Cathay Pacific. Day 360. Front of the line, both cabins.

The Patient Portfolio Play. Wait for a British Airways Avios sale or an Amex transfer bonus – 30% to 40% is common – and book at Day 355. Five days behind, more flexibility required, cheapest when the timing lands.

The Pressing Play. Buy Amex points. Transfer now. Miss nothing.

Note: Qantas and Cathay miles are transfer-only with Amex, Capital One, or Citi. They are not for sale.

A Decision is not a wish with a deadline.

It's a position with an exit.

CHEAP TO QUIT, COSTLY TO WAIT

Here is the sequel's twist on risk.

With two asset classes, you will cancel more often. Every time First opens, you cancel Business. Every time plans shift, you reposition.

So the fee schedule matters more than it did in May. Good news: it's still peanuts.

Three perspectives, returned for a two-cabin portfolio.

Choose the program before you move a point. Points that leave Amex or Chase for an airline do not come back. Miles redeposit safely on cancellation – to the airline, not to your card. In a portfolio you'll reshuffle three or four times; this decision comes first.

The premium buys the option, not the seat. Cathay's \$120 is what you pay for the right to hold Business while First decides whether to show. Against a seat worth thousands and a suite worth \$30,000, it's the cheapest insurance in travel.

MOVE, MONITOR, MIGRATE

Implementation is step five. Most people have enough intelligence to get here. They just never execute.

Five moves, rebuilt for two cabins.

Move 1 – Day 360, outbound. Book whatever is there. First if it's open, Business if it isn't. Hold the position.

Move 2 – Day 360 plus your return date. The return calendar opens after the outbound did. Place the Business Class floor the moment it appears if First isn't available.

Move 3 – Migrate up. Check daily for First. This is the [Iterative Upgrade Mindset](#) in its purest form – secure the best available position now, then keep improving it.

Move 4 – Flex the gateway. San Diego closed? Check Seattle and San Francisco. Connecting from the interior anyway? Then the gateway is a variable, not a constraint.

Move 5 – Delegate the monitoring. Your assistant, your kid, anyone who owes you a favor. Five minutes a day. The Patience Quotient – staying engaged while the solution develops – is the edge.

Book now. Decide the details later.

That is the portfolio play.

THE FLOOR IS WHERE THE CEILING STARTS

Most travelers wait for the perfect booking and end up with nothing.

Upgrade thinkers take the good seat and keep improving it.

A held position beats a hoped-for one. Every time.

Business Class both ways is not a compromise. It's a lie-flat floor paid in miles – with a free option on First Class riding on top.

Notice what didn't change since May. Same window. Same programs. Same five steps.

Same process. Different cabin.

That's the point.

Upgrade Intelligence isn't a trick you pull once at Day 360. It's a way of seeing calendars, inventory, and cash fares that works on any seat, any airline, any month.

It doesn't take any more time than booking any other flight.

See you up front.



How to Get a Hyatt Suite for Less Than the Price of a Regular Room

September 2026

WE SAID THE BUY-POINTS STRATEGY WOULD DIE IN MAY. IT TURNS OUT 15 HOTELS STILL SAVE YOU 30% TO 56%.

In March we told you the buy-Hyatt-points strategy would retire in May. Hyatt was raising award prices by as much as 40%. The window was closing. Get in or get out.

Many got in. Good.

Then we did what upgraders do and most people don't: we went back and re-ran our own numbers.

WHAT WE FOUND WHEN WE CHECKED OUR OWN CALL

Our research team priced 25 high-end Hyatts on real dates this fall and winter. Cash rate on one side. Points on the other, bought at the current sale price of 2.08¢ apiece.

Three hotels are gone. Grayson Hotel New York saves you 4% now. Park Hyatt Zurich and Great Scotland Yard, 14%. Pay cash and move on.

Seven are marginal. Twenty to 27% – Alila Napa Valley, Thompson Central Park, Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi, and the like. Real money, but not the kind for which you rearrange much.

And 15 are very much alive. Thirty to 56% off. At the Alila Ventana Big Sur, that's \$1,472 back on one night.

So our March call was right at 10 hotels and wrong at 15. We'll take that trade – because the 15 are where the money is.

Why did it survive? **Because the strategy never lived on Hyatt's award chart. It lives in the gap between what a hotel charges in cash and what it charges in points.**

Hyatt raised the points side. But where cash rates stay stubbornly high – Big Sur in July, Ginza in January, Huntington Beach on a fall weekend – the gap barely flinched.

EXAMPLE: SCOTTSDALE RESORT AND BUNGALOWS - CASH PRICE: \$733

WORLD OF HYATT®



Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Bungalows *ANdAZ.*

Eames Resort King
Thu, Oct 29, 2026 - Fri, Oct 30, 2026
1 Room, 1 Guest
Member Rate

Price Summary

Total Cash	\$733.35
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COST IN POINTS: 25,000

WORLD OF HYATT®



Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Bungalows *ANdAZ.*

Eames Resort King
Thu, Oct 29, 2026 - Fri, Oct 30, 2026
1 Room, 1 Guest
Standard Room Free Night

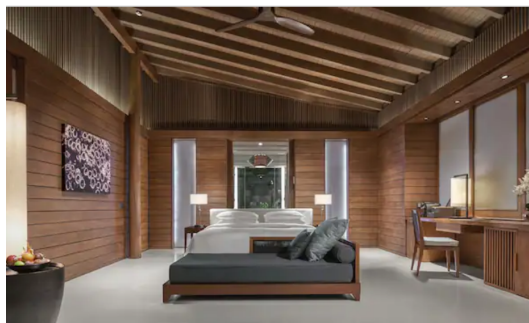
Price Summary

Total Points†	25,000 Points
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When Hyatt points go on sale, you could save \$213 a night in Arizona when there's availability.

EXAMPLE: PARK HYATT MALDIVES - CASH PRICE: \$1,072

WORLD OF HYATT®



Park Hyatt Maldives *PARK HYATT®*

Beach Villa
Sun, Oct 25, 2026 - Mon, Oct 26, 2026
1 Room, 1 Guest
Member Half Board

Price Summary

Total Cash	\$1,072.49
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COST IN POINTS: 30,000

WORLD OF HYATT®



Park Hyatt Maldives
Hadahaa

PARK HYATT®

Beach Villa
Sun, Oct 25, 2026 - Mon, Oct 26, 2026
1 Room, 1 Guest
World of Hyatt Free Night Award

Price Summary

Total Points†

30,000 Points

When Hyatt points go on sale, you could save \$448 a night in the Maldives when there's availability.

Speaking of sale, [Hyatt is selling points at 20% off through October 5](#), with a minimum of 5,000. That's **2.08¢ a point** – the number under every figure in this report. Buy them at full price after the sale and every row in the table below shrinks by a fifth.

The rules are the same as March. Sixty days of World of Hyatt membership before you can buy. An annual cap on purchases. If you need more, transfer from Chase Ultimate Rewards, pool with another member, or use FCF's "[how to get around buying points maximum limits](#)" strategy. And here's a bonus most people forget: no resort fees on points stays.

THE 3-CENT RULE

Every property that survived shares one number. It's the number that lets you check any Hyatt on earth in 30 seconds – including the ones we didn't price.

Divide the cash rate by the points required. That's what each point is worth at that hotel, on that date. Read the scale:

Cash value per point	Verdict	Savings at 2.08¢
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Under 2.5¢	Walk away. You're paying nearly what the room costs.	Under 17%
3.0¢	Worth it.	About 31%
3.5¢	Strong.	About 41%
4.0¢ or more	Buy tonight.	48% and up

Example: Park Hyatt Tokyo, January 11. Cash rate: \$1,157. Points required: 35,000. $\$1,157 \div 35,000 = 3.3¢$.
Verdict: worth it. You save \$429, or 37%.

We've added the cents-per-point figure to every row in the table below so you can see the rule at work – and see where the defining line falls.

WHERE IT STILL WORKS: 21 ROOMS AT 15 HOTELS, BEST SAVINGS FIRST

Hotel	Sample Date	Room Type	Cash Rate, 1 Night (incl. tax)	Points / Night	Cost to Buy Points (2.08¢)	You Save	Savings %	¢ per Point
Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort and Spa	October 11, 2026	Suite	\$1,898	40,000	\$832	\$1,066	56%	4.7¢
Alila Ventana Big Sur	July 26, 2027	Regular Room King or Queen	\$2,824	65,000	\$1,352	\$1,472	52%	4.3¢
Hyatt Centric Ginza Tokyo	January 11, 2027	Premium Suite	\$2,014	50,000	\$1,040	\$974	48%	4.0¢
Hôtel du Palais Biarritz	October 25, 2026	Premium Suite	\$2,820	70,000	\$1,456	\$1,364	48%	4.0¢
Hyatt Centric Ginza Tokyo	December 6, 2026	Regular Room King or Queen	\$978	25,000	\$520	\$458	47%	3.9¢

Hyatt Regency Nice Palais de la Méditerranée	January 3, 2027	Premium Suite	\$1,792	50,000	\$1,040	\$752	42%	3.6¢
Park Hyatt Milan	October 25, 2026	Regular Room King or Queen	\$1,600	45,000	\$936	\$664	41%	3.6¢
Hyatt Regency Nice Palais de la Méditerranée	January 15, 2027	Premium Suite	\$1,774	50,000	\$1,040	\$734	41%	3.5¢
Alila Ventana Big Sur	July 26, 2027	Suite	\$3,040	86,000	\$1,789	\$1,252	41%	3.5¢
Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa	October 25, 2026	Villa	\$1,058	30,000	\$624	\$434	41%	3.5¢
Royal Palms Resort and Spa	December 10, 2026	Regular Room King or Queen	\$704	20,000	\$416	\$288	41%	3.5¢
Alila Mayakoba	October 30, 2026	Regular Room King or Queen	\$850	25,000	\$520	\$330	39%	3.4¢
Hyatt Regency Nice Palais de la Méditerranée	November 1, 2026	Premium Suite	\$1,692	50,000	\$1,040	\$652	39%	3.4¢
Park Hyatt New York	January 17, 2027	Regular Room King or Queen	\$1,160	35,000	\$728	\$432	37%	3.3¢
Park Hyatt Tokyo	January 11, 2027	Regular Room King or Queen	\$1,157	35,000	\$728	\$429	37%	3.3¢

Park Hyatt Milan	November 1, 2026	Regular Room King or Queen	\$1,480	45,000	\$936	\$544	37%	3.3¢
Andaz Miami Beach Resort & Spa	October 12, 2026	Regular Room King or Queen	\$622	20,000	\$416	\$206	33%	3.1¢
Park Hyatt Milan	November 1, 2026	Premium Suite	\$2,486	80,000	\$1,664	\$822	33%	3.1¢
Andaz Peninsula Papagayo Resort, Costa Rica	October 18, 2026	Premium Suite	\$2,164	70,000	\$1,456	\$708	33%	3.1¢
Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Bungalows	October 28, 2026	Bungalow	\$755	25,000	\$520	\$235	31%	3.0¢
Park Hyatt St. Kitts Christophe Harbour	October 16, 2026	Regular Room King or Queen	\$742	25,000	\$520	\$222	30%	3.0¢

**Rates and availability change constantly. Use this as a guide.*

THE UPGRADE TABLE: A SUITE FOR THE PRICE OF A ROOM

Now for the part we're really excited about.

Saving money is nice. But the First Class Flyer question has never been "How much do I save?" It's **"How much more hotel can I get for the same money?"**

At the **Alila Ventana Big Sur** in July, a regular room costs \$2,824 in cash. A suite, paid for with purchased points, costs \$1,789. The suite is **\$1,035 cheaper than the room.**

That isn't a discount. That's a free upgrade with change back.

At the **Park Hyatt Milan** on November 1, a regular room is \$1,480. A Premium Suite via points is \$1,664. For \$184 more, you're in a suite Hyatt sells for \$2,486.

At the **Hyatt Centric Ginza Tokyo**, \$62 separates the room from the Premium Suite.

Hotel	Date(s) Priced	Regular Room, Cash	Suite via Purchased Points	Upgrade Cost	Suite Cash Price	Upgrade Value
Alila Ventana Big Sur	Jul 26, 2027	\$2,824	Suite · 86,000 pts · \$1,789	-\$1,035	\$3,040	\$1,252
Park Hyatt Milan	Nov 1, 2026	\$1,480	Premium Suite · 80,000 pts · \$1,664	+\$184	\$2,486	\$822
Hyatt Centric Ginza Tokyo	Dec 6, 2026 / Jan 11, 2027 *	\$978	Premium Suite · 50,000 pts · \$1,040	+\$62	\$2,014	\$975
Park Hyatt Zanzibar	Nov 1 / Oct 1, 2026 *	\$478	Suite · 35,000 pts · \$728	+\$250	\$914	\$186
Park Hyatt St. Kitts Christophe Harbour	Oct 16 / Dec 6, 2026 *	\$742	Premium Suite · 50,000 pts · \$1,040	+\$298	\$1,413	\$373

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

1. **Check your account.** World of Hyatt member for 60 days or more? You can buy. Haven't been a member? Sign up so you can leverage this option next time it comes around. Sales come happen frequently.
2. **Run the 3-cent rule on your dates.** Cash rate ÷ points required. 3¢ or better, proceed. Under 2.5¢, pay cash or pick another hotel.
3. **Price the suite, not just the room.** If the suite via points lands within a couple hundred dollars of the room in cash, take the suite.
4. **Keep the rule.** Hyatt runs these sales every few months. The deadline expires. The tool doesn't.

THE LAST WORD

In March, most people read about the Hyatt hike and did nothing.

Then they read that the strategy was dead and believed it.

Don't be most people. Twice.

A woman with blonde hair is sitting in an airplane cabin, looking down at her smartphone. She is wearing a light-colored top and a dark jacket. The background shows the interior of the plane, including the overhead storage bins and the window.

September's Top 116 Mileage Awards & Special Fares Greatest Hits (Still Available)

September 2026

September 2026 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

ASIA

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from San Francisco to Manila](#)

[Miles / Points > 2+ Seats > Japan Airlines > Business Class > San Francisco to Tokyo > 2027 Travel](#)

[Miles / Points > 2+ Seats > Japan Airlines> Business Class > San Diego to Tokyo > 2027 Travel](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Japan Airlines > Business Class > San Francisco to Tokyo](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from Los Angeles to Hong Kong](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from San Francisco to Seoul](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from Los Angeles to Tokyo](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from San Francisco to Taipei](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Japan Airlines > Business Class > Los Angeles to Tokyo](#)

[Miles / Points > Singapore Airlines > Business Class > 2+ Travelers > London to Singapore](#)

[Cathay Pacific Discount Business Class > 2+ Seats> New York to Hong Kong > 2027 Travel](#)

[Cathay Pacific Discount Business Class > 2+ Seats> Chicago to Hong Kong > 2027 Travel](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from Los Angeles to Tokyo](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Japan Airlines > Business Class > Chicago to Tokyo](#)

[Cathay Pacific Discount Business Class > 2+ Seats> Boston to Hong Kong > 2027 Travel](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Japan Airlines> Business Class > Seattle to Tokyo](#)

[Cathay Pacific Discount Business Class > 2+ Seats> Los Angeles to Hong Kong > 2027 Travel](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Japan Airlines> Business Class > San Diego to Tokyo](#)

[Cathay Pacific Discount Business Class > 2+ Seats> Vancouver to Hong Kong > 2027 Travel](#)

[Cathay Pacific Discount Business Class > 2+ Seats> San Francisco to Hong Kong > 2027 Travel](#)

[Cathay Pacific Discount Business Class > 2+ Seats> Dallas to Hong Kong > 2027 Travel](#)

[4+ Seats > All Nippon Airways > Business Class > Vancouver to Tokyo](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Japan Airlines > Business Class > San Francisco to Tokyo](#)

[Miles / Points > 2+ Seats > Japan Airlines > Business Class > Dallas to Tokyo](#)

EUROPE

[148,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Seats > Iberia > Dallas to Madrid](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from Newark to Rome](#)

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

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > 4+ Seats > from Washington, DC to Brussels](#)

[American Airlines > Business Class With Miles > from Chicago to London > 4+ Seats](#)

[American Airlines > Business Class With Miles > from New York to Madrid > 2+ Seats](#)

[Brussels Airlines Business Class with Miles/Points > New York to Brussels > 4+ Seats](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from Newark to London](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from Washington DC to Frankfurt](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > 4+ Seats > from Chicago to London](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from Newark to Dublin](#)

[Austrian Airlines Business Class with Miles/Points > Washington to Vienna > 4+ Seats > 2027 Travel](#)

[99,500 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Seats > Iberia > Boston to Madrid > 2027 Travel](#)

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

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > Air France > Toronto to Paris > 9+ Travelers](#)

[Austrian Airlines Business Class with Miles/Points > Montreal to Vienna > 4+ Seats > 2027 Travel](#)

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Lufthansa > Business Class > Chicago to Frankfurt > 2027 Travel](#)

[124,500 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Seats > Iberia > Miami to Madrid > 2027 Travel](#)

[American Airlines > Business Class With Miles > from Boston to London > 4+ Seats](#)

[118,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Seats > Iberia > Washington to Madrid](#)

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

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

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

[Miles / Points > 4+ Seats > Virgin Atlantic > Business Class > New York to London](#)

[Miles / Points > 2+ Seats > American Airlines > Business Class > Philadelphia to Paris > 2027 Travel](#)

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

[Miles / Points > Single Seat > American Airlines > Business Class > Miami to Barcelona](#)

[American Airlines > Business Class With Miles > from Philadelphia to Dublin > 2+ Seats](#)

[American Airlines > Business Class With Miles > from Los Angeles to London > 4+ Seats](#)

[American Airlines > 4+ Seats > Biz Class from Charlotte to Madrid](#)

[143K AA Miles R/T > 4+ Seats > Biz Class from New York to Paris](#)

[124,500 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Seats > Iberia > Orlando to Madrid](#)

[148,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Seats > Iberia > Los Angeles to Madrid](#)

[177,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Seats > Iberia > San Francisco to Madrid](#)

[81,000 Miles / Points R/T > Biz Class > 2+ Seats > Iberia > Chicago to Madrid](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from Chicago to London](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Single Seat > from Chicago to Dublin](#)

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Four Seat Opportunities > from Newark to London](#)

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

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > Air France > Houston to Figari-South Corsica > 2+ seats > 1-stop](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > Air France > Houston to Heraklion, Crete > 2+ seats > 1-stop](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > Air France > Houston to Ajaccio, Corsica > 4+ seats > 1-stop](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > Air France > Houston to Split > Single seat > 1-stop](#)

[148.5K AA Miles R/T + Low taxes > 2+ Seats > Biz Class from New York to Dublin > 1-stop](#)

[American Airlines > Business Class With Miles > from Dallas to Madrid > 4+ Seats](#)

MIDDLE EAST

[Middle East > Qatar Airways Business Class QSuites > Houston to Doha > Single Seat > 2027 Travel](#)

[Middle East > Qatar Airways Business Class QSuites > Miami to Doha > Single Seat > 2027 Travel](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Middle East > Qatar Airways Business Class Chicago to Doha / 2+ Seats > 2027 Travel](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Middle East > Qatar Airways Business Class Montreal to Doha / 2+ Seats > 2027 Travel](#)

[Middle East > Qatar Airways Business Class QSuites > Dallas to Doha > 2+ Seats > 2027 Travel](#)

SOUTH PACIFIC

[Miles & Cash > United Upgrade > Single Seat > from San Francisco to Tahiti](#)

[Cash OR Miles > Business Class > American Airlines > Los Angeles to Sydney > 4+ Seats > Nonstop](#)

Special Published Fares



AFRICA

[Money > Cairo > Summer/Fall > Biz Class > \\$2,681 to \\$3,281 R/T](#)

[Money > Nairobi > Biz Class > All Year > \\$3,101 to \\$4,117 R/T](#)

ASIA

[Money > Japan > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,180 to \\$4,221 R/T](#)

[Money > Colombo > Biz Class > All Year > \\$3,429 to \\$4,165 R/T](#)

[Money > Southeast Asia > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,486 to \\$4,303 R/T](#)

CARIBBEAN

[Money > Grand Cayman > All Year > Biz Class > \\$876 to \\$1,296 R/T](#)

[Money > Santo Domingo > All Year > Biz Class > \\$697 to \\$908 R/T](#)

[Money > St. Croix > All Year > Biz Class > \\$819 to \\$1,246 R/T](#)

[Money > Aruba > All Year > Biz Class > \\$996 to \\$1,299 R/T](#)

[Money > San Juan > All Year > Biz Class > \\$707 to \\$906 R/T](#)

[Money > Nassau > All Year > Biz Class > \\$722 to \\$902 R/T](#)

[Money > St. Maarten > All Year > Biz Class > \\$916 to \\$1,302 R/T](#)

NORTH AMERICA

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,521 to \\$2,949 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe to U.S. > All Year > Biz Class with JetBlue > \\$2,543 to \\$3,014 R/T](#)

[Money > Domestic Transcon > All Year > Business Class > \\$988 to \\$1,357 R/T](#)

[Money > from Europe to New York with La Compagnie > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,368 to \\$3,222 R/T](#)

EUROPE

[Money > Dublin > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,097 to \\$3,445 R/T](#)

[Money > Switzerland > Fall/Winter > First Class > \\$4,894 to \\$5,760 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe > All Year > Biz Class with TAP Portugal > \\$2,710 to \\$3,299 R/T](#)

[Money > Barcelona > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > from \\$2,999 to \\$3,445 R/T](#)

[Money > Budapest > All Year > First Class > \\$4,827 to \\$5,414 R/T](#)

[Money > Amsterdam > Fall/Winter > First Class > \\$4,965 to \\$5,466 R/T](#)

[Money > Lisbon > All Year > First Class > \\$4,067 to \\$5,332 R/T](#)

[Money > Milan > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,998 to \\$3,664 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe > All Year > Premium Economy with Scandinavian – SAS > \\$867 to \\$1,148 R/T](#)

[Money > France > Fall/Winter > First Class > \\$4,540 to \\$5,787 R/T](#)

[Money > Italy > All Year > First Class > \\$4,402 to \\$5,604 R/T](#)

[Money > Spain > All Year > First Class > \\$4,393 to \\$5,864 R/T](#)

[Money > Europe > Summer/Fall > Biz Class with JetBlue > \\$2,985 to \\$3,680 R/T](#)

[Money > Vienna > Fall/Winter > First Class > \\$4,926 to \\$5,728 R/T](#)

HAWAII

[Money > Kauai > Fall/Winter > Biz Class > \\$1,186 to \\$1,660 R/T](#)

[Money > Maui > All Year > Biz Class > \\$1,270 to \\$1,674 R/T](#)

[Money > Kona > All Year > Biz Class > \\$1,374 to \\$1,668 R/T](#)

[Money > Honolulu > All Year > Biz Class > \\$1,220 to \\$1,671 R/T](#)



INDIA

[Money > Bengaluru > Spring/Fall > Biz Class > \\$2,998 to \\$3,999 R/T](#)

[Money > Mumbai > All Year > Biz Class > \\$2,366 to \\$3,668 R/T](#)

[Money > New Delhi > All Year > Biz Class > \\$3,579 to \\$3,929 R/T](#)

MEXICO

[Money > Cabo San Lucas > All Year > Biz Class > \\$787 to \\$1,027 R/T](#)

[Money > Cancun > All Year > Biz Class > \\$676 to \\$992 R/T](#)

SOUTH PACIFIC

[Money > Australia and New Zeland > All Year > Biz Class > from \\$4,393 to \\$7,068 R/T](#)



Marrakech and More for Minus \$1,282

September 2026

If you're already flying to Europe, add Morocco (and countless other bucket-list destinations) for one more flight, not two – and watch the fare go down, not up

You've done Rome. You've done Paris twice. You've done London seven times.

So here is the only question that matters now: one continent, or two?

Because the Business Class ticket that flies you from Los Angeles to Zurich and home costs \$8,322. The one that flies you from Los Angeles to Zurich, Zurich to Marrakech, and Marrakech home costs \$7,040.

Add Morocco. Subtract \$1,282. Same cabin, same lie-flat seat, one more continent.

EXAMPLE: NORMAL ROUND-TRIP LAX-ZURICH IN DECEMBER

ROUNDTRIP (1 TRAVELER)

✎ Revise this trip

Los Angeles LAX to Zürich ZRH

Dec 1 • 7:30 pm to 3:35 pm • Nonstop

⚠

Please note this flight involves a date change

> Show details

Zürich ZRH to Los Angeles LAX

Dec 10 • 1:10 pm to 4:35 pm • Nonstop

> Show details

Fare

\$8,210.00

1 adult 18+

\$8,210.00/person

> Taxes and fees

\$112.33

Total due

\$8,322.33

or starting from \$385/month?

Continue

Cart ID: 736587313?

ADD MARRAKESH - \$1,282 LESS

MULTI-CITY (1 TRAVELER) [Revise this trip](#)

Los Angeles LAX to Zürich ZRH
Dec 1 • 7:30 pm to 3:35 pm • Nonstop
 Please note this flight involves a date change
[Show details](#)

Zürich ZRH to Marrakesh RAK
Dec 10 • 7:00 am to 1:55 pm • 1 stop
Includes Travel Operated by Lufthansa, Discover Airlines
[Show details](#)

Marrakesh RAK to Los Angeles LAX
Dec 14 • 3:45 pm to 8:04 pm • 2 stops
Includes Travel Operated by Portugalia, Air Canada
[Show details](#)

Fare	\$6,797.00
1 adult 18+	\$6,797.00/person
Taxes and fees	\$243.43
Total due	\$7,040.43
or starting from \$326/month ?	

Continue

Cart ID: 736586982 ?

That is the Stopover Double Upgrade Strategy, Atlantic Edition. Let's take it apart.

ONE FLIGHT, NOT TWO: THE BUCKET-LIST MATH

Every place on your bucket list normally costs two flights. One to get there. One to get home.

Marrakech, added to a Europe trip you were already taking, costs one. And it's even much shorter, too.

You are already across the ocean; the medina is a three-hour hop.

Do that math across a lifetime. A 12-city bucket list is 24 flights the ordinary way. Stitched onto trips you are already taking, it is 12 – and half of them may lower your fare.

Most people spend their lives paying double for the places they dream about. You are about to stop.

THE WONDER LIST: WHERE THE THIRD LEG LANDS

Marrakech and Casablanca, where the souks hum and the Atlas peaks stand watch. Istanbul, where two continents meet across one strait. Dubai, where the desert built a skyline.

Amman, the doorway to Petra. Delhi and Mumbai, the doorway to the Taj Mahal. Nairobi, the doorway to a safari – and Cairo, the doorway to the pyramids.

Every one of them is a third leg on a ticket you were already buying.

STEP 2 FIRST: RANK THE WONDER AGAINST THE REPEAT

We usually open the Upgrade Process at Step 1, Baseline. Not today. This strategy only matters if your desire runs past Paris, so Desires go first.

Economist Thomas Sowell taught that there are no perfect solutions, only trade-offs. Philosopher Jonathan Edwards taught that the will follows the strongest desire. Together they hand you the secret: Rank what you want before you shop, and the decision gets better, easier, faster.

Here is the reframe. If you have done Europe, Europe is no longer your upgrade. Europe is your baseline.

STEP 1: THE DEFAULT NOBODY DOUBTS

Now the numbers. A Business Class round-trip to Europe on the routes we sampled runs roughly \$4,500 to \$9,000.

You got that price from the screen that opens on “Round-trip.” Nobody chose it. It was simply there – and a default you never chose is not a decision, it is a habit with a price tag.

Travel is the cleanest laboratory for Upgrade Intelligence because the price of every habit is printed on the screen, and the results come back fast.

THE DOUBLE UPGRADE IN 60 SECONDS

Fly from home to a European hub. Fly from the hub to your wonder city. Fly home from the wonder city – all on one multi-city ticket.

Why is it cheaper? A multi-city ticket is priced as a different combination of fare components than a round-trip, and the onward market from the hub is often more competitive than the transatlantic one. The airline’s pricing logic simply does not add the legs the way you would.

Upgrade one: The fare falls.

Upgrade two: A third continent lands on your ticket.

Make sense?

MEDINA FOR LESS MONEY: ONE BOOKING, WALKED THROUGH

Say you live in Los Angeles and Zurich is on your calendar. You open the airline's site, and the round-trip screen shows \$8,322 in Business Class.

You click one tab left – Multi-city – and type three segments: Los Angeles to Zurich, Zurich to Marrakech, Marrakech to Los Angeles.

The screen returns \$7,040. You just booked Morocco for \$1,282 *less*.

From Seattle through Frankfurt, the same move lands Marrakech for \$1,558 less. From Chicago through London, the Taj Mahal comes within reach via Mumbai for \$993 less. From Las Vegas through London, Istanbul comes in at minus \$864.

We checked hundreds of routes and mapped the best below. Read the small numbers correctly: from Los Angeles through Paris, Marrakech comes in at \$123 less – and that is not a small win. That is Morocco by saving you money.

EXAMPLE EUROPE STOPOVER FARES FOR DECEMBER TRAVEL

Airline	Flight #1	Flight #2	Flight #3	SLS Fare	Typical Europe Fares	Savings \$	Savings %
British Airways/Oneworld	Dallas–London	London–Cairo	Cairo–Dallas	\$4,356	\$6,030	\$1,674	27.76%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles–Zurich	Zurich–Marrakech	Marrakech–Los Angeles	\$6,825	\$8,500	\$1,675	19.71%
British Airways/Oneworld	Los Angeles–London	London–Cairo	Cairo–Los Angeles	\$4,356	\$5,390	\$1,034	19.18%
British Airways/Oneworld	Chicago–London	London–Mumbai	Mumbai–Chicago	\$4,197	\$5,190	\$993	19.13%

United/Star Alliance	Seattle–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Marrakech	Marrakech–Seattle	\$6,962	\$8,520	\$1,558	18.29%
United/Star Alliance	Seattle–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Cairo	Cairo–Seattle	\$6,987	\$8,520	\$1,533	17.99%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles–Zurich	Zurich–Cairo	Cairo–Los Angeles	\$7,006	\$8,500	\$1,494	17.58%
British Airways/Oneworld	Las Vegas–London	London–Istanbul	Istanbul–Las Vegas	\$4,286	\$5,150	\$864	16.78%
British Airways/Oneworld	Houston–London	London–Cairo	Cairo–Houston	\$4,356	\$5,220	\$864	16.55%
British Airways/Oneworld	Chicago–London	London–Cairo	Cairo–Chicago	\$4,356	\$5,190	\$834	16.07%
United/Star Alliance	Seattle–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Dubai	Dubai–Seattle	\$7,160	\$8,520	\$1,360	15.96%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Cairo	Cairo–Los Angeles	\$7,093	\$8,420	\$1,327	15.76%
American/Oneworld	Chicago–London	London–Cairo	Cairo–Chicago	\$4,411	\$5,204	\$793	15.24%
United/Star Alliance	Seattle–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Amman	Amman–Seattle	\$7,222	\$8,520	\$1,298	15.23%
British Airways/Oneworld	Miami–London	London–Cairo	Cairo–Miami	\$4,356	\$5,120	\$764	14.92%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Amman	Amman–Los Angeles	\$7,177	\$8,420	\$1,243	14.76%
British Airways/Oneworld	Seattle–London	London–Cairo	Cairo–Seattle	\$4,354	\$5,100	\$746	14.63%
United/Star Alliance	Seattle–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Istanbul	Istanbul–Seattle	\$7,293	\$8,520	\$1,227	14.40%

United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Dubai	Dubai–Los Angeles	\$7,222	\$8,420	\$1,198	14.23%
British Airways/Oneworld	Atlanta–London	London–Cairo	Cairo–Atlanta	\$4,356	\$5,070	\$714	14.08%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles–Zurich	Zurich–Istanbul	Istanbul–Los Angeles	\$7,310	\$8,500	\$1,190	14.00%
American/Oneworld	Miami–London	London–Cairo	Cairo–Miami	\$4,411	\$5,120	\$709	13.85%
United/Star Alliance	Miami–Munich	Munich–Cairo	Cairo–Miami	\$7,115	\$8,250	\$1,135	13.76%
British Airways/Oneworld	Dallas–London	London–Amman	Amman–Dallas	\$5,272	\$6,030	\$758	12.57%
United/Star Alliance	Miami–Munich	Munich–Istanbul	Istanbul–Miami	\$7,299	\$8,250	\$951	11.53%
British Airways/Oneworld	Las Vegas–London	London–Marrakech	Marrakech–Las Vegas	\$4,605	\$5,150	\$545	10.58%
United/Star Alliance	Miami–Munich	Munich–Marrakech	Marrakech–Miami	\$7,474	\$8,250	\$776	9.41%
Delta/Sky Alliance	Los Angeles–Paris	Paris–Cairo	Cairo–Los Angeles	\$5,086	\$5,610	\$524	9.34%
Delta/Sky Alliance	Atlanta–Paris	Paris–Cairo	Cairo–Atlanta	\$5,087	\$5,610	\$523	9.32%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles–Zurich	Zurich–Dubai	Dubai–Los Angeles	\$7,714	\$8,500	\$786	9.25%
United/Star Alliance	San Francisco–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Amman	Amman–San Francisco	\$7,127	\$7,830	\$703	8.98%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles–Munich	Munich–Marrakech	Marrakech–Los Angeles	\$6,912	\$7,560	\$648	8.57%

United/Star Alliance	Miami-Frankfurt	Frankfurt-Cairo	Cairo-Miami	\$7,124	\$7,770	\$646	8.31%
United/Star Alliance	Miami-Zurich	Zurich-Cairo	Cairo-Miami	\$7,047	\$7,670	\$623	8.12%
United/Star Alliance	Houston-Munich	Munich-Marrakech	Marrakech-Houston	\$7,182	\$7,810	\$628	8.04%
United/Star Alliance	Miami-Frankfurt	Frankfurt-Amman	Amman-Miami	\$7,146	\$7,770	\$624	8.03%
United/Star Alliance	Chicago-Frankfurt	Frankfurt-Amman	Amman-Chicago	\$7,083	\$7,670	\$587	7.65%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles-Frankfurt	Frankfurt-Casablanca	Casablanca-Los Angeles	\$7,791	\$8,420	\$629	7.47%
United/Star Alliance	San Francisco-Zurich	Zurich-Cairo	Cairo-San Francisco	\$7,418	\$8,000	\$582	7.28%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles-Frankfurt	Frankfurt-Lagos	Lagos-Los Angeles	\$7,818	\$8,420	\$602	7.15%
Delta/Sky Alliance	Atlanta-Paris	Paris-Istanbul	Istanbul-Atlanta	\$5,222	\$5,610	\$388	6.92%
British Airways/Oneworld	Los Angeles-London	London-Amman	Amman-Los Angeles	\$5,035	\$5,390	\$355	6.59%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles-Munich	Munich-Cairo	Cairo-Los Angeles	\$7,073	\$7,560	\$487	6.44%
British Airways/Oneworld	Las Vegas-London	London-Amman	Amman-Las Vegas	\$4,839	\$5,150	\$311	6.04%
United/Star Alliance	Seattle-Frankfurt	Frankfurt-Nairobi	Nairobi-Seattle	\$8,017	\$8,520	\$503	5.90%
Delta/Sky Alliance	San Francisco-Paris	Paris-Cairo	Cairo-San Francisco	\$6,635	\$7,050	\$415	5.89%

United/Star Alliance	Chicago–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Cairo	Cairo–Chicago	\$7,253	\$7,670	\$417	5.44%
United/Star Alliance	Seattle–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Casablanca	Casablanca–Seattle	\$8,077	\$8,520	\$443	5.20%
British Airways/Oneworld	Seattle–London	London–Amman	Amman–Seattle	\$4,871	\$5,100	\$229	4.49%
United/Star Alliance	San Francisco–Munich	Munich–Cairo	Cairo–San Francisco	\$7,486	\$7,810	\$324	4.15%
United/Star Alliance	San Francisco–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Cairo	Cairo–San Francisco	\$7,509	\$7,830	\$321	4.10%
British Airways/Oneworld	Chicago–London	London–Delhi	Delhi–Chicago	\$5,219	\$5,440	\$221	4.06%
United/Star Alliance	Houston–Munich	Munich–Cairo	Cairo–Houston	\$7,493	\$7,810	\$317	4.06%
United/Star Alliance	Houston–Munich	Munich–Istanbul	Istanbul–Houston	\$7,504	\$7,810	\$306	3.92%
United/Star Alliance	Miami–Munich	Munich–Dubai	Dubai–Miami	\$7,978	\$8,250	\$272	3.30%
British Airways/Oneworld	Dallas–London	London–Accra	Accra–Dallas	\$5,832	\$6,030	\$198	3.28%
British Airways/Oneworld	Dallas–London	London–Delhi	Delhi–Dallas	\$5,838	\$6,030	\$192	3.18%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Nairobi	Nairobi–Los Angeles	\$8,167	\$8,420	\$253	3.00%
British Airways/Oneworld	Boston–London	London–Cairo	Cairo–Boston	\$4,356	\$4,490	\$134	2.98%
United/Star Alliance	Los Angeles–Munich	Munich–Istanbul	Istanbul–Los Angeles	\$7,368	\$7,560	\$192	2.54%
British Airways/Oneworld	Houston–London	London–Amman	Amman–Houston	\$5,094	\$5,220	\$126	2.41%

Delta/Sky Alliance	Los Angeles–Paris	Paris–Marrakech	Marrakech–Los Angeles	\$5,677	\$5,800	\$123	2.12%
British Airways/Oneworld	Atlanta–London	London–Amman	Amman–Atlanta	\$5,094	\$5,200	\$106	2.04%
United/Star Alliance	Seattle–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Delhi	Delhi–Seattle	\$8,358	\$8,520	\$162	1.90%
Delta/Sky Alliance	Newark–Paris	Paris–Cairo	Cairo–Newark	\$4,361	\$4,440	\$79	1.78%
British Airways/Oneworld	Las Vegas–London	London–Cairo	Cairo–Las Vegas	\$5,064	\$5,150	\$86	1.67%
United/Star Alliance	Miami–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Casablanca	Casablanca–Miami	\$7,661	\$7,770	\$109	1.40%
United/Star Alliance	Houston–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Cairo	Cairo–Houston	\$7,483	\$7,580	\$97	1.28%
British Airways/Oneworld	Seattle–London	London–Istanbul	Istanbul–Seattle	\$5,036	\$5,100	\$64	1.25%
United/Star Alliance	Chicago–Zurich	Zurich–Marrakech	Marrakech–Chicago	\$7,000	\$7,080	\$80	1.13%
United/Star Alliance	Houston–Frankfurt	Frankfurt–Amman	Amman–Houston	\$7,507	\$7,580	\$73	0.96%

BUSINESS TRAVELERS: MEETING INTO MEMORY

If you fly to Europe for work, this is your strategy above all others.

The meeting in Frankfurt or London is already on the company's tab. The third leg is a weekend in the souks, or two days under the rose-red cliffs of Petra – for one more flight, and often a lower fare.

Business fares sit at the top of the board, so the same move saves the most. The company buys the meeting. You keep the medina.

STEP 3: THIRD LEG, FIRST CLASS THINKING

Desperate people don't lack options. They lack the intelligence to see them.

The multi-city tab has been on every airline website for years, and almost nobody clicks it. That is not a flaw in the option. That is a flaw in the way people look.

Two rules for looking well:

- Start at a partner's home. The play works best when your European stop is an alliance partner's hub – London, Paris, Frankfurt, Munich, or Zurich – because the partner often flies the third leg on its own metal and the pricing holds.
- Price the wonder, then price its neighbor. Marrakech against Casablanca, Istanbul against Amman. A change of wonder can move the fare a lot, so price five, hold two, buy one.

A note for regulars: All three U.S. alliances play across the Atlantic. United, which sat out our Asia play, is in.

STEP 4: DECIDED BEFORE YOU SEARCHED

You don't decide in the moment. You decided when you determined who you are.

A First Class Flyer who ranked wonder over repetition never agonizes at the booking screen. The identity chose; the ticket only confirms.

And nothing here requires a decision today. It requires knowing the option exists – because every option you can see makes your baseline richer.

STEP 5: THREE RULES FOR THE THIRD LEG

One: Use the multi-city tab, or hand your agent three segments – home to hub, hub to wonder, wonder to home.

Two: Price at least three wonder cities before you buy. The best one for your dates may not be the best one on your map.

Three: Know that these are sample fares. They move with season and length of stay, and they were priced for December travel. When your shortlist surfaces, book it.

THE OTHER HALF OF THE WORLD

Most upgrades cost something.

The best upgrades add something without cost.

This one adds a continent and saves you the difference.

Everywhere in life there is a wonder leg from where you already are, and a default telling you to fly home.

You were already halfway around the world. Now you know what to do with the other half.

Wonderful.



Two Asian Countries. One Ticket. 55% Off.

September 2026

Add a stop, drop the fare: FCF's Stopover Double Upgrade Strategy and the five-step thinking that turns one Asian trip into two

Start with this: Delta sells Boston to Seoul in Business Class, round-trip, for \$10,202.

Apr 12 - 19

Modify

Sign Up

Log in

3

Book Better. Fly Better.

Start Over

1

Trip Summary

2

Review & Pay

3

Confirmation

Trip Summary

Outbound

DL7840¹

TUE, APR 13

Nonstop, 15h 30m

BOS → ICN

Mon, Apr 12

12:55pm - 5:25pm

Prestige

Return

DL7839¹

Nonstop, 13h 50m

ICN → BOS

Mon, Apr 19

9:30am - 10:20am

Prestige

Changeable / Nonrefundable

Amount Due

(1 Passenger)

\$10,202.63 USD

Now ask for something bigger. Boston to Seoul, then Seoul to Singapore, then Singapore home – three flights, two countries, same cabin. The price falls to \$4,753.

Menu

Jan 12 - 23

Modify

Sign Up

Log in

Notifications

Search

Book Better. Fly Better.

Start Over

Trip Summary

Review & Pay

Confirmation

Trip Summary

Flight 1	KE92 ¹	WED, JAN 13	Nonstop, 15h 45m	▼
	BOS • ICN	Tue, Jan 12	11:10am - 4:55pm	Prestige
Flight 2	KE643 ¹		Nonstop, 6h 50m	▼
	ICN • SIN	Tue, Jan 19	2:35pm - 8:25pm	Prestige
Flight 3	DL7820 ¹ , DL7839 ²	SUN, JAN 24	1 stop, 23h 10m	▼
	SIN • BOS	Sat, Jan 23	10:30pm - 8:40am	Prestige

Amount Due
(1 Passenger)

\$4,753.03 USD

You added a country and subtracted \$5,449.

That is not a typo. That is the Stopover Double Upgrade Strategy – SDUS for short.

It has been a while since we checked in on it for Asia. So we just did. The play is alive, and the numbers are better than ever.

Make sense? Let's go.

STEP 1: THE ROUND-TRIP BASELINE IS A FANTASY FRAME

The Upgrade Process begins with a Baseline – seeing where you actually stand. You are informed or uninformed. You are deliberate about knowing your baseline, or you are not.

So goes your baseline, so goes your life. And so goes your fare.

Travel is the perfect laboratory for Upgrade Intelligence. The baselines are printed on the screen, and the trade-offs are priced to the dollar.

Here is the baseline reality: a Business Class round-trip to Asia on the routes we sampled runs \$6,500 to nearly \$11,000.

But notice how you got them. Every airline website opens on the same screen – round-trip. That screen is a frame, and a frame you did not choose is a fantasy until you test it against reality.

SDUS IN SIXTY SECONDS

Fly from home to an Asian city. Fly from that city to a second Asian city. Fly home from the second city.

Book all three legs as one multi-city ticket, not a round-trip. Because the three-leg ticket prices using a different fare basis, it often costs thousands less than the simple out-and-back.

That is the double upgrade.

Upgrade one: The fare drops.

Upgrade two: A second country appears on your itinerary for free.

THE FRESH FIFTY-FIVERS

We checked hundreds of routes and pulled the best examples for the treasure map below. Sample the summit:

Dallas to Tokyo to Manila and home: \$4,940, against a typical round-trip of \$10,863. That is \$5,923 saved – 55% off – with the Philippines thrown in.

Boston to Seoul to Hanoi and home: \$5,386 against \$10,102. Vietnam for free, and 47% off.

Los Angeles to Hong Kong to Beijing and home: \$5,030 against \$7,531. A third off, and two cities in China instead of one.

The full map shows dozens of pairings, and the savings run from a solid 20% to a stunning 55%.

Airline	Flight #1	Flight #2	Flight #3	SDUS Fare	Typical Asia Fares	Savings \$	Savings %
American	Dallas-Tokyo	Tokyo-Manila	Manila-Dallas	\$4,940	\$10,863	\$5,923	54.52%
American	Dallas-Tokyo	Tokyo-Ho Chi Minh	Ho Chi Minh-Dallas	\$5,310	\$10,863	\$5,553	51.12%
American	Dallas-Tokyo	Tokyo-Jakarta	Jakarta-Dallas	\$5,614	\$10,863	\$5,249	48.32%
American	Dallas-Tokyo	Tokyo-Taipei	Taipei-Dallas	\$5,628	\$10,863	\$5,235	48.19%
American	Dallas-Tokyo	Tokyo-Manila	Manila-Dallas	\$6,031	\$10,863	\$4,832	44.48%
American	New York-Tokyo	Tokyo-Manila	Manila-New York	\$5,016	\$8,742	\$3,726	42.62%
American	Seattle-Tokyo	Tokyo-Hong Kong	Hong Kong-Seattle	\$4,351	\$6,526	\$2,175	33.33%
American	Seattle-Tokyo	Tokyo-Taipei	Taipei-Seattle	\$4,540	\$6,526	\$1,986	30.43%
American	Dallas-Tokyo	Tokyo-Hong Kong	Hong Kong-Dallas	\$7,934	\$10,863	\$2,929	26.96%
American	New York-Tokyo	Tokyo-Singapore	Singapore-New York	\$6,388	\$8,742	\$2,354	26.93%
American	New York-Tokyo	Tokyo-Bangkok	Bangkok-New York	\$6,449	\$8,742	\$2,293	26.23%
American	New York-Tokyo	Tokyo-Ho Chi Minh	Ho Chi Minh-New York	\$6,519	\$8,742	\$2,223	25.43%
American	Seattle-Tokyo	Tokyo-Jakarta	Jakarta-Seattle	\$5,183	\$6,526	\$1,343	20.58%

American	Seattle-Tokyo	Tokyo-Hanoi	Hanoi-Seattle	\$5,200	\$6,526	\$1,326	20.32%
American	New York-Tokyo	Tokyo-Hong Kong	Hong Kong-New York	\$6,970	\$8,742	\$1,772	20.27%
American	Chicago-Tokyo	Tokyo-Ho Chi Minh	Ho Chi Minh-Chicago	\$6,399	\$7,863	\$1,464	18.62%
American	Dallas-Tokyo	Tokyo-Seoul	Seoul-Dallas	\$8,844	\$10,863	\$2,019	18.59%
American	New York-Tokyo	Tokyo-Shanghai	Shanghai-New York	\$7,158	\$8,742	\$1,584	18.12%
American	Chicago-Tokyo	Tokyo-Bangkok	Bangkok-Chicago	\$6,446	\$7,863	\$1,417	18.02%
American	Chicago-Tokyo	Tokyo-Hong Kong	Hong Kong-Chicago	\$6,483	\$7,863	\$1,380	17.55%
American	Seattle-Tokyo	Tokyo-Bangkok	Bangkok-Seattle	\$5,954	\$6,526	\$572	8.76%
Cathay Pacific	Los Angeles-Hong Kong	Hong Kong-Beijing	Beijing-Los Angeles	\$5,030	\$7,531	\$2,501	33.21%
Cathay Pacific	Los Angeles-Hong Kong	Hong Kong-Mumbai	Mumbai-Los Angeles	\$5,481	\$7,531	\$2,050	27.22%
Cathay Pacific	Los Angeles-Hong Kong	Hong Kong-New Delhi	New Delhi-Los Angeles	\$5,487	\$7,531	\$2,044	27.14%
Cathay Pacific	Los Angeles-Hong Kong	Hong Kong-Singapore	Singapore-Los Angeles	\$6,255	\$7,531	\$1,276	16.94%
Cathay Pacific	Los Angeles-Hong Kong	Hong Kong-Seoul	Seoul-Los Angeles	\$6,495	\$7,531	\$1,036	13.76%
Delta	Boston-Seoul	Seoul-Hanoi	Hanoi-Boston	\$5,386	\$10,102	\$4,716	46.68%
Delta	Boston-Seoul	Seoul-Singapore	Singapore-Boston	\$5,409	\$10,102	\$4,693	46.46%

Delta	Dallas-Seoul	Seoul-Phuket	Phuket-Dallas	\$6,046	\$9,902	\$3,856	38.94%
Delta	Atlanta-Seoul	Seoul-Ho Chi Minh	Ho Chi Minh-Atlanta	\$5,906	\$8,627	\$2,721	31.54%
Delta	Boston-Seoul	Seoul-Hong Kong	Hong Kong-Boston	\$7,204	\$10,102	\$2,898	28.69%
Delta	Boston-Seoul	Seoul-Bangkok	Bangkok-Boston	\$7,416	\$10,102	\$2,686	26.59%
Delta	Atlanta-Seoul	Seoul-Jakarta	Jakarta-Atlanta	\$6,362	\$8,627	\$2,265	26.25%
Delta	Atlanta-Seoul	Seoul-Singapore	Singapore-Atlanta	\$6,383	\$8,627	\$2,244	26.01%
Delta	New York-Seoul	Seoul-Taipei	Taipei-New York	\$5,800	\$7,782	\$1,982	25.47%
Delta	Atlanta-Seoul	Seoul-Taipei	Taipei-Atlanta	\$7,146	\$8,627	\$1,481	17.17%
Delta	Minneapolis-Seoul	Seoul-Phuket	Phuket-Minneapolis	\$8,953	\$10,402	\$1,449	13.93%
Delta	New York-Seoul	Seoul-Jakarta	Jakarta-New York	\$6,755	\$7,782	\$1,027	13.20%
Delta	New York-Seoul	Seoul-Hong Kong	Hong Kong-New York	\$6,759	\$7,782	\$1,023	13.15%
Delta	San Francisco-Seoul	Seoul-Ho Chi Minh	Ho Chi Minh-San Francisco	\$6,637	\$7,382	\$745	10.09%
Delta	New York-Seoul	Seoul-Singapore	Singapore-New York	\$7,057	\$7,782	\$725	9.32%
Delta	New York-Seoul	Seoul-Phuket	Phuket-New York	\$7,091	\$7,782	\$691	8.88%

**Remember these are sample fares. Prices vary by length of stay and time of year. Lock it in without commitment. In other words, sit with it.*

BUSINESS TRAVELERS: THIS IS YOUR BONANZA

If you fly to Asia on business, read this twice.

Business fares are the highest fares on the board, which means the same strategy saves you the most money. And the meeting is already paid for – so the second city is pure vacation.

Your company pays for Tokyo. You get Singapore for free.

The meeting becomes the trip, and the trip becomes a week you will remember for the rest of your life.

That is not a discount. That is an upgrade to your whole calendar.

STEP 2: ONE CITY OR ONE CONTINENT? RANK THE DESIRE

Here is where a travel deal becomes a micro-course in The Upgrade Process.

Step 2 is Desires – naming what you truly want and ranking the weight of each want. Do you want Tokyo, or do you want Asia? Do you want the shortest trip, or the richest one?

Economist Thomas Sowell was right: There are no perfect solutions, only trade-offs. You cannot have everything, so make your trade-offs at the desire level, not the decision level.

Get the ranking right and your decisions get better, easier, faster.

As the philosopher Jonathan Edwards observed, the will always follows the strongest desire – so indecision is never a decision problem.

It is a lack of commitment to a number one desire.

STEP 3: THE OPTION HIDING ONE TAB OVER

Desperate people don't lack options. They lack the intelligence to see them.

This option is literally on the screen. Right next to "Round-trip" sits a tab marked "Multi-city." Almost nobody clicks it, which is exactly why it still works.

Two rules for loading options like a pro:

- Explore various itineraries. SDUS works best when your first stop is an alliance partner's home city.

- Book the U.S. carrier, and you will often fly the partner's metal. Our Delta proof above is Korean Air, on a Delta codeshare, through Korean Air's own hub.

Beware the backtrack. Booking directly with an Asian carrier can force you through its hub twice, missing other schedule opportunities. The exception is when you connect onward from that hub to a couple of smaller Asian cities – then the geometry works again.

Mix and match. Circle trips using U.S. carriers and their alliance partners – out on one, across on another, home on a third. They often deliver the best routing at the best price.

Play with dates and pairings. Collect 10, shortlist three, book one.

One caveat: We found very little on United / Star Alliance. This is not its game right now.

THE PERSPECTIVE PLAY: THREE WAYS TO COUNT THE WIN

Perspective is a core competency of Upgrade Intelligence, so count this three ways.

The discount perspective: up to 55% off the fare, up to \$5,923 back in your pocket.

The experience perspective: That second country is not a layover. It is a week in Singapore or Hanoi you would otherwise have paid \$5,000 to \$10,000 to reach alone. Framed that way, the “expensive” cabin is the bargain buy.

STEP 4: YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE TODAY

You don't need to decide today. You just need to know your options, because every option you see makes your baseline richer, and everything revolves around your baseline.

Decisions fall out of your greatest desire. Once your number one is named, the itinerary chooses itself.

THE BOTTOM LINE

One ticket. Two destinations. Often half the price.

The airline calls that a multi-city itinerary. We call it The Upgrade Formula at 35,000 feet – Baseline tested, Desires ranked, the hidden Option seen, the Decision pre-made, Implementation one tab over.