

The Business Class Traveler's *Playbook.*

Everything you need to fly Business Class
like a pro — without overpaying.

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CHAPTER 01

How to Book When You See a Deal

Don't let a great fare slip away. Here's the exact process.

You just got an alert: NYC → Tokyo, Business Class, \$1,920 instead of \$7,200. Your heart races. But what do you actually do next?

Speed is everything

Cheap Business Class fares are pricing anomalies or flash sales. They last hours, sometimes minutes. When you get an alert, act within 30 minutes. Don't compare dates. Don't ask for opinions. Book first, decide later — the DOT requires airlines to offer free cancellation within 24 hours for any flight departing from the US, as long as departure is at least 7 days out. Zero risk.

The booking checklist

- Open the link from your FlyAlerts email immediately
- Confirm the price matches — then go straight to checkout
- Book on the airline's website directly, not through OTAs like Expedia or Priceline
- Use a credit card that earns airline miles (see Chapter 05)
- Screenshot your confirmation and the price
- Set a 23-hour reminder: keep or cancel?

“The biggest mistake our members make isn't booking the wrong flight — it's waiting too long and watching the price snap back to \$7,000.”

If the price changed

Sometimes the fare is gone by the time you click. Don't panic. Clear cookies and try again, use incognito mode or a different browser, check the airline's mobile app (prices can differ), and try nearby dates. If it's truly gone — another deal will come. That's the whole point.

CHAPTER 02

Choosing the Best Seats

Not all Business Class seats are equal. Here's how to pick the best one.

Use SeatGuru before every flight

SeatGuru.com shows a color-coded seat map for any airline and flight number. Green = great, yellow = minor issues, red = avoid. Takes 30 seconds and can mean the difference between a fully flat bed and a seat that doesn't recline all the way.

General rules

- Window seats: more privacy and a wall to lean on for sleeping
- Avoid seats near the galley or lavatories — constant noise and traffic
- On 1-2-1 layouts, every seat has aisle access — pick based on window preference
- Select your seat immediately after booking — the best ones go first

Best configurations by airline

Airline	Layout	Best Picks
Delta One (A350)	1-2-1 suites	Window, rows 3–7
United Polaris	1-2-1	Window, avoid row 1
American (B777)	1-2-1 reverse herringbone	Window A or L
JetBlue Mint	1-1 suites (A321)	Suites 1A, 2A (doors)
Emirates (B777)	1-2-1	Window A or K
Qatar QSuites	1-2-1 with doors	Any — all excellent
Singapore Airlines	1-2-1	Window bulkhead
ANA The Room	1-2-1	Window, rows 2–5
Cathay Pacific	1-2-1	Window, rows 11–15

■ **Tip:** Flying Delta One or United Polaris long-haul? The A350 and B787 Dreamliner have the newest cabins. Check your aircraft type when booking.

CHAPTER 03

What to Expect in Business Class

First time? Here's the full experience, step by step.

At the airport

Priority check-in counter — skip the economy line. Priority luggage tags — your bags come out first. Fast-track security at most major US airports (JFK, LAX, SFO, ORD). Then head to the Business Class lounge for food, drinks, showers, and Wi-Fi before your flight.

Boarding

You board in Group 1. A flight attendant greets you by name and offers a welcome drink — champagne, juice, or water. Your seat area has a pillow, blanket, amenity kit, noise-cancelling headphones, and slippers.

The seat

On international long-haul flights, Business Class seats convert to fully flat 180-degree beds. You get a 15–18 inch personal screen, USB and AC power, a reading light, and privacy dividers. Premium products like Qatar QSuites and JetBlue Mint have actual closing doors.

The food

Restaurant-quality meals on real china with metal cutlery. Printed menu with 3–4 appetizers, 3–4 entrees, cheese course, and dessert. Champagne and premium wine list. Most airlines have an anytime snack menu — you eat when you want, not when they tell you.

The amenity kit

A small designer-branded bag with moisturizer, lip balm, eye mask, earplugs, socks, and a dental kit. Airlines like Emirates, Singapore, and ANA go above and beyond. Keep the bag — they're nice quality.

■ *Tip: Don't be shy about asking the crew for anything — extra pillows, a second meal, a specific drink. Business Class crews are trained to accommodate. You paid for it (even at a discount).*

CHAPTER 04

Lounge Access Without the Annual Fee

Your ticket gets you in. Here's what else works.

Your ticket includes access

Any Business Class ticket on a full-service carrier gives you lounge access automatically. Delta One → Delta Sky Club. United Polaris → Polaris Lounge. International carriers use partner lounges — just show your boarding pass at the door. This works even on discounted fares.

Best US airport lounges

Airport	Lounge	Highlights
JFK	Delta One Lounge	Full restaurant, spa, showers
SFO	United Polaris Lounge	A la carte dining, day beds
ORD	United Polaris Lounge	Quiet retreat, premium food
LAX	Star Alliance Lounge	Tarmac views, strong buffet
IAH	United Polaris Lounge	Same Polaris experience
MIA	Flagship First Dining	Sit-down restaurant quality
ATL	Delta Sky Club (B18)	Rooftop sky deck

Credit cards with lounge access

The Amex Platinum (\$695/yr) gets you into Centurion Lounges, Delta Sky Clubs (when flying Delta), and Priority Pass. Capital One Venture X (\$395/yr) includes Priority Pass and Capital One Lounges. Chase Sapphire Reserve (\$550/yr) includes Priority Pass for 1,300+ lounges worldwide. If you fly 4+ times a year, the lounge access alone justifies the fee.

Day passes

Most lounges sell single-visit passes for \$40–75 at the door or through LoungeBuddy. Cheaper than any annual membership if you only fly a few times a year.

CHAPTER 05

The Best Travel Credit Cards

Earn miles on top of your already-cheap fare.

What to prioritize

- Bonus miles per dollar on flights (3x–5x)
- No foreign transaction fees
- Built-in travel insurance (cancellation, delays, lost bags)
- Lounge access included
- Flexible transfer partners

Top cards for FlyAlerts members

Card	Fee	Flights	Key Perks
Amex Platinum	\$695/yr	5x	Centurion, 20+ transfer partners
Chase Sapphire Reserve	\$550/yr	3x	Priority Pass, \$300 credit
Capital One Venture X	\$395/yr	2x all	Priority Pass, \$300 credit
Citi Strata Premier	\$95/yr	3x	Low fee, solid insurance
Amex Gold	\$325/yr	3x	Best for dining + flights combo

The stacking strategy

You find a NYC → Tokyo deal at \$1,920 through FlyAlerts (normally \$7,200). You book with Amex Platinum and earn 5x = 9,600 Membership Rewards points. You also earn frequent flyer miles for flying the route — Business Class earns 150–200% of distance. NYC–Tokyo roundtrip = ~13,500 miles, so you earn 20,000–27,000 airline miles. That's enough for a free domestic Business Class flight.

You saved \$5,000+ on the ticket AND earned enough points for another free flight. That's the FlyAlerts + credit card combo.

Sign-up bonuses

Many premium cards offer 60,000–150,000 bonus points when you hit a spending target in the first 3 months. Time your application with a big FlyAlerts booking — one purchase can hit the requirement. Those bonus points can be worth \$600–\$2,000 in free flights.

CHAPTER 06

Stacking Points + FlyAlerts Deals

Layer three savings strategies for maximum value.

The triple stack

- **Layer 1:** FlyAlerts deal — 40–70% off retail price
- **Layer 2:** Credit card points — earn rewards on the purchase
- **Layer 3:** Airline miles — earn status miles for flying the route

Most travelers use one of these. FlyAlerts members use all three at once.

Airline alliances

Star Alliance: United, Lufthansa, ANA, Singapore, Turkish. Oneworld: American, British Airways, Qatar, Cathay Pacific, Qantas. SkyTeam: Delta, Air France, KLM, Korean Air. When you fly any airline in an alliance, credit miles to ANY member's program. Pick one per alliance, consolidate, and reach free flights faster.

Best programs for US travelers

- Star Alliance → United MileagePlus (best US hubs, no close-in fees)
- Oneworld → American AAdvantage or Alaska Mileage Plan
- SkyTeam → Delta SkyMiles (never expire, huge network)

Status matching

Earn elite status with one airline, and competitors will often match it for free. Search '[airline] status match' and apply. You can potentially hold Gold status across 3–4 airlines from a single earned status. Gold = lounge access, priority boarding, extra bags, and upgrade priority on every flight.

CHAPTER 07

Luggage Rules for Business Class

What you get on every major airline.

Airline	Checked	Carry-On	Weight
Delta One	3 bags	1 + 1 personal	70 lbs each
United Polaris	2 bags	1 + 1 personal	70 lbs each
American Flagship	3 bags	1 + 1 personal	70 lbs each
JetBlue Mint	2 bags	1 + 1 personal	70 lbs each
Emirates	2 bags	1 + 1 briefcase	70 lbs each
Qatar Airways	2 bags	1 + 1 laptop bag	70 lbs each
Singapore Airlines	2 bags	1 + 1 accessory	70 lbs each
ANA	3 bags	1 + 1 personal	70 lbs each
Cathay Pacific	2 bags	1 + 1 small item	70 lbs each
Korean Air	2 bags	1 + 1 accessory	70 lbs each

What to pack for Business Class

- Your own noise-cancelling headphones — always better than what they provide
- Good moisturizer — cabin air is brutally dry at 35,000 feet
- Comfortable socks for walking around the cabin
- A pen for customs and immigration forms
- A quality eye mask — makes a huge difference for sleep

■ *Tip: Even with generous allowances, packing carry-on only is a power move. Skip baggage claim entirely and walk straight out of the airport.*

CHAPTER 08

Getting Your Company to Pay

A cheap Business Class fare is a win for everyone.

The pitch

Frame it like this: “I found a Business Class flight for \$1,900 — that’s less than the flexible Economy fare at \$2,400. We save \$500 AND I arrive rested for the meeting.” Most corporate travel policies approve by price, not cabin. A cheap Business ticket that undercuts full-fare Economy is an easy yes.

Getting a proper invoice

Most airlines have a company name field during checkout. Fill it with your company’s legal name. The confirmation email serves as your receipt. For a formal invoice with specific details, contact the airline after booking — most provide one within a few business days.

Corporate booking tools

If your company uses Concur, Egencia, or Navan, the deal price usually appears there too — it’s a published fare. Book through your corporate tool and stay policy-compliant while getting the FlyAlerts deal price.

■ *Tip: FlyAlerts itself (\$29 one-time) can be expensed as a travel optimization tool. Your company won’t even blink.*

CHAPTER 09

Pro Tips & Hacks

Small tricks that add up to a much better experience.

✓ Check in at the 24-hour mark

Set an alarm. This is when premium seats, exit rows, and upgrade slots open up. On some airlines, complimentary upgrades are distributed at this moment.

✓ Ask for an upgrade at check-in

If Business isn't full, a polite ask costs nothing. Dress well, be friendly. It works more often than you'd think, especially mid-week.

✓ Verify deals on Google Flights

Cross-check FlyAlerts prices on Google Flights. Confirms the deal is real and shows if nearby dates are even cheaper.

✓ Download the airline's app

Mobile boarding passes, real-time gate changes, and lounge food ordering. Delta, United, American, Emirates, Singapore all have excellent apps.

✓ Join the frequent flyer program before flying

Free to sign up, takes 2 minutes. Earn miles on every flight. Don't leave thousands of miles on the table.

✓ Book one-way tickets

Two one-ways on different airlines can be cheaper than a round-trip, and you experience two Business Class products.

✓ Fly Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Cheapest days, emptiest cabins, fastest service, best upgrade odds.

✓ Keep every boarding pass

Retroactively claim miles you forgot to enter. Also useful for expense reports.

✓ Mark FlyAlerts as VIP in your email

Our deals are time-sensitive. The faster you see an alert, the better your chances.

✓ Use airline shopping portals

Earn bonus miles on everyday purchases from Amazon, Walmart, Nike, etc. Bookmark your airline's portal and use it for everything.

You're ready.

You now know more about flying Business Class than 99% of travelers. Combined with FlyAlerts surfacing the best fares, you have everything you need to see the world in comfort — at a fraction of the price.

*✈️ Keep an eye on your inbox.
Your next deal is coming.*

— The FlyAlerts Team

Questions? Reply to any FlyAlerts email — a real human answers.

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