

Discounted First Class Airfare Tips & Tricks

(How to Y-Up and Q-Up Frequently Asked Questions)

Introduction

FareCompare.com tracks over 100,000 discounted first class tickets for travel within the United States and Canada (<http://www.farecompare.com/search/yupfares>). These discounted first class tickets are the airline industry's best kept secret!

Every domestic airline offers discounted first class tickets on planes with a first class cabin. Insiders sometimes call these Y-Up or Q-Up fares. The airlines file these fares using a very obscure technique where the 8-character "fare code" starts with the first character that denotes a "coach" fare, but the cabin type on the fare is "first class".

The screen shot below shows why a quick check for these deeply discounted first class tickets is a great idea. In this case the first class price is much less expensive than an economy ticket (note the website is highlighting the higher price coach ticket)!

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Available fares

One-way prices, including all taxes, fees and surcharges

	Economy (lowest)	Economy (refundable)	First (lowest)	First (refundable)
Nonstop	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1-Stop	600.60 <small>See below</small>	689.60	349.60	349.60
2+ Stops	652.90	692.90	1,107.90	1,107.90

All prices USD

Available itineraries for 1-Stop Economy (lowest)

Mon, Nov 27, 2006 - Miami, FL (MIA) to Kansas City, MO (MCI) Sort by: Price

Price per adult USD 600.60 [View price breakdown](#) [View fare rules](#) **Select**

Flight	Airports/times	Stops	Duration/equipment	More information
United 1408	Depart: MIA Nov 27 01:40 PM Operated by United For Ted Arrive: IAD Nov 27 04:10 PM	Non-stop	2h 30m Airbus A320	Show flight details View seat map
<<< connecting to >>>				
United 7727	Depart: IAD Nov 27 05:35 PM Operated by United Express/Shuttle America Arrive: MCI Nov 27 07:18 PM	Non-stop	2h 43m Embraer 170	Show flight details View seat map

Price Range of Discounted First Class Fares?

The prices range from \$250 to \$1600 roundtrip depending on the city pair. They are usually 30-75% below the full first class price and are almost always cheaper than the full coach price. Always do a quick check on all trips to see if the very cheapest ones are available.

Key Attributes of Discounted First Class Fares?

Discounted first class fares have the following important attributes:

- One Way (cheapest sometimes require roundtrip)
- Can be fully Refundable and are always Exchangeable
- Confirmed Seat in the First Class Cabin (ahead of frequent flyer upgrades)
- Available on the most popular flight days and times (when coach is sold out)
- No advance purchase (cheapest sometimes have 7 day advance purchase)
- 30-60% below full first class
- Accumulate bonus frequent flyer miles (full elite qualifying miles, bonus miles)
- Ticket fare code is economy and therefore looks like a coach ticket for accounting purposes (skirting company travel policies that require coach only)
- Priced below full coach

Finding Discounted First Class Fares?

Only FareCompare.com tracks over 100,000 discounted first class fares and offers free email alerts, so you can be the first to know when a cheap first class ticket is available! (<http://www.farecompare.com/email>).

Each trip request shows First Class (<http://www.farecompare.com/search/year.html>) and a tool is provided to view the cheapest of these fares to all destinations from a particular city (<http://www.farecompare.com/search/yupfares.html>).

Booking Discounted First Class Fares?

First Class fare searches on agency and airline sites (other than FareCompare) hide the first class search under their advanced options section. Look for the link that says “Advanced ...”, “Expanded ...” or “Additional ...”, select the “Business or First Class Cabin” option and issue the search. Compare the first class price with the coach price. For more booking details, see the FareCompare Y-Up Video (<http://www.farecompare.com/search/yupfares>).

Beware of Flights without a First Class Cabin?

Connecting flights may have a portion of the trip on a plane without a first class cabin and online agencies and airline sites will sell you Y-Up fares on these flights (even

though no first class cabin exists on the smaller planes). Make sure all flight segments you chose have a first class cabin!

Are These Frequent Flyer or Automatic Upgrades?

No! Frequent flyer status miles are not involved! These are simple discounted seats confirmed in the first class cabin. They are not upgrade coupons, automatic upgrades or purchased upgrades.

Who Benefits from Discounted First Class Fares?

Everyone should take a quick check of discounted first class before purchasing a higher priced coach fare. Those who benefit the most from these discounted first class fares are:

- Business Travelers who frequently fly on full price coach tickets (usually for flexibility and full refund-ability)
- People who miss their flight and are required to pay the walkup fare price for the next flight
- Last minute travelers where coach walkup prices are expensive
- Those traveling on special occasions (wedding, anniversaries, holidays etc.)
- Leisure travelers who are in a city pair with a very low discount first class price (some city pairs are real bargains)
- Travelers who require larger seats

Why do Airlines have this type of Fare?

The original intent of these fares was to cater to their best customers who purchase the most expensive coach tickets. The airlines make more revenue from these fares where first class seats would normally go unused or be filled by less lucrative frequent flyer upgrades.

Won't Frequent Flyers Who Want an Upgrade be Upset?

The airlines normally allocate a small portion of the first class cabin for these discounted first class fares specifically to address the concerns of upgrading frequent flyers. Many savvy frequent flyers use Y-Ups because they are confirmed into first class before they enter into the frequent flyer upgrade lottery where many more people want upgrades than can be accommodated in the first class cabin.

FareCompare.com Users Rave About Discounted First Class Tickets

FareCompare.com has introduced thousands of people to discounted first class tickets. Check them out and never overpay for airfare again.

Regards,

Rick Seaney
CEO, FareCompare.com