



THE TOP 5 TOOLS I USE

TO FLY
**BUSINESS
CLASS**

ALL THE TIME



SANSPOTTER

My name is Scott (better known as SANspotter) and I've totally lost count of the number of times I've been asked about how I can afford to fly around the world in business class all the time. Many first time readers of my blog (and my family) think that I'm totally loaded and that I walk around with money falling out of my pockets, but the truth is that I really can't afford it. I'm pretty darn far from being rich, and unless I win the lottery any time soon, I'm never going to be able to shell out enough money from my own pocket to pay for an international business class seat.

None of what I'm about to reveal is super-secret stuff that nobody has ever thought of before, and that's probably the most significant takeaway from this entire document. Flying business class for free at a greatly discounted rate is a lot easier than most people think it is. All of these tools are open and available to everyone, and I'm no more special than anyone else.

It's how you use these tools in the correct combination that's important, and the more time you spend with each will produce higher quality rewards. Effort in, effort out!





1. Credit Cards

Credit cards that offer sign up bonuses in the form of airline points are still the best way to earn free (or greatly reduced price) travel.

I say "still" because it's not as lucrative as it once was due to new limitations on how often you can open and close credit card accounts, but I'm still generating 100K points in sign up bonuses every year, **as well as** another 100K points thanks to the Amex Platinum and Amex Blue (which both offer 2-5X bonus points for every purchase).

That's 200K points a year for very little effort.

2. Patience

You need to be patient and somewhat flexible in order to find the best award tickets using points. I'm usually so flexible, as a matter of fact, that I choose my award travel destinations based entirely on award availability.

It's very rare that I'm able to find open business class seat awards for the exact day and destination I want, so I always begin my search looking at what's available everywhere rather than just my preferred destination.

Pro tip: you'll often find the best availability within two weeks of departure.



**TravelBuzz**

If it's a travel topic worth talking about, it's likely in program travel)

**DiningBuzz**

A forum for general restaurant and bar discussion.

**Travel Technology**

Business travel includes cell phones, computers and cameras are allowed on regular travel? What works

**Travel Photography**

Share your travel photos and discuss the techniques them.

**Travel Products**

From Ambien to luggage – if it's a travel product, w things electronic, please visit the [Travel Tech Forum](#).

**Travel Tools**

Discussion of tools, services and software used to o

**Travel News**

Link to and discuss the latest travel news articles. it fit to read.

**External Miles and Points Resources**

Discuss other miles and points resources that can c This includes blogs, websites, seminars, and events

**Free Travel Contests and Sweepstakes**

A forum for news of free travel contests and sweeps travel. Major mileage giveaways (Win 1,000,000 mil purchase is required. (Limited cross-posting is allow NOT the place to post your request for Facebook vot deleted.

**Travel Safety/Security**

3. [flyertalk.com](#)

I created an account with [FlyerTalk](#) way back in 1999, and I've been using it since as my main source of airline, travel, and points information ever since. My favorite part of the forum is the [Premium Fare Deals](#) section, where travelers post really good (and often cheap) business or first class fares they encounter across the internet. If you are patient and keep checking often, it's not uncommon to score international business class seats for 1/5 of the usual price.

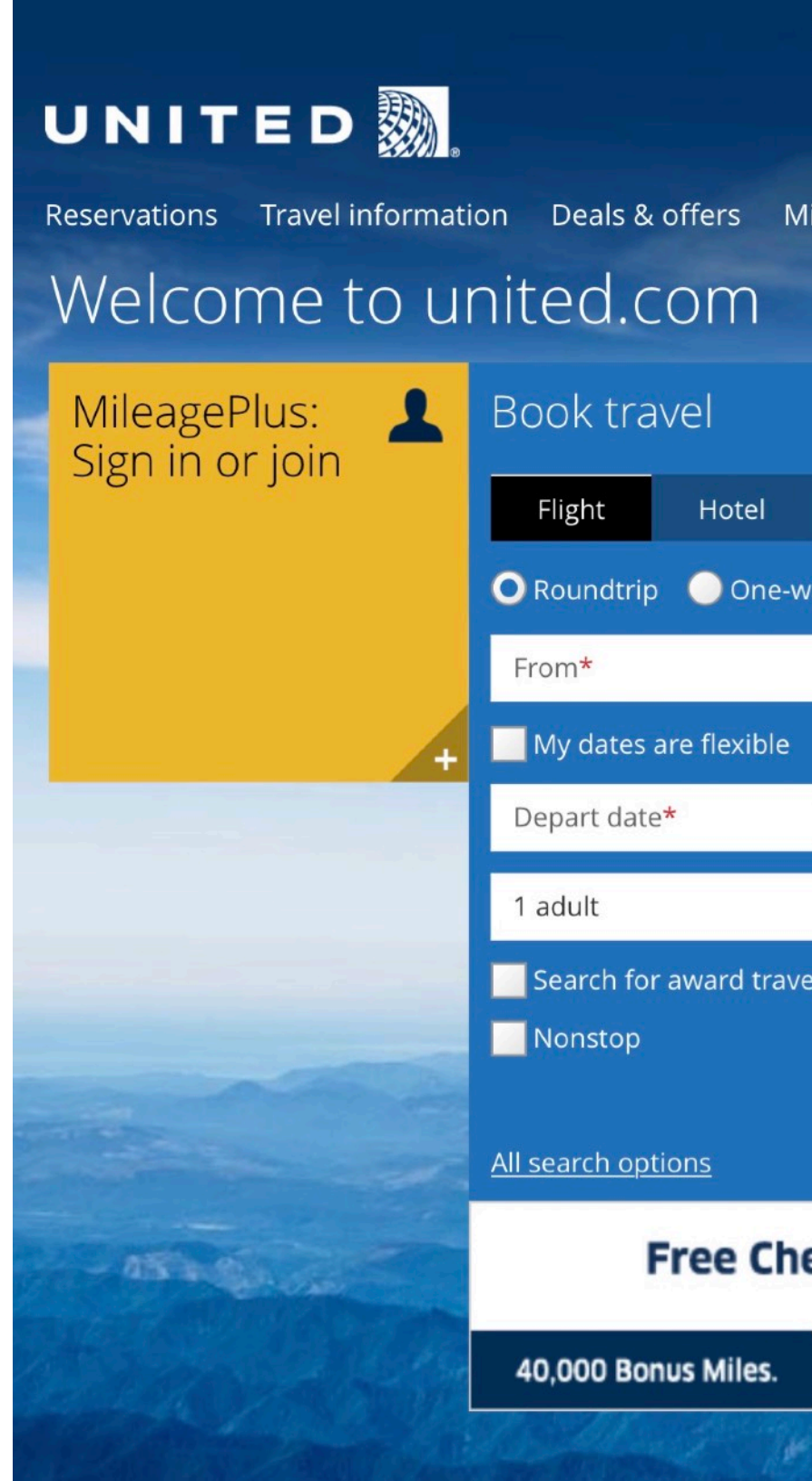
FlyerTalk is also a great place to stay up to date with all the latest miles and points programs for nearly every travel product, and you'll quickly learn how to maximize your own points for the best possible rewards.

4. [united.com](https://www.united.com)

You probably weren't expecting this one. And to be honest with you, right up until I was writing this list I had never really considered it to be all that valuable of a tool for finding business class award deals.

But the reality is that I've been using [united.com](https://www.united.com) quite a bit over the last few years due to the sheer number of different flight options it shows (on its own metal and all the Star Alliance airlines) for every search, and it has never been difficult to find some really fun itineraries. The Delta and American Airlines websites, in comparison, skew heavily towards displaying flights on their own metal rather than showing options that involve partner airlines.

Many of the large credit card brands such as Chase and American Express allow you to transfer points directly to United, so you may want to consider this in the future.





5. Ben Schlappig

Just follow this guy, and you'll end up learning more about flying business class at a discount than you could possibly digest. Ben is the original points and miles based travel blogger (onemileatatime.net), and after all these years I still find him to be the best resource for learning about all the latest offers and techniques for obtaining incredible business class deals and awards.

Ben is completely in-tune with the miles and points industry, and if there's a good deal out there to be had you can bet it will be on Ben's blog first. Follow. Read. Learn. And enjoy the heck out of your next international business class flight!

As you can see, flying around the world in business class for free (or nearly free once you factor in taxes and fees) is not so unobtainable if you've got the time and desire to look for the best deals. There are no special passwords or secret clubs to join in order to partake in this yourself, and I'm always astounded by the people who are jealous of the trips I take but are unwilling to do the research so they can do it too.

Please feel to [reach out to me](#) if you've got questions about any of this. I'd love to help!



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