

Sweet Spot Sunday: Use Alaska miles to fly from the US to Australia with a stopover in Fiji

(Courtesy of Katie Genter, The Points Guy)

This is a recurring post, regularly updated with new information.

If [Australia](#) and [Fiji](#) are on your travel wish list, this could be the perfect sweet spot award for you.

A nonstop flight from Los Angeles to Sydney takes around 15 hours, but a stopover in Fiji can break up your transpacific journey and let you visit Australia and Fiji on the same trip.

In today's sweet spot post, I'll tell you how to book a one-way award from the U.S. to Australia with a stopover in Fiji using [Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan](#) miles.

Why it's special



CHRIS DONG/THE POINTS GUY

In the last days of 2022, the [Alaska Mileage Plan published a new partner award chart](#). Now, Alaska Mileage Plan's international partner award chart only lists starting rates for awards originating in the U.S. or Canada. In the time since the new partner award chart published, [Alaska has devalued Japan Airlines awards](#) without notice. So, you might want to [book the remaining Alaska Mileage Plan sweet spots](#) while you still can.

Alaska's new award chart states that one-way awards from the U.S. to the South Pacific start at 30,000 miles in economy, 45,000 miles in premium economy, 55,000 miles in business and 70,000 miles in first. Behind the scenes, though, award prices are still mostly based on which partner operates the flights.

The sweet spot we're focusing on today is the ability to fly Fiji Airways one-way between the U.S. and Australia for 40,000 Alaska miles in economy or 55,000 miles in business. This is an appealing sweet spot because the [Alaska Mileage Plan offers a free stopover](#) on one-way awards. So, you can stop in Fiji, which I highly recommend for its culture, beautiful island landscape and the ability to break up your long transpacific journey.



Overwater rooms at the Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay in Fiji. JT GENTER/THE POINTS GUY

Unfortunately, it's not all good news: Business-class award availability from the U.S. and Fiji is practically nonexistent. You'll find limited availability from Fiji to the U.S. and spotty availability between Fiji and Australia. Due to limited business-class award availability for this sweet spot, we'll focus on economy awards in this guide.

How to book this award

The [Alaska Mileage Plan](#) charges a nonrefundable fee of \$12.50 per person each way for awards that use a partner airline. You can [cancel or change partner awards](#) with no fees if your plans change.

Here are the steps you'll need to follow to search for and book this sweet spot.

Find award availability



CHRIS DONG/THE POINTS GUY

Finding award availability that fits your dates and travel plans will likely be the most challenging part of booking this award, especially if you want to fly in business class. As I noted above, there's currently very little availability in business class, but if you're happy to fly economy, you'll likely find availability.

You can't use multiple [Alaska Airlines partners](#) on the same award. So, you'll need to use flights operated by Alaska Airlines and Fiji Airways for this sweet spot.

Even though you'll book your award through the Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan website, I recommend using American Airlines' calendar search to find award availability.

First, use American Airlines' calendar search to find availability on a Fiji Airways-operated flight between [San Francisco](#) or [Los Angeles](#) and Nadi, Fiji.

One way (per person) from
40K miles
+ \$5.60

Sat, Feb 17
SFO to NAN
40K

Any number of stops Show all classes 40K Lowest price this month

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 40K	2 40K	3 40K
4 40K	5 40K	6 40K	7 40K	8 40K	9 40K	10 40K
11 40K	12 40K	13 40K	14 40K	15 40K	16 40K	17 40K
18 40K	19 40K	20 40K	21 40K	22 40K	23 40K	24 40K
25 40K	26 40K	27 40K	28 40K	29		

Apply changes

AA.COM

Then, use American Airlines' calendar search to find availability on a Fiji Airways-operated flight between Nadi and Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne or Adelaide, Australia.

One way (per person) from
15K miles
+ \$78.70

Sun, Feb 25
NAN to SYD
15K

Nonstop only Main Cabin 15K Lowest price this month

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 --	2 --	3 --
4 --	5 15K	6 15K	7 15K	8 15K	9 15K	10 15K
11 15K	12 15K	13 15K	14 15K	15 15K	16 15K	17 15K
18 15K	19 15K	20 15K	21 15K	22 15K	23 15K	24 15K
25 15K	26 15K	27 15K	28 15K	29 15K		

Apply changes

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If you want to originate somewhere besides Los Angeles or San Francisco, you can also search on the American Airlines website to find availability on a flight operated by Alaska Airlines.

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Thu, Feb 15
12.5K

Fri, Feb 16
12.5K

Sat, Feb 17
12.5K

Sun, Feb 18
12.5K

Mon, Feb 19
12.5K

CALENDAR





Filter by:

Nonstop only

Alaska Airlines +1

SEA to SFO

Clear filters | 4 results

Depart	Arrive	Duration	Main Cabin	Business	First
SEA 6:00 AM → AS 1082 = 73J-Boeing 737   Operated by Alaska Airlines Details	SFO 8:11 AM	2h 11m Nonstop	One way 12.5K + \$5.60	One way 25K + \$5.60 2 seats left	Not available
SEA 5:45 PM → AS 1318 = 73J-Boeing 737   Operated by Alaska Airlines Details	SFO 8:03 PM	2h 18m Nonstop	One way 12.5K + \$5.60	Not available	Not available

AA.COM

You'll need to find award availability for your return flights as well, but now you have a good idea of how to do so.

Search on Alaska Airlines' website

Now that you know what dates, origin and destination to search, go to Alaska Airlines' website. Below where you'd typically enter your search information, click "All search options." You'll want to click here instead of searching for a one-way award due to your Fiji stopover.



Book Manage Check in Where we

Welcome. Let's go somewhere.

Book

Check in

Flight status

Manage trip

Flights

Hotels

Cars

☒ One-way ☒ Use miles

From

To

Departure date

2/17/24

Adults

Children ?

1 adult

0 children

[All search options](#)

[Use discount or companion fare code](#)

Find Flights

ALASKAAIR.COM

Once you've made that adjustment, click "Multi-city," select "Use miles" and enter the information for your outbound flights. Theoretically, you could also enter your return flight information here. but for now, let's assume you want to book a one-way award. Click "Find flights."



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Search

Book a flight

Flight type & travelers
☐ Round-trip
☐ One-way
☒ Multi-city
☒ Use miles

Adults Children

Cities & dates
Departing flight
From To Date Time
Connecting flight (optional)
From To Date Time
Returning flight
From To Date Time
Connecting flight (optional)
From To Date Time

Award type
Award type
Upgrade type
[FIND FLIGHTS](#)

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On the next screen, you should see the flights you found using American Airlines' calendar search.

Available award flights

Baggage fees may apply

[Join Mileage Plan now](#)

[Change search](#)

[Clear all selections](#)

[Currency converter](#)

Choose departing flights:

Seattle (SEA) to Nadi (NAN) on Feb 17, 2024
Nadi (NAN) to Sydney (SYD) on Feb 25, 2024

View by

- ☒ Schedule
☐ Calendar
☐ Price

<	Wednesday Feb 14 40k +	Thursday Feb 15 40k +	Friday Feb 16 —	Saturday Feb 17 40k +	Sunday Feb 18 —	Monday Feb 19 —	Tuesday Feb 20 40k +	>
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Filter results

Stops

- ☐ Nonstop
☐ 1 stop
☒ 2+ stops

Airlines

- ☒ Alaska Airlines
☒ Fiji Airways

Upgrade fare type

- ☒ No preference
☐ MVP®
☐ MVP® Gold
☐ MVP® Gold 75K

Lowest fare		Refundable				Compare award types		Main	First Class
Sort by		Stops							
	1082				SEA 6:00 am SFO 8:11 am			40k + \$103	N/A
	871				SFO 10:35 pm NAN 5:10 am				
	915				NAN 6:00 pm SYD 9:50 pm				
Details Preview seats									
	1318				SEA 5:45 pm SFO 8:03 pm			40k + \$97	N/A
	871				SFO 10:35 pm NAN 5:10 am				
	915				NAN 6:00 pm SYD 9:50 pm				
Details Preview seats									

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If there's a seat image next to the award cost, you're looking at a mixed cabin award. For example, here's a mixed cabin business-class award from Sydney to Los Angeles where the leg from Sydney to Nadi is in coach and the leg from Nadi to Los Angeles is in business.

Available award flights

Baggage fees may apply

[Join Mileage Plan now](#)

[Change search](#)

[Clear all selections](#)

[Currency converter](#)

Choose departing flights:

Sydney (SYD) to Nadi (NAN) on Sep 6, 2023

Nadi (NAN) to Los Angeles, CA (LAX) on Sep 13, 2023

View by

- ☒ Schedule
- ☐ Calendar
- ☐ Price

Filter results

Stops

- ☐ Nonstop
- ☒ 1 stop
- ☐ 2+ stops

Airlines

- ☒ Fiji Airways

Lowest fare

Refundable

Sort by Duration

Compare award types

			Main	Partner Business	First Class
910	SYD 1:10 pm	NAN 7:00 pm	40k + \$149	55k + \$149	N/A
810	NAN 9:40 pm	LAX 12:55 pm			

[Details](#) | [Seats](#)

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You'd need to agree to continue with the mixed cabin award if you wanted to book that option.

Currency converter

Choose departing flights:

Sydney (SYD) to Nadi (NAN) on Sep 6, 2023

Nadi (NAN) to Los Angeles, CA (LAX) on Sep 13, 2023

View by

☒ Schedule

☐ Calendar

☐ Price

Filter results

Stops

☐ Nonstop

☒ 1 stop

☐ 2+ stops

Airlines

☒ Fiji Airways

Upgrade fare type

☒ No preference

☐ MVP®

☐ MVP® Gold

☐ MVP® Gold 75K

Continue with Mixed Cabin?

This itinerary is not entirely in Business Class.

910 SYD to NAN Coach

810 NAN to LAX Business

CANCEL

CONTINUE

Lowest fare

Refundable

Sort by Stops

Compare award types

[Details](#) | [Seats](#)

Lowest fare

Refundable

Sort by Stops

Compare award types

[Details](#) | [Seats](#)[Change search](#)

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Let's assume you decide to go forward with the 40,000-mile economy award we searched for above. You can add this award to your cart by clicking "Add to cart." Once the award is in your cart, you can check the flight details. Click "Next" once you're ready to move forward.

Your cart

Sign in Passengers Seats Payment Confirmation

[Join Mileage Plan now](#)

Flight summary [Change](#) | [Remove](#)

Flight

 Alaska 1318

Main | Refundable | Nonstop

[Distance](#): 678 mi | Duration: 2h 18m
| [Details](#)

 Fiji 871

Coach | Refundable | Nonstop

[Distance](#): 5,462 mi | Duration: 10h 35m | [Details](#)

 Fiji 915

Coach | Refundable | Nonstop

[Distance](#): 1,968 mi | Duration: 4h 50m | [Details](#)

Departs

Seattle (SEA)
Sat, Feb 17
5:45 pm

San Francisco (SFO)
Sat, Feb 17
10:35 pm

Nadi (NAN)
Sun, Feb 25
6:00 pm

Arrives

San Francisco (SFO)
Sat, Feb 17
8:03 pm

Nadi (NAN)
+ Mon, Feb 19
5:10 am

Sydney (SYD)
Sun, Feb 25
9:50 pm

Price for 1 passenger

40,000 miles +
\$96.80

[View taxes, fees, and charges](#)

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You'll need to sign in to your Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan account and then enter or confirm passenger names and contact information. You can select seats on any Alaska-operated flights in your booking before entering your payment information and purchasing your award.

Related: [6 things to know about the Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan program](#)

How to earn miles for this award

One way to [earn Alaska Airlines miles](#) is to sign up for and use Alaska Airlines credit cards. If you're looking to add a new card to your wallet, here's a look at the [current sign-up bonuses available on Alaska cards](#):

- [Alaska Airlines Visa® credit card](#): Get a \$100 statement credit, 50,000 bonus miles and Alaska's Famous Companion Fare from \$122 (\$99 fare, plus taxes and fees from \$23) with this offer. To qualify, make \$2,000 or more in purchases within the first 90 days of opening your account.
- [Alaska Airlines Visa® Business card](#): Get 50,000 bonus miles, a \$100 statement credit and Alaska's Famous Companion Fare from \$122 (\$99 fare, plus taxes and fees from \$23) with this offer. To qualify, make \$3,000 or more in purchases within the first 90 days of opening your account.

You can also [transfer Marriott Bonvoy points](#) to the Alaska Mileage Plan at a 3:1 ratio, but keep in mind that you must transfer at least 3,000 points. [TPG values](#) Marriott points at 0.84 cents each and Alaska miles at 1.8 cents each. So, with the 3:1 transfer ratio, you're giving up a value of about 0.6 cents per Alaska mile earned when you transfer Marriott points to Alaska.

Finally, there are many other ways to earn Alaska Airlines miles. For example, you can fly Alaska Airlines and its partners. Or, you can click through the [Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan Shopping portal](#) before shopping online. You can also enroll in [Mileage Plan Dining](#) and eat at participating restaurants.

Bottom line

If you want to fly to Australia, [redeeming Alaska miles](#) to fly Fiji Airways is a great option. The taxes and fees are tolerable, you can stopover in Fiji and the award pricing is better than you'd get with most other programs.

I loved Fiji when my husband and I visited in 2019 to review the [Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay](#), the [DoubleTree Resort by Hilton. Hotel Fiji - Sonaisali Island](#) and the [InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa](#).

However, earning Alaska miles for this award can be challenging since [Marriott Bonvoy](#) is the only major [transferrable currency](#) you can transfer to Alaska. An added challenge is that business-class award availability can be difficult to find.