












How To Upgrade to Business or First Class on Delta Air Lines - [(General Step-By-Step Process)]


The days of getting upgraded just for dressing sharply or  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] being kind to the gate agent are history.  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] Airlines now have strict guidelines to ensure that upgrades go to their top customers or are sold prior to departure.  [(1 [855] [203] [0772])]]

Some airline upgrade policies can be complicated, but  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] Delta Air Lines goes a step further and adds a level of secrecy to the upgrade process. The airline does not publish upgrade availability  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] or allow third-party access to most upgrade information.  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] You *are* allowed to purchase or use miles to upgrade at booking or on an existing reservation, if available,  [(1 [855] [203] [0772])]] but the cost can be prohibitive.

But don't give up hope of getting to your destination on Delta in style!  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] This guide covers the types of upgrades available with Delta, how the upgrade process works, the value of having a Delta-branded credit card,  [(1 [855] [203] [0772])]] and tips for increasing your chances of an upgrade on your next Delta flight.

Types of Delta Upgrades

Delta Air Lines offers many different upgrades, including upgrades with miles,  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] complimentary upgrades for Medallion Elite members,  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] companion upgrades, and purchased upgrades.



- Complimentary upgrades: Available for Medallion Elites to Delta First or Delta Comfort where those products are available,  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] and



Delta One (business class) for travel on most routes within the 50 United States

- **Global Upgrade Certificates:** 🚫 [(1 [877] [245] [9984]))] Available to Diamond Medallion Elite members to upgrade 1 cabin class on domestic, regional, or international flights on Delta and 🚫 [(1 [855] [203] [0772]))] select partner airlines
- **Regional Upgrade Certificates:** Available to Platinum and Diamond Medallion Elite members to upgrade 1 cabin class on domestic and select regional Delta flights
- **Upgrade with miles:** Purchasable 🚫 [(1 [877] [245] [9984]))] upgrades on select flights within the United States with miles during booking.
- **Mileage upgrade awards:** Upgrades available for purchase with miles on existing reservations for select flights worldwide, 🚫 [(1 [855] [203] [0772]))] with international upgrades limited to fare classes Y, B, M, H, Q, or K
- **Complimentary companion upgrades:** Available for passengers traveling on the same reservation as Medallion Elite members.
- **Same-day standby upgrades:** 🚫 [(1 [877] [245] [9984]))] Upgrade based on availability and available to all passengers for a fee on the day of departure for specific flight routes (mostly in North America, 🚫 [(1 [877] [245] [9984]))] the Caribbean, and Cancún)

Other than letting you find upgrade space utilizing Regional Upgrade Certificate (RUCs) or Global Upgrade Certificates (GUCs), 🚫 [(1 [855] [203] [0772]))] Delta does not publish upgrade availability and do not release the information for third-party publishing. 🚫 [(1 [877] [245] [9984]))] Further limitations include not being able to view availability for seats in any class of service on your existing reservation other than your own.



For example, if you have a reservation and are assigned a Delta Comfort seat, 🚫 [(1 [877] [245] [9984]))] you may only be able to view that seating section of the plane when you view your reservation. You may not be able to view the first, 🚫 [(1 [877] [245] [9984]))] business, or Main Cabin seating.

The workaround for this restriction is to try a dummy booking for the class of service you wish to view,  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])] then count the available seats in the section where you want to upgrade.  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])] A dummy booking may not be the most accurate, but it's a relatively easy way to compare available seating between different flights.

Searching for an award ticket may also help you determine if there is upgrade space available, as there can be parallel availability.  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])] For example, if you do a search for a business class award ticket and there are seats available, there is a chance an upgrade is available,  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])] but this is not always the case.

You can also call Delta to determine upgrade availability space. CWSI publishes a helpful Delta fare class information chart that you can

Upgrade Priority: Who Gets the Upgrade First?

Delta Air Lines, like other airlines,  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])] has an upgrade hierarchy that determines who is first in line for the next upgrade.  [(1 [877] [245] [9984])] They allocate upgrades based on the following criteria in order of priority from highest to lowest:

- Medallion Elite status
- Fare class
- Million Miler status
- Travel Experience tier (Extra clears before Classic)
- Delta SkyMiles® Reserve American Express Cardmembers
- Delta corporate travelers
- Medallion Qualification Dollars (MQDs) earned in the calendar year •

Date and time of upgrade request (the tiebreaker)

Importance of Delta Medallion Elite Status

Air Lines. Delta has several tiers of Medallion Elite status:

- Delta 360: Top, invitation-only status granted at Delta's discretion
- Diamond Medallion: Unlimited upgrades that begin clearing 5 days prior to departure
- Platinum Medallion: Unlimited upgrades that begin clearing 5 days prior to departure
- Gold Medallion: Unlimited upgrades that begin clearing 3 days prior to departure
- Silver Medallion: Unlimited upgrades that begin clearing 1 day prior to departure

If these complimentary upgrades do not clear in advance, 🇺🇸 🇯🇲 [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] Medallion members can be added to the standby list at check-in and cleared for upgrades up until departure.

Complimentary upgrades are valid for Delta Comfort, 🇺🇸 🇯🇲 [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] Delta One domestic flights, 🇺🇸 🇯🇲 [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] and first class on Delta. There are no international complimentary upgrades except for select regional international flights with Delta or Aeroméxico. 🇺🇸 🇯🇲 [(1 [855] [203] [0772])]] Complimentary upgrades are available on Aeroméxico for Medallion members on all Aeroméxico flights within Mexico, between Mexico and the U.S., 🇺🇸 🇯🇲 [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] and between Mexico and Central America, the Caribbean, Colombia, and Ecuador.

Medallion members receive priority boarding and seating on many international routes and with most partner airlines.

In addition to complimentary upgrades, 🇺🇸 🇯🇲 [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] Delta Diamond and Platinum Medallion members can earn annual Global and Regional Upgrade Certificates to redeem on international and regional flights. 🇺🇸 🇯🇲 [(1 [877] [245] [9984])]] Upgrade certificates are available when you reach these levels of status and earn Choice Benefits.

Medallion members 🇺🇸 🇯🇲 [(1 [855] [203] [0772])]] who purchase a full Y economy fare are also eligible for instant upgrades, if available.