

A photograph of an airplane cabin interior, showing rows of blue seats. A flight attendant in a white uniform is visible in the background, serving a passenger. The text is overlaid on this image.

Getting the Best Airline Seats For Cruise Speakers (or Anyone Else)

by Daniel Hall

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Getting the Best Airline Seats: For Cruise Ship Speakers (Or Anyone Else)

Want to Cruise Free?

For years now I've taken great pleasure in showing people how to trade their talents for free luxury cruises. Why not? Tons of my students have discovered how to cruise free.

Just so you can better understand the depth of the opportunity let me tell you why you may want to do cruise speaking too...

- ✓ You get a free cruise
- ✓ Your traveling companion likewise cruises free
- ✓ You have every port day free to do whatever you want (and you only present 1 hour each day you are at sea)
- ✓ Get every passenger perk because you cruise as a passenger not a crewmember
- ✓ You can sell you books, CD's, DVD's and other info products in the ship gift shop
- ✓ You are treated as a minor-celebrity on board
- ✓ Plus much, much more...
- ✓ How do you get started?

Right here –

<http://www.speakerscruisefree.com>

Here's the thing: As far as getting the very best airline seats at the least-expensive price, knowledge really is power.

Fortunately as cruise ship speakers we get to travel as frequently as we want. (You can get started yourself over at <http://www.speakerscruisefree.com/>) It seems like every other month I am taking a long plane ride somewhere or another. Unfortunately, I don't always get to fly first or business class. Be that as it may, I have learned a number of methods to increase my chances of getting the very best seat for the very lowest price. What follows are the methods I've learned to get the best airline seats since becoming a cruise speaker in 2002.

Join the Frequent Flyer Club

All airlines have a frequent flyer club. Join all that make sense for you. Said another way, a club makes sense for you to join even if you don't fly the airline very frequently. So if you find yourself going somewhere brand new (which is the case with many cruise speakers) join the club of the airline that happens to service the new destination.

With that being said, you should obviously focus on the club of the airline that you find yourself taking most. Familiarize yourself with their offerings and how they do upgrades. The idea, of course, is to navigate their system so you secure for yourself the maximum number of upgrades possible. Always remember this one key point...

The Best Use of Frequent Flyer Miles is Upgrades to First/Business Class, Not Free Tickets

When you look at the economics of a coach versus a first/business class you quickly recognize that frequently the best use of your miles is getting the upgrade. Additionally, watch for (and even call) your main club – the one you use most frequently – to find out how and when you can purchase an upgrade. Many times clubs will run specials in which you purchase an upgrade with a combination of miles and dollars.

Obviously it's better to use only your miles if you can. But it's also nice to purchase additional miles if you come up short for an upgrade. Which brings me to my next important point...

Add Miles to Your Frequent Flyer Account without Flying

Of course, we all know that we get frequent flyer miles every time we fly. But what I'm suggesting you do is add miles in alternative ways. For example, my friend and travel expert Gina Henry (<http://www.travelmakingmoney.com>) suggests that you get a credit card from your primary airline and start using it. She suggests using it for everything you can because typically you earn one mile for every one dollar you put on the card. Sometimes you'll get more miles for special purchases and you always get more miles when purchasing from an affiliated or recommended vendor, like 1-800-FLOWERS for example.

But Gina recommends you use your credit card for everything from paying your mortgage to buying groceries. In this way, of course, you can accumulate lots of miles very quickly: Miles which can be used for upgrades in most cases. Additionally, most clubs also have levels -- silver, gold, sterling, for example. And once you reach these levels based on how frequently you are flying or otherwise adding miles you can qualify for free upgrades when they are available.

The peril, and Gina's huge caveat, is ALWAYS PAY OFF YOUR BALANCES – every month make sure to pay your balance to zero. Thus, if you know you lack discipline avoid this method! But for those who can manage it this is a sweet way to get lots of miles *multo* quickly.

This is a great method, no doubt, but I also wanted to show you how to add miles to your account without flying anywhere and without using your credit card by...

Taking Short Surveys In Exchange for Miles

Here's how you do it:

Go to www.e-miles.com and register for a free account. Complete their profile and they will start sending brief (very brief) surveys. Many advertisers for a certain demographic want to know how that demographic reacts to their ads. These advertisers will use www.e-miles.com for this purpose. So when

**"I'm approved to
cruise free!"**



"I'm approved to cruise free! Thank you, Daniel, not only did I have the best vacation of my life, you also taught me a way to vacation anytime I want for FREE. The very small investment in your program was priceless.

How can I put a price on that return?"

Vic Maranto
www.vicmaranto.com

"I'm convinced that I want free luxury cruises Daniel show me the way..."
www.speakerscruisefree.com/

you register for an account you will be sent ads to view and then answer a few brief questions about it. In exchange, e-miles.com will give you a pre-determined number of miles for participating.

Usually you will only get 5-25 miles per survey but when you consider the 30-60 seconds it takes to complete the survey it is well worth the effort. E-miles.com keeps track of the miles you earn in this

“Simply put, your system is amazing!”



"Daniel – I just received an email from Royal Caribbean welcoming me to the Royal Caribbean family! Simply put, your system is amazing! I ordered your program, “Speak on Cruise Ships” and the one-on-one coaching 7 days ago and I am now approved... on TWO cruise lines, and, I am already booked for THREE cruises so far this year – all within one week.”

Dan Stockdale

www.TigerGuy.com

“Daniel I want to get started cruising free! I’m heading over to www.speakerscruisefree.com to sign up!”

manner within its own internal system and every time you reach 500 miles they will deposit that many miles into the frequent flyer account of your choosing. I have earned literally thousands of miles like this and you should consider giving it a try. The price is certainly right for an account: FREE.

OK Lets say that even with all these methods in place to add miles to your account you cannot, for whatever reason, get or economically buy an upgrade. That is (queue horror music) you are relegated to flying coach!

Here’s something you need to understand...

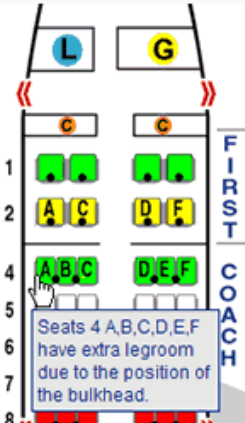
Get the Best Seats in Coach Because They’re Not All Created Equal

We have all noticed that when we fly coach sometimes we are more comfortable and sometimes less. For me, a guy who is 6”2’, my coach seat is particularly important. Fortunately, thanks to a tip from my friend and client, Gid Pool the travel guy (<http://gidthetravelguy.podomatic.com/>), I know exactly which coach seats are worth having and which are best left to sardines.

The resource Gid told me about is at www.SeatGuru.com

www.SeatGuru.com lists seatmaps of every commercially available aircraft used by all the major airlines. Also, as different airlines arrange their seats slightly differently they have specific floor plans as well. What is most useful about the site is it makes recommendations on which seat is good, poor or standard. (See below.)

The ultimate source for airplane seating, in-flight amenities, and airline information.



- Detailed seatmap graphics
- In-depth comments about seats with limited recline, reduced legroom, and misaligned windows
- Color-coding to help identify superior and substandard seats
- In-seat power port locations
- Galley, lavatory, exit row, and closet locations

SeatMap Key

- Good Seat
- Mixed Review
- Standard Seat
- Some Drawbacks
- Poor Seat
- Power Port
- FA Crew Seat
- ⏏ Emergency Exit
- V Overhead TV
- G Galley
- L Lavatory
- C Closet

To find your specific aircraft check out your ticket noting the airline and the aircraft for your particular flight.

AIR - Wednesday, September 16 2009

American Airlines Flight AA111 Economy Class		
Depart:	Fiumicino, Terminal 5 Rome, Italy	Weather
Arrive:	O'Hare International Chicago, Illinois, United States	Weather
	11:30 AM Wednesday, September 16 2009	
	03:05 PM Wednesday, September 16 2009	
Duration:	10 hour(s) and 35 minute(s) non-stop	
Status:	Confirmed - American Airlines Booking Reference: MSZWPK	
Equipment:	BOEING 767-300/300ER	
Seat:	13C (Non smoking) Confirmed	
Baggage Allowance:	2 Piece(s)	

Once you have the airline and the aircraft information find the name of your airline at SeatGuru.com by using the alphabetical tabs in the left hand column. (See below.)

The ultimate source for airplane seating, in-flight amenities, and airline information.

Find your airline

- Detailed seatmap graphics
- In-depth comments about seats with limited recline, reduced legroom, and misaligned windows
- Color-coding to help identify superior and substandard seats
- In-seat power port locations
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SeatMap Key

- Green: Great Seat
- Yellow: Mixed Review
- White: Standard Seat
- Red: Poor Seat
- Black: Power Port
- Blue: Crew Seat
- Red X: Emergency Exit
- V: Overhead TV
- Yellow: Galley
- Light Blue: Lavatory
- Orange: Closet

Find Cheap Flights!
 Flight | Hotel | Vacation | Car Rental
 Find cheap flights at TripAdvisor.

From: To:
 Class:
 Return:
 Passengers:
 Options: One-way, multi-city, etc.

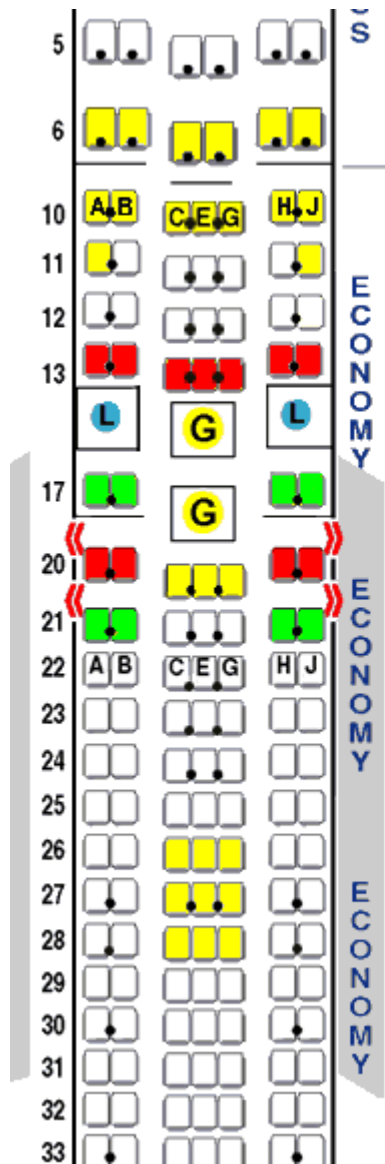
Then click on your aircraft.

American Airlines

General Information

- Aerospatiale/Alenia 72 (AT7)
- Boeing 737-800 Vers. 1 (738)
- Boeing 737-800 Vers. 2 (738)
- Boeing 757-200 Vers. 1 (757)
- Boeing 757-200 Vers. 2 (757)
- Boeing 767-200 (762)
- Boeing 767-300 (763)
- Boeing 777-200 (777)**
- Canadair CRJ-700 (CR7)
- Embraer ERJ-135 (ER3)
- Embraer ERJ-140 (ERD)
- Embraer ERJ-145 (ER4)
- McDon. Doug. MD-80 Vers. 1 (M80)
- McDon. Doug. MD-80 Vers. 2 (M80)
- Asiana

The site will then display your seatmap and show you which seats it considers best.



Seatmap Key

- Good Seat
- Mixed Review
- Standard Seat
- Some Drawbacks
- Poor Seat
- Power Port
- FA Crew Seat
- ⏏ Emergency Exit
- ∨ Overhead TV
- G Galley
- L Lavatory
- C Closet

Find Cheap Flights!

Flights
Hotel
Vacation
Car Rent

From: To:

Depart: Return: Travel:

[More options »](#)
One-way, multi-city, etc.

Find cheap flights at TripAdvisor.

Your next step is to determine what seats you were assigned when you purchased your ticket. Then if you're unhappy with the seat assignment head on over to the airline website, pull up your reservations and change your seat to something more to your liking. The airline and frequent flyer websites are always listed at the top of every SeatGuru.com airline section.

One other thing, if you are an exit row freak (like I am because my height) you must arrive at the airport early as they will usually not assign you to an exit row seat online. The rationale: they want to make sure you are able bodied enough to perform emergency functions if need be.

Additionally, you'll want to check out SeatGuru.com's reviews, about 25000 of them, on airlines and seats.

You've got admit this resource is pretty cool but I recently learned another seat tactic because...

Two Seats Are Better Than One

As I write this I am over the Isle of Jersey en route from Rome to Chicago, about a 9.5 hour flight. However, I am flying in the dreaded coach section with my wife. But considering I am flying coach I am reasonably comfortable.

Why?

Because my wife and I are on a 767 with 2-3-2 seat configuration. We are occupying the three seat section where the middle seat is empty leaving lots more room to stretch out and get comfortable.

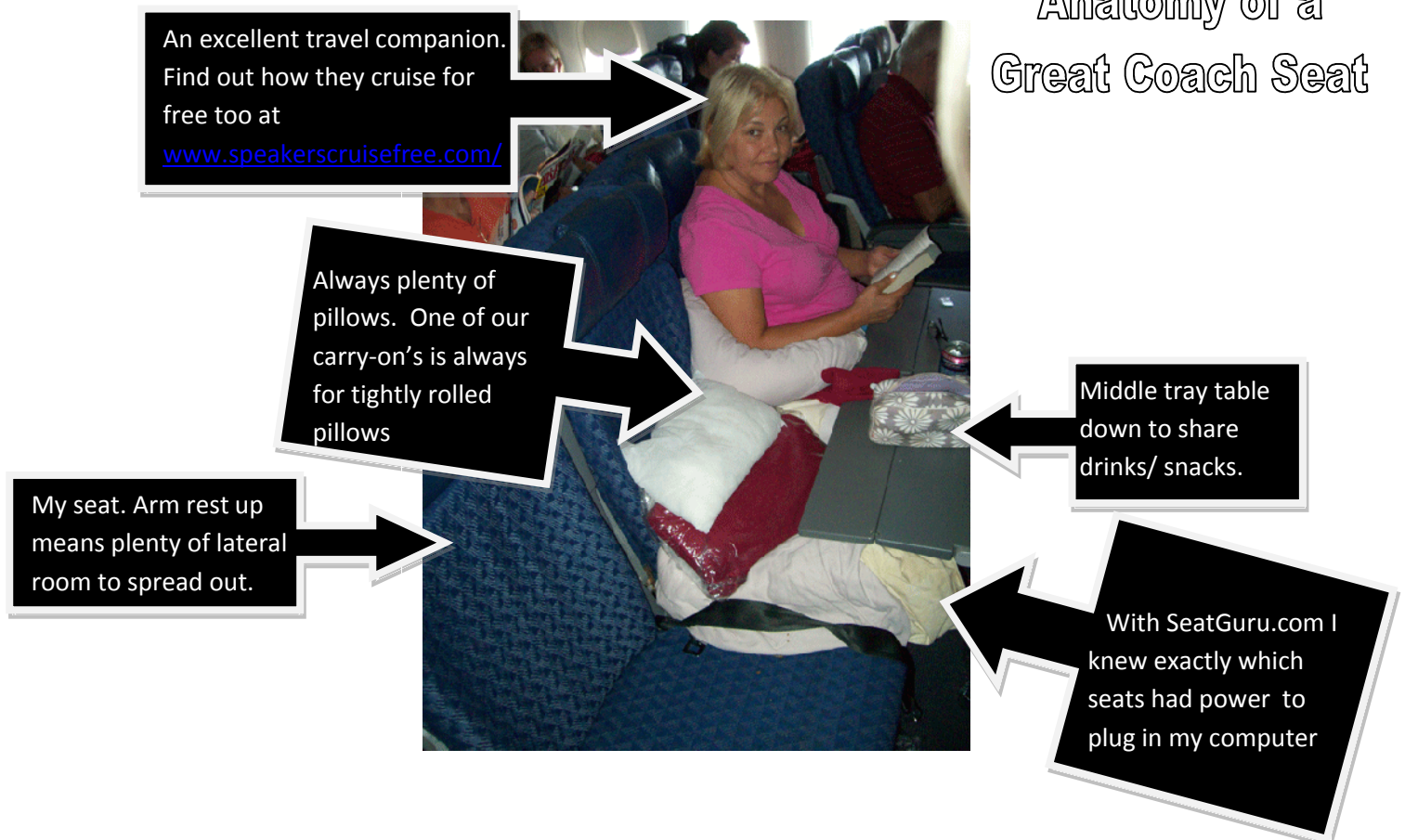
How did I accomplish this?

About 2 weeks before we were to leave I got online and checked what 3-seat sections were available. There were several toward the back of the plane and I grabbed two end seats for my wife and I. My reasoning is that by two weeks out most leisure travelers would have already had their tickets and it was likely the middle seat would not be assigned.

Last minute business travelers (particularly for such a long flight) would have gotten something in first or business class and for sure would have been more forward in the aircraft if forced to fly coach.

Alas, it worked out exactly as I planned and with the arm rests up and are pillows and blankets out we are reasonably comfy cozy.

Anatomy of a Great Coach Seat



Well there you have it folks. The best ways I know of to fly comfortably. This e-book was written for cruise ship speakers cruising for free because of their ability to flap their jaws and communicate to a group of people.

Interested in joining them?

Check out <http://www.speakerscruisefree.com/>

One More Thing...

Think your friends, colleagues or relatives would benefit from this special report? You know if they fly at all they would love it!

Well, you have my permission to send it to as many people as you think may benefit from it. The only thing is you must leave the document exactly as it is without taking out any clickable links. Deal?

My last idea for you:

Make some money referring my program!

If you'd like to sign up as an affiliate of my Speak on Cruise Ships program you can do that here:

<http://www.speakerscruisefree.com/AffSignUp.html>

Thanks for reading...

God bless and happy flying and cruising,



Creator of "Speak on Cruise Ships: 8 Easy Steps to a Lifetime of FREE Luxury Cruises"

<http://www.speakerscruisefree.com/>