



Guide for New Members



Welcome to the home of tips, tricks and chat for Australian frequent flyers!

The Australian Frequent Flyer (AFF) is Australia's largest online travel community. Our website contains tons of useful information and resources to help you improve your travel experience and travel for less!

We are thrilled that you've decided to join our community. Whether you're a regular business traveller, a leisure flyer, or just have an interest in travel and getting a great deal, this website is for you.

To help you get started and give you a taste of what our community is about, we've prepared this short Guide. It will introduce you to some of the most popular tricks of the trade, show you where to get started and outline the many free benefits and services available to you as a valued AFF member.

Jump to...

- [Learn the tricks of the trade](#)
- [Keep up to date](#)
- [Participate on our forums](#)
- [Benefit from AFF services](#)

Learn the tricks of the trade

To start with, let's look at a few of the best tips and tricks discussed on AFF.

Get the most out of frequent flyer programs - earn more points

Frequent flyer points offer countless opportunities to travel interstate, overseas or even around the world for (almost) free! Points can of course be earned by flying, but this is not the only way to earn points. Depending on the program, points can also be earned by shopping with a wide range of program partners on the ground. For example, [Qantas points can be earned by shopping at Woolworths](#). There are also many credit cards out there that allow you to earn frequent flyer points on everyday transactions.

But it gets better... it is possible to earn tens of thousands of frequent flyer points just by signing up for a credit card that is offering a sign-up bonus. [Banks run regular promotions](#) where up to 100,000 bonus points (or occasionally even more!) are offered just for signing up for a new credit card.

It is also possible to [purchase large chunks of frequent flyer points](#) – often with large bonuses – from airlines like American Airlines, United, Avianca and Alaska Airlines. These points can then be used to fly in premium cabins for significantly less than the regular price.

It is free to join most frequent flyer and loyalty programs. Qantas Frequent Flyer is one of the few airlines to charge a joining fee, but if you're not already a member, you can easily [avoid paying the Qantas Frequent Flyer membership fee](#).

Get the most out of frequent flyer programs - redeeming points

Our forums also contain a lot of information on the best way to use your points. As a general rule, redeeming for flights in premium cabins - Business or First class - is the [best value use of points](#). But redeeming for any flight or upgrade is almost always better value than spending points on gift vouchers or toasters.

One of the best value ways to spend Qantas points is the [Oneworld Award](#). This ticket allows you to travel around the world on oneworld airlines (e.g. Qantas, Cathay Pacific, British Airways etc.) with up to 5 stopovers. This is particularly excellent value in Business class.

When redeeming points, beware of the [fuel and carrier surcharges](#) that some airlines add to the cost of your reward booking. Also note that award availability is limited. In general, you'll get the best access to award seats when they're released around 11-12 months in advance. But if you're looking for Qantas reward seats, [the release date will depend on your frequent flyer status](#).

Gain elite airline status

Speaking of airline status, our forum is packed with useful information to accelerate your status tier with Qantas, Virgin Australia and other airlines. See our guides for [earning Qantas status](#) and [earning Virgin Australia status](#). If you already hold status with one airline, you may also be eligible for a status match or status challenge (like the [Qantas 90-day status challenge](#)).

Save money on your next flight

Our members are always chasing the best deals, and this includes cheap flights. Our members regularly post information about extraordinary deals on [domestic](#) and [international flights](#).

There are a few tricks that can be used to save money on flights. For example, our savvy members have discovered that [discounts on Virgin Australia flights](#) can be had by using voucher codes that are regularly posted in the Virgin Australia forum. But perhaps the best trick is [Jetstar's Price Beat Guarantee](#). Jetstar will beat any similarly-timed competitor's flight (including Tiger's sale fares) by 10%, plus waive the credit card fee on Price Beat bookings.

If you're looking for a great Business class airfare deal to Europe, a trip often used by our members is to book flights originating in Asia or Europe (rather than Australia). Flights are typically much more expensive when booked from Australia.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the information available on our website! We publish many of the best tips and tricks in our newsletters and podcast.

Keep up to date

The Frequent Flyer Gazette

The Frequent Flyer Gazette is our free twice-weekly newsletter. The Gazette reveals the Australian travel news and key issues affecting frequent flyers that are being discussed on our forums. If you haven't already, [subscribe here](#) to keep up-to-date with the latest information and deals.

AFF ON AIR Podcast

We also produce a [fortnightly podcast](#) full of news, tips, tricks for Australian travellers. Each episode of "AFF ON AIR" features a round-up of the fortnight's news, in-depth discussions on a wide variety of topics of interest to Australian

travellers, interviews, and more. The podcast is hosted by Matt Graham, the Frequent Flyer Gazette editor. This podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Android or anywhere else that you normally find great podcasts.

Participate on our forums

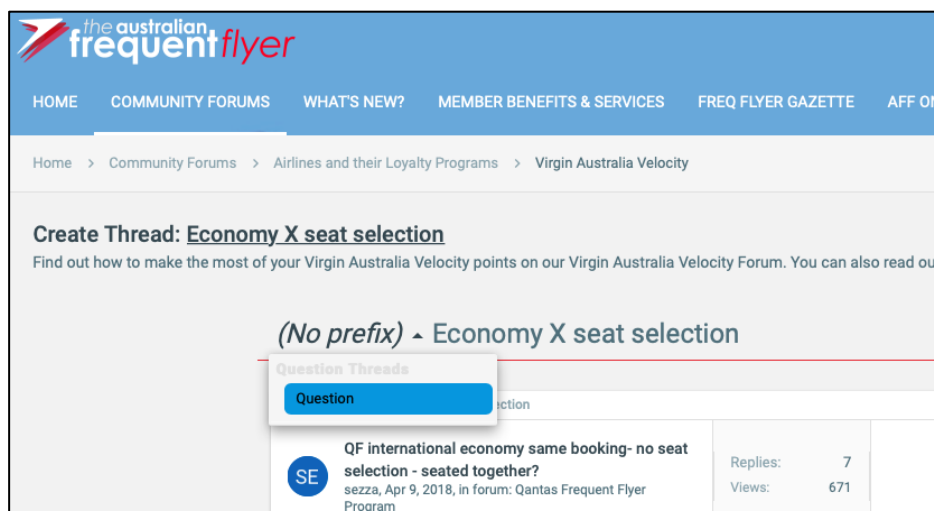
All AFF members are encouraged to participate on our [community forums](#). All contributions are welcome.

There are numerous advantages to posting on our forums. Firstly, you will get helpful responses from like-minded and knowledgeable travellers. Secondly, our forum is frequented by various airline and company representatives. Plus, other members will be able to learn and benefit from your posts and from any advice given!

We recommend, if you haven't already done so, to [update your member profile](#) so that other members can see where you are from. This will help other members to offer you advice that is relevant to your personal situation.

There is no such thing as a stupid question on AFF. If you would like to ask a question, the first thing to do would be to find the appropriate forum. For example, questions relating to Qantas belong in the [Qantas Frequent Flyer forum](#), and so on. Discussion topics that don't belong in a specific forum can be discussed in the [Open discussion](#) forum. Please don't post the same question in multiple threads – once is enough.

When asking a question in a new thread, it is recommended to add a "Question" prefix to the thread title. That way, the question will be included in a [list of new questions](#) and will gain greater attention:



Our discussion boards contain many different forums on a wide range of travel-related topics. A small selection of the most popular forums include:

- [Introductions](#) – This is a great place to make your first post and introduce yourself to the AFF community.
- [Qantas Frequent Flyer](#) – Here members can discuss anything to do with Qantas Frequent Flyer program. For example, find out how to maximise your Qantas points or earn Qantas status.
- [Virgin Australia Velocity](#) – Here members can discuss anything to do with Virgin Australia and Velocity Frequent Flyer. For example, find out how to save money on your next Virgin flight or how to use your points to fly on Velocity partner airlines.
- [Free to a good home](#) – From time to time, members will offer free lounge passes, express cards or other useful items for free. (Please note: selling or attempting to procure lounge passes is against the AFF [Terms of Service](#).)
- [Trip Reports and Reviews](#) – Learn about other members' exciting travel experiences by perusing our Trip Reports. The trip reports on our site are written by members and make for some very interesting reading. They also often contain some great destination-specific and general travel tips. All Trip Reports are welcome, and you are most welcome to share your own travel experiences with us.
- [Travel Insider Tips](#) – Pick up or share some great tips about things like airport lounges, travel money, visas and travel insurance.
- [Current Credit Card Promotions](#) – Discuss current credit card deals, such as cards offering sign-up bonus points or waived annual fees.
- [General Wine Discussion](#) – For lovers of great red and white wines.

Selected threads for new members

We also have put together a list of selected threads of particular interest to new members. [See the list here](#).

AFF Abbreviations

It's true that we do tend to use a lot of abbreviations on the forums. This is not intended to make it difficult to understand, it's simply quicker to post and read. We realise that these abbreviations can be a bit confusing for a new member so to help you get started, here are a few of the most [common abbreviations](#):

Y	Economy class	RTW	Round-the-world
Y+/PE	Premium Economy	xONEx	Oneworld Explorer (paid fare)
J	Business class	DONE5	5-continent xONEx in Business
F	First class	SC	Status Credit
NB	Bronze status (Qantas)	QP	"Qantas Pub" (Qantas Club)
PS	Silver status	MEL	Melbourne Airport
SG	Gold status	LAX	Los Angeles Airport

WP	Platinum status	DPS	Denpasar/Bali Airport
P1	Platinum One status (Qantas)	738	Boeing 737-800
OW/*O	Oneworld alliance	332	Airbus A330-200
*A	Star Alliance	Op-up	Operational upgrade
QF	Qantas	PNR	Passenger Name Record
VA	Virgin Australia	HUACA	"Hang Up And Call Again"
JQ	Jetstar	DYKWIA	"Don't You Know Who I Am?"
TT	Tigerair (or Trans-Tasman)	FWIW	"For What It's Worth"
SQ	Singapore Airlines	AFAIK	"As Far As I Know"

Attend a social event and engage with the community

Don't forget that our community is made up of real people! While we all love browsing the online forums, there is no substitute for actually meeting our friendly members in person. Some of the best tips are shared over a coffee, beer or wine! So, why not participate in one of our many events?

In addition to regular dinners and events across Australia and around the world, AFF has a community weekend get-together in a different Australian city each year.

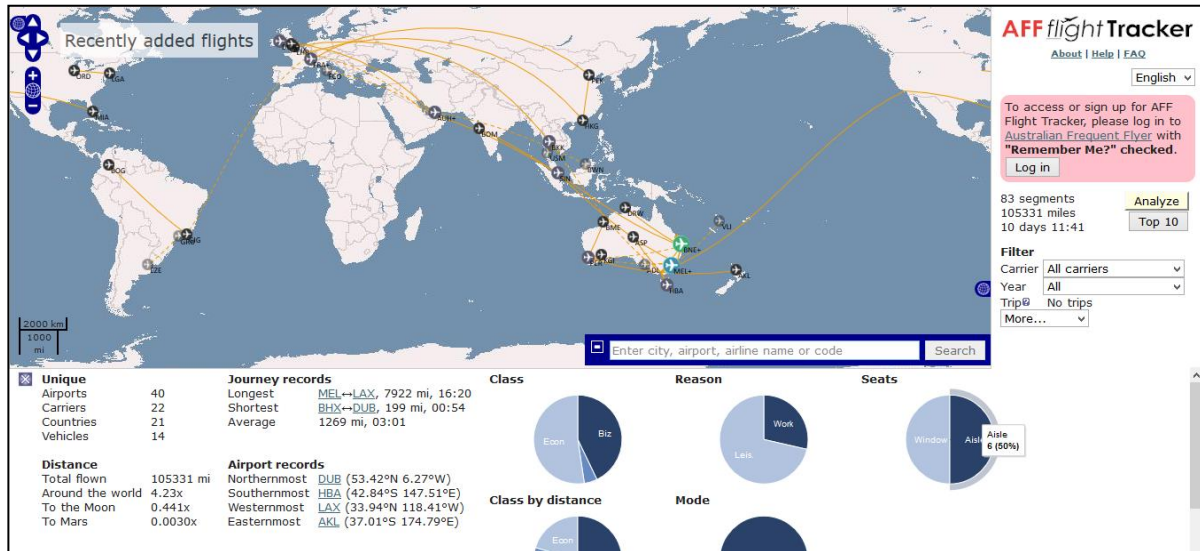
Find out what's coming up on our [Meetings and Social Events forum](#).

We also have a [Lounge Meetups forum](#). On this forum our members can post details about their flights in order to meet up with other members who happen to be at the airport at the same time. Using this forum, members are free to offer their free lounge guest spots and also able to request lounge access at specific times and places, should another member happen to be around.

Benefit from AFF services

AFF Flight Tracker

[AFF Flight Tracker](#) is a tool that lets you record and map your flights around the world. You can then search for and filter them in interesting ways, calculate statistics automatically, and share your flights and trips with friends or the world (if you wish). If you opt-in, a link to your personal Flight Tracker is displayed alongside your profile.



Upgrading your membership to become an AFF Supporter

We currently offer **3 membership levels**: Basic, Silver and Gold.

Basic membership is 100% free. Basic members are able to fully participate on our forums and have free access to most of the services featured in this Guide.

Upgrading to Silver or Gold membership for a small annual fee is entirely optional, but it does offer some significant benefits. By upgrading, you'll also be supporting the website and helping us to continue providing you with valuable resources!

Our **Silver** members have access to enhanced functionality, including an advertisement-free browsing experience. In addition to these benefits, our **Gold** members have access to [discounts on travel products and services totalling over \\$300 per year](#). This includes discounted travel insurance and significant savings on Qantas Club membership.

Read more becoming an [AFF Supporter](#).

Frequent Flyer Solutions

Our sister website, Frequent Flyer Solutions, offers a range of premium services for frequent flyers. Want to learn more about earning and using points effectively? Frequent Flyer Solutions not only offers a comprehensive [training program](#), but also runs regular [webinars](#) where you can learn tricks of the trade from our experts.

Frequent Flyer Solutions also offers a popular [Award Flight Assist](#) service that can help you to effectively redeem your frequent flyer points for flights.

Visit www.frequentflyer.com.au for more information about Frequent Flyer Solutions.

So, what are you waiting for?

We are sure you will find the information on our site useful. It is not uncommon for new members, after joining AFF, to report that they have started travelling more often, in greater comfort and for less money!

We hope that you make the most out of our forums and your AFF membership.

[Start exploring our site now!](#) 😊