



## Lufthansa Considerations

Crystal Foster, in our tour operator's office (Winter Ski & Sport; 630-969-5700 ext 5001), has been working the air for our trip. Several participants have worked with Crystal to upgrade to Lufthansa's Premium Economy seating, which Crystal describes as follows:

*Premium economy is a separate cabin that has to be purchased at time of ticketing in that cabin due to restrictions on the group ticket. There are only 21 seats in that cabin. If they are looking for a preferred seat up front with more leg room in the economy cabin, that can be done after ticketing. Below is a snapshot of what you get when purchasing premium economy.*

### Premium Economy Class:

*Enjoy a new travel experience between business and economy class with more comfort, more service, and more extras. More space, more baggage, more service.*

- *Generous seat size with up to 50% more room on all sides*
- *Personal in flight entertainment with an 11 or 12 inch screen on the seat in front of you*
- *2 FREE checked bags*
- *Meals chosen from the menu and served on fine china*
- *Welcome drink*

*The other [upgrade options](#) are to redeem miles or make an offer after ticketing.*

### Points:

- If you decide to upgrade to Premium Economy, you'll need to give Crystal your credit card so she can charge your ticket, as it requires immediate purchase (well, within a week or so, anyway, from when she obtains a quote).
- Your price point is the \$699 cost of the group air. If you purchase the upgrade from Crystal, I'll change you to a "ground package" and reduce your trip invoice by the \$699 (or issue a refund if you've already paid in full).
- As to the "other options" Crystal mentions above, I can't confirm how that would work. You should click on the link above and check it out. Lufthansa apparently allows you to "make an offer" for an upgrade. But you can't do that until after we've been ticketed. Ticketing for the group reservation won't happen until about 45 days prior to our departure (i.e., on or about Nov 23; a week or so before Thanksgiving).

## Additional Information on Lufthansa Baggage Rules

Lufthansa's rules on skis is different than with the major domestic carriers (such as United). In looking at [Lufthansa's free baggage rules](#), I see that, on intercontinental flights:

- Economy Class is allowed one 23kg (50lb) checked bag;
- Premium Economy Class is allowed two 23kg (50lb) checked bags; and
- Sports baggage that exceeds the free baggage allowance and the weight limit of the respective travel class, but does not exceed the maximum weight of 32 kg, will be charged in accordance with the [flat rates for sports baggage for ticket purchases on or after 18 April 2018](#).

So, you could check a suitcase and a ski bag for free in Premium Economy Class. Not so in basic Economy Class (i.e., the tickets we'll be issued, absent an upgrade).

Clicking on the [Sports Baggage](#) link, I see that for "Standard sports equipment (including ski equipment), that on "Medium intercontinental routes (would include the Eastern U.S. to Europe), the cost would be \$230 (each direction). I called Lufthansa, and was told:

- Unlike domestic air carriers (United, etc), they don't allow boots & skis to count as just a single item. If you were to check skis and boots in separate bags, even if their combined weight was within 50 lbs, it would count as two items.

With a basic Economy Class ticket, checking skis as a 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of luggage comes at an exorbitant cost: \$230 (each direction), as opposed to the \$100 cost for a 2<sup>nd</sup> bag with domestic carriers.

### Bottom Line:

- By upgrading to Premium Economy Class, it appears that you should be able to check a ski bag for free as a 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of luggage (but not a boot bag as well).
- Unless you're upgrading to Premium Economy seating, you'll probably be better off planning to rent your skis than to bring them along as a 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of checked luggage. We don't yet have details or prices for rentals and possible group discounts (I'll have that a week or two before the trip), but the cost is expected to be substantially less than the \$460 round-trip cost of checking a 2<sup>nd</sup> bag.

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*Dave*

7/3/2019