

See More With A Stopover: Airlines Offering Free Layovers As Perks



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Those who love to travel are always looking for ways to stretch their opportunities to see more destinations. Whether its applying for a travel rewards credit card with a great sign-up bonus (like [Chase Sapphire Preferred](#)), always using the same airline to max loyalty points or putting 10 percent of your salary towards a travel dream, we work hard to maximize our chances to travel.

A lesser known, but appealing way to see more destinations is by extending the length of a layover between connecting flights.

It used to be that if you wanted to include an extended stopover between connecting flights, you would have to pay more or essentially buy two separate flights. In the last couple of years however, more and more airlines are starting to offer free stopover options for passengers. Companies like [Wow](#), [AirEmirates](#), [TAP Portugal](#) and [Icelandic Air](#) are just some of the companies featuring complementary stopovers.

These stopovers may be limited to specific cities, such as TAP Portugal that allows passengers to stay up to three nights in Lisbon for no additional cost, or [Finnair](#), which offers free stopovers only in Helsinki (up to five days). Icelandic air lets guests stay up to a whopping seven nights in Iceland if your connecting flight takes you through the capital of Reykjavik.

Some airline companies, like Qatar Airways go an extra step further. The carrier recently announced that, thanks to a partnership with Qatar Tourism Authority, passengers flying through the capital of Doha will be given a free night's stay in a four or five-star hotel, as well as free transit visas good for up to 96 hours. You can add an additional night at the hotel for a mere \$50. The promotion is an attempt by the tourism bureau and the airline to encourage visitors to get out of the airport and explore the capital city. (You can read more about the offer [here](#)).

Like Qatar Airways, more and more airlines are beginning to make it easier for passengers to enjoy free stopovers as a way of increasingly their appeal in a very competitive market and building brand loyalty. Whatever the reason the airlines are making layovers more lovable, it's the perfect chance to see two cities for the price of one flight. So when you're planning your next flight and it involves a layover, be sure to contact the airline to see if they offer free stopovers.