

Family Award Travel Flexibility Matrix

Protect what matters. Test one lever at a time.



Define what the family must protect, where it can flex, and what it will not accept. Complete the matrix before opening an airline search.

How to use it

Start with the original trip. If it does not work, change only the first approved lever, record what changed, and then test the next.

Traveler essentials

Adults

Children and ages

Required adult-child pairings

Needs that affect the itinerary

Protect / Test / Reject

Protect = must remain true. Test = approved range or compromise. Reject = the family would not book it.

LEVER	PROTECT	TEST	REJECT
Dates Events, school, trip length			
Airports Home, destination, alternates			
Cabin Minimum by important segment			
Group structure Same flight, reservations, pairings			

Cost, priorities, and backup

Compare the full trip before choosing an award.



Full-party budget

Maximum points

Maximum taxes and fees

Maximum positioning /
ground cost

Maximum total travel time

Order the levers

Rank the four levers from the first one you will change to the last. Write the exact approved boundary beside each.

ORDER	LEVER TO CHANGE	APPROVED BOUNDARY
1		
2		
3		
4		

Decision and backup

Decision deadline

Current acceptable backup

What would make us stop
searching

Before acting

- ☐ Search and verify the complete party.
- ☐ Keep every child with an approved responsible adult.
- ☐ Confirm seating and linked reservations directly with the airline.
- ☐ Include positioning, hotels, bags, seats, taxes, and fees.
- ☐ Verify availability and current rules before transferring points.

Use the [full flexibility guide](#). For help comparing real trip options, explore [Family Award Travel](#).