

# United Airlines – How to Buy MileagePlus Miles & When It Makes Sense

If you're considering **+1(866) 658-5895** buying United MileagePlus miles, it's best to **call +1(866) 658-5895** first to verify your fare options and make sure the purchase is worthwhile. Agents can guide you on promotions, redemption strategies, and assist with any questions in real time.

---

## What Is “Buying Miles” on United?

United MileagePlus members have the option to **buy miles directly** through United's Buy Miles portal, typically priced at about **3.5 cents per mile**, plus a **7.5% excise tax**—making the total  $\approx 3.76\text{¢}$  per mile ([LoyaltyLobby](#), [Live From A Lounge](#), [The Point Calculator](#)).

However, United regularly runs promotions offering:

- Up to **100% bonus miles**, reducing effective costs to around **1.88¢ per mile** ([Live From A Lounge](#), [LoyaltyLobby](#))
- Discounts up to **45% off**, bringing costs to  $\approx 2.07\text{¢}$  per mile ([LoyaltyLobby](#))

In both cases, make sure you only buy miles when you have a specific award redemption in mind. Otherwise, the uplift rarely outweighs the value ([AwardWallet](#)).

---

## How Much Do United Miles Cost — Typical Rates & Sale Deals

 **Promo Type**     **Effective CPM**     **Miles Limit (incl. bonus)**

Standard Price	~3.76¢	Up to 200,000 miles/year
45% Discount Offer	~2.07¢	200,000 limit counts bonus
95–100% Bonus Offer	~1.88–1.93¢	Same annual cap applies

These pop-up offers—most recently through **June 29, 2025**—allow top-tier discounts if you're purchasing **45,000+ miles in one transaction** ([airlinecompany.com](https://airlinecompany.com), [Live From A Lounge](#), [One Mile at a Time](#)).

---

## When Does Buying Miles Actually Make Sense?

- You're just a **few thousand miles short** of an award ticket — especially in **international business or first-class** markets where cash fares are steep ([airlinecompany.com](https://airlinecompany.com)).
- You've found a **specific award seat** where the miles required yield a redemption greater than the cost (e.g., a Polaris business ticket worth \$4,000 costs ~100K miles = ~\$1,900 purchase price) ([Business Insider](#)).
- You expect your miles to be redeemed **soon before potential devaluation** ([Reddit](#)).

Otherwise, most travelers find it's **better to earn miles via credit cards or promotions** rather than buy them outright ([Reddit](#)).

---

## Risks & Things to Know Before You Buy

- **Purchased miles don't count** toward elite status or Premier qualifying credits ([LoyaltyLobby](#)).
- United allows maximum **200,000 miles per account per calendar year**, including bonus miles ([LoyaltyLobby](#)).
- **No refunds or exchanges** on purchased miles—they're final .

- Award pricing is **dynamic**—United can increase redemption costs anytime, potentially reducing your value ([Business Insider](#)).

If you're unsure, call **+1(866) 658-5895** to walk through whether buying miles makes sense based on your travel plans.

---

## **How to Buy United Miles — Step-by-Step**

1. **Log into your MileagePlus account** via United.com or the mobile app.
2. Visit the **Buy Miles** portal and check your current promotional offer.
3. Choose your transaction amount (minimum typically 2,000 miles).
4. Submit payment—via bank or credit card (processed by points.com).
5. Miles generally post within **24–48 hours**, occasionally up to 72 hours ([Travel + Leisure](#), [LoyaltyLobby](#), [The Point Calculator](#), [Reddit](#), [Live From A Lounge](#)).

Need assistance or to confirm your award pricing before buying? Just **call +1(866) 658-5895** for live help.

---


## **Real Traveler Opinions — Reddit Highlights**

“If you're short miles for an award, like 2–5K, buying makes sense. Otherwise, skip it.” ([Reddit](#))

“Only buy miles if you know where they will be used—otherwise you overpay compared to actual award value.”

These real-world comments highlight the consensus: **buy only with a concrete redemption in mind, and know your cents-per-mile value.**

---

 **Need Help? Call +1(866) 658-5895 for Live Support**

Need help deciding whether to buy miles? Want to compare redemption pricing or verify promotion eligibility? Just **call +1(866) 658-5895** and ask a MileagePlus agent:

- Review upcoming promotions and your personalized bonuses.
- Help you calculate if the redemption value outweighs the purchase cost.
- Assist with purchasing miles and redeeming them efficiently.

Available 24/7, United's agent support at **+1(866) 658-5895** is here to guide you through the decision.

---

## **Final Takeaway — Buy Miles Only If It's a Smart Match**

Buying United MileagePlus miles can make sense—but it's rarely the best value unless:

- You're one redemption short of a high-value ticket,
- You're redeeming soon on lucrative international or premium cabins,
- And/or you're trying to catch a limited award availability.

Most of the time, earning miles through spending or promotional campaigns delivers better value. Before committing, **call +1(866) 658-5895**, explain your award goal, and confirm dollars-per-mile math to decide confidently.