



Travel Comfort: Score a Hotel Upgrade

1 / Travel Comfort

In this economy, you don't have to pay full price for a suite in order to enjoy extra amenities such as multiple rooms, fancy tubs or even just a robe and slippers. With high vacancy rates hitting the priciest rooms, it's often possible to upgrade for free. The most important part is simply to ask. Most people don't know or remember to request for an upgrade.

Here are additional tips on how to score a better hotel room while still booking at the standard rate.

2 / How to score a hotel upgrade?

Contact the management before you arrive.

If you are celebrating a special occasion, feel free to mention this in an email. A personable and enthusiastic call to confirm your reservation also helps.

Book a mid-range room

You are more likely to be upgraded from a mid-range room than the cheapest room in the hotel.

Check-ins

If your dates are flexible and not on busy holiday times, check-in later between 3pm and 5pm as the front desk will have a better sense of the day's bookings, cancellations and no-shows.

Be nice. It's that simple!

Front desk staffs and hotel managers deal with a lot of people and handle a lot of problems and stress during the day. Sometimes, just being personable and friendly can go a long way.

Mention relationships

If your company does a lot of business with the hotel, feel free to mention. If you use a travel service or a credit card that has a "special relationship" with the hotel, do not miss this important information out!

Title drop

You may find that title dropping can increase your chances of special treatments and upgrades. Hotels may want to impress you more because they know you are an important business person, someone who can refer new business or have blogging and press power.

Take advantage of minor misfortunes

Your room was not ready upon check-in? Laundry gone missing? Noisy neighbours? Construction causing loss of sleep? Kindly let the management know. Sometimes a hotel's mistake can work to your advantage.

Leave on a happy note!

A nice tip for the doorman, smiles for the concierge and a note of approval to the manager helps especially for your next visit.

Loyalty!

Hotels know that it costs a lot less to keep a repeat customer happy than it is to acquire a new one, so hotels often give special treatment to return customers.

State your requirements

With so many different travel scenarios, it's best to tell the hotels exactly what you're looking for in a different room – whether it's a desk to work at, an ocean view balcony or more luxurious linens. If what you want out of your upgrade is a bigger bed, then that may be a more manageable request than an upgrade to a suite.

"The great advantage of a hotel is that it is a great refuge from home life." – George Bernard Shaw