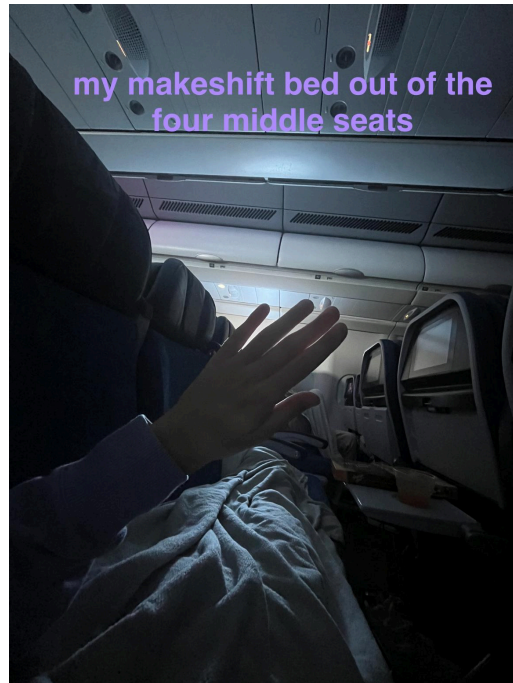


How to Secure a Row for Yourself: A Step-by-Step Guide
(Social Media Video Script, tone: straight-faced humor)
Sofiya Berman



I had a whole middle row of four seats all to myself on a flight from Honolulu, Hawaii to Sydney, Australia. Want to know how to also land yourself an empty row on your next international flight? Here's my step-by-step guide:

First, monitor flight deals for the best option for your budget, either in dollars or in miles/credits. Book in advance.

Arrive at the airport with plenty of time to spare. If it is an international flight, plan to arrive about three hours early to check in luggage, check necessary documents, and find your gate.

After boarding, make sure to be kind to your flight crew and remain patient while law enforcement removes those who fail at this step from your aircraft.

Watch two episodes of Survivor (optional but highly recommended), enjoy your scheduled meal, and feel free to take a nap afterwards.

Nap lightly in order to stay on top of all your pilot's announcements. Listen carefully to his or her announcement about a passenger having a medical emergency and needing to land the aircraft on the nearest landmass (bonus points for if that landmass happens to be the Hawaiian islands).

Keep your ears peeled upon landing for further crew instructions. Exit the aircraft upon notice of the flight's early termination due to air crew overtime if the flight were to continue as scheduled.

Do not get paralyzed by confusion! Calmly and efficiently make your way to the airline agent in the otherwise empty airport and explain your situation. This explanation is optional because likely your flight will be the only one at the airport at that time due to its unpredictable emergency termination.

Treat the agent with respect and do not dump your frustrations on them. Patiently wait for all of your airline's credits to arrive either in your SMS messages or mailbox. You will likely get a hotel credit, meal, vouchers, and taxi vouchers for a journey to and from the assigned hotel.

Note that a hotel room and your next flight with your same airline will not show up in your mailbox and app immediately. You will be scheduled on a flight much later in the same day with your same airline. If there is still no available hotel option after the entirety of your time at the agent's desk, do not panic! Listen to everything the agent has to offer. Should he or she offer an earlier flight with a different airline at no extra charge, jump on that offer.

With the agents help, receive your printed taxi vouchers to and from the hotel to the beach of your choice. Ask if you can leave your check-in luggage with the airline so you do not have to bring it with you on your stopover adventure.

Take advantage of the airport bathroom to change your clothes accordingly for your stopover's weather and grab a taxi, making sure prior to getting on that they accept airline vouchers.

Enjoy the beach, your stop's weather, and the local food. Once you are satisfied with your little adventure and ready to check in for your next flight, call the taxi company that your agent recommended and which takes airline vouchers.

Be sure to collect your baggage from your original airline before heading over to your new airline, checking in, and dropping your bags. Check the airport monitors to see that the replacement flight at your original airline has been pushed back six more hours, now departing the next day, and take a moment to feel a sense of accomplishment for your decision-making skills.

Board your new plane, remembering to once again be nice and courteous to your flight crew. Find your new seat, appreciate that you are sitting in an aisle seat in the middle of the aircraft and that your neighbor also has an aisle seat, just three seats down, making that two free spaces between you two.



Wait until 30 minutes before your departure time, when the boarding gates officially close for international flights, and celebrate your luck.

Get extremely lucky when your one neighbor moves to another row to sit with their significant other and feel free to now organize and utilize your four seats as you please, but make sure to do so in a timely manner should fellow passengers get any ideas to move to your row.