

Note: This article is used by permission from RUPA ([Retired United Pilots Association](#)), it appeared in their July 2018 newsletter. THANK YOU to Capt Pat Palazzolo for doing all the research on this great pass travel benefit!

Hello fellow aviators,

July 2018

The bad news: United doesn't give retirees Companion passes.
The good news: You can still take Companions to Europe and all points beyond, as well as to parts of Asia. How?

The Star Companion benefits offered by 11 Star Alliance carriers to both active and retired employees. You can take up to two companions at a time, and you have a total allotment of 8 one-way legs per year for all airlines combined offering this benefit (not for each airline).

But remember, these can go fast. For example, if you fly two friends from Chicago to Frankfurt to Rome and back again, that's 4 legs per companion and you've used up your annual allotment of 8 legs already.

There's one slick trick to this and that is that the annual allotment doesn't expire until the end of January, so you can theoretically burn two years worth (16 legs) of Star Companion tickets during the month of January.

Here are the additional restrictions:

- * The Companion must accompany the retiree or employee (no exceptions).
- * The Companion is charged the High ZED fare, which is still a good deal.
- * Tickets can be purchased on MyIDTravel Purchase website along with your own tickets. Your Companion's tickets can't be purchased separately from yours. And some airlines won't let the Companion ride in Business Class.
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As of today only 11 airlines participate in the Star Companion benefit.

Agean, Air Canada, Austrian, Avianca Brazil (Not Avianca), Eurowings, LOT Polish, Lufthansa, SAS, South African, Swiss and TAP Air Portugal.

Notice there are no Asian Star Alliance carriers offering this benefit. Don't ask me why.

And you're wondering about your Enrolled Friends? As best I could tell by culling through the 99 Airlines we have agreements with, only two airlines offer flight benefits to our Enrolled Friends, **Swiss and Hawaiian** (see the charts

below).

AGEAN

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Low	ZED Low
Parents	ZED Medium	ZED Medium
Star Alliance Companion	ZED High	N/A

AIR CANADA

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Low	ZED Low
Parents	ZED High	ZED High
Star Alliance Companion	ZED High	ZED High

AUSTRIAN

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Low	ZED Low
Parents	ZED High	ZED High
Star Alliance Companion	ZED High	N/A

AVIANCA BRAZIL

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Low	ZED Low

Parents	ZED High	ZED High
Star Alliance Companion	ZED High	ZED High

EUROWINGS

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Medium	N/A
Parents	ZED High	N/A
Star Alliance Companion	ZED High	N/A

LOT POLISH

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Low	ZED Low
Parents	ZED High	ZED High
Star Alliance Companion	ZED High	N/A

LUFTHANSA

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Low	ZED Low
Parents	ZED High	ZED High
Star Alliance Companion	ZED High	N/A

SAS

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Low	ZED Low
Parents	ZED High	ZED High
Star Alliance Companion	ZED High	ZED High

SOUTH AFRICAN

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Low	N/A
Parents	ZED High	N/A
Star Alliance Companion	ZED High	N/A

SWISS

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Low	ZED Low
Parents	ZED High	ZED High
Enrolled Friend	ZED High	ZED High
Star Alliance Companion	ZED High	ZED High

TAP AIR PORTUGAL

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Low	ZED Medium
Parents	ZED High	N/A
Star Alliance Companion	ZED High	N/A

HAWAIIAN (Not a Star Alliance member)

Traveler	Economy	Business Class
Employee-Retiree/Spouse Children	ZED Low	ZED Low
Parents	ZED Low	ZED Low
Enrolled Friend	ZED Low	ZED Low