

**Star alliance 5th anniversary offer: Fly 5 airlines and earn up to 55,555 bonus miles**

Star Alliance (tm), the airline network for Earth, will be offering its customers a fitting birthday present as the global airline grouping celebrates its fifth anniversary in May. Customers belonging to a Star Alliance airline loyalty program will earn up to 55,555 bonus miles by flying five different Star Alliance carriers over a given time period.

"We feel it is appropriate to say thank you to our loyal customers who have supported Star Alliance for the past five years, said Louise McKenven, Vice President, Marketing of the alliance.

The anniversary mileage bonus easily qualifies for an award ticket in any Star Alliance airline loyalty program.

The fifth anniversary offer is not, however, exclusive for customers who already are members of a Star Alliance carrier s frequent flyer program. Anyone wishing to participate needs only join a Star Alliance airline loyalty program of his or her choice.

The promotion period for the Star Alliance fifth anniversary offer may vary with each airline s frequent flyer program. However, several of the carriers plan to run it for 55 days from May 14 the day Star Alliance was founded five years ago – until July 7. The exact terms and conditions will be communicated by each member airline through newsletters, web sites and inflight magazines.

Star Alliance is the first truly global airline alliance, and is consistently being rated as the world s most successful undertaking of its kind. The Star Alliance route network currently serves some 730 airports in 124 countries with 11,000 daily flights. This corresponds to a Star Alliance aircraft taking off or landing somewhere in the world every four seconds.

The Star Alliance member airlines are Air Canada, Air New Zealand, All Nippon Airways ANA, Austrian Airlines, bmi british midland, Lauda Air, Lufthansa German Airlines, Mexicana Airlines, SAS Scandinavian Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways International, Tyrolean Airways, United Airlines and VARIG Brazilian Airlines.