



Travel Tips & Frequent Flier Hacks

Travel and Adventure Show
Broward County Convention Center
February 28 & March 1, 2026

Introduction

- Scott Mayerowitz, founder of [GlobeTrotScott Strategies](https://www.globetrotscott.com)
- Longtime travel journalist and points junkie. (*ABC News, AP, The Points Guy*)
- scott@globetrotscott.com
- Social media: @GlobeTrotScott

Elite status with multiple airlines, hotels, car rental companies and Amtrak.

- **Two dozen-plus credit cards.**
- **\$7,000+ in annual fees.**
- **Annually: ~\$15-20k in value.**



Booking Flights

- Cheapest isn't always the best!
 - Start at [Google Flights](#).
 - Search for one ticket at a time.
 - Keep a kid with an adult on each ticket.
- Avoid restrictive “Basic Economy.”
 - No **changes or refunds**.
 - United doesn't allow carry-on bags.
 - Board last = **no overhead bins**.
 - No advance **seat assignments**.
- Look and see if the flight is daily or not.
- Understand the cancellation policies and vouchers.
- Consider loyalty programs and any elite status.

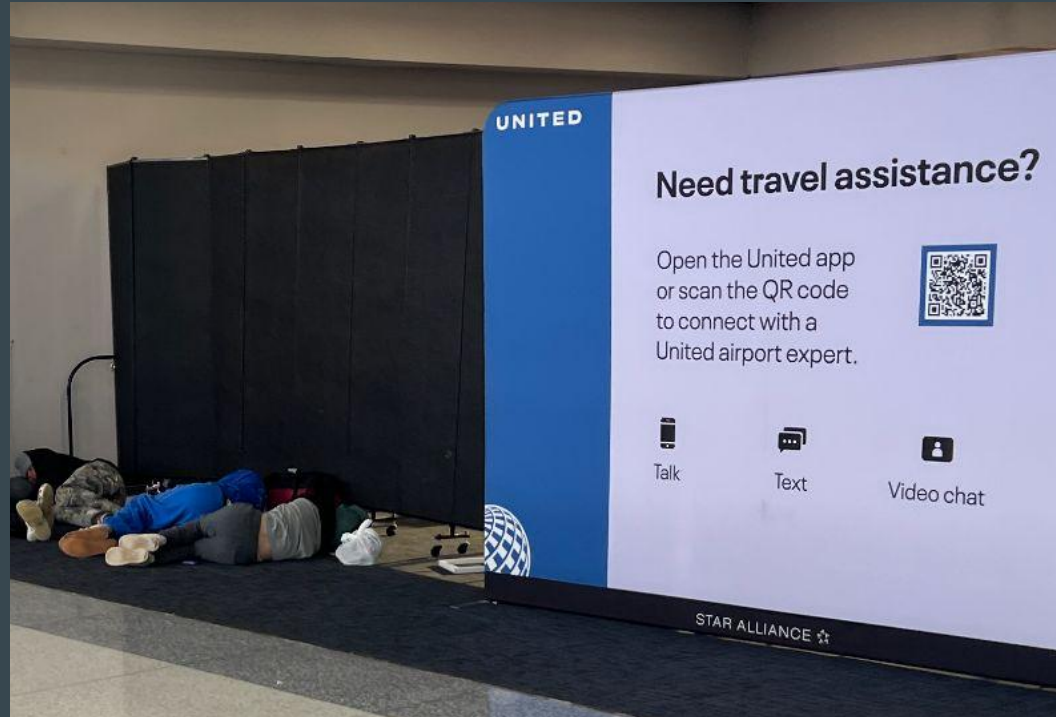


Award Flight Booking Tools

- [Points Path](#)
 - Browser extension that lets you search itineraries on Google Flights. Compares cash to mileage tickets and suggests the better value.
- [Point.me](#)
 - Real-time award-ticket inventory searches on 30+ airlines; offers suggestions on how to transfer points to those programs.
- [Expert Flyer](#)
 - For advanced users. Shows seat availability for both cash and award tickets. Doesn't support all airlines. Has "seat alerts" allowing you to get out of the dreaded middle seat.
- [Seats.aero](#)
 - More powerful subscription tool but for true expert users.

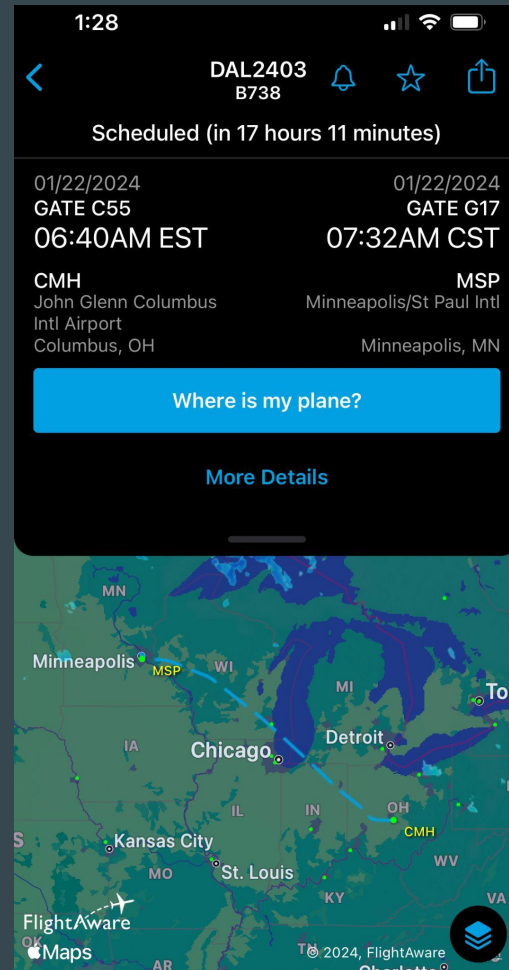
Be Proactive

- Book with the right credit card for trip delay protection.
- Register your phone and email with the airline.
- Save 1-800 numbers in your phone.
- If booking via Expedia, Orbitz etc., get your airline's confirmation number.
- Log in directly to the airline's site and confirm your contact information is entered correctly.



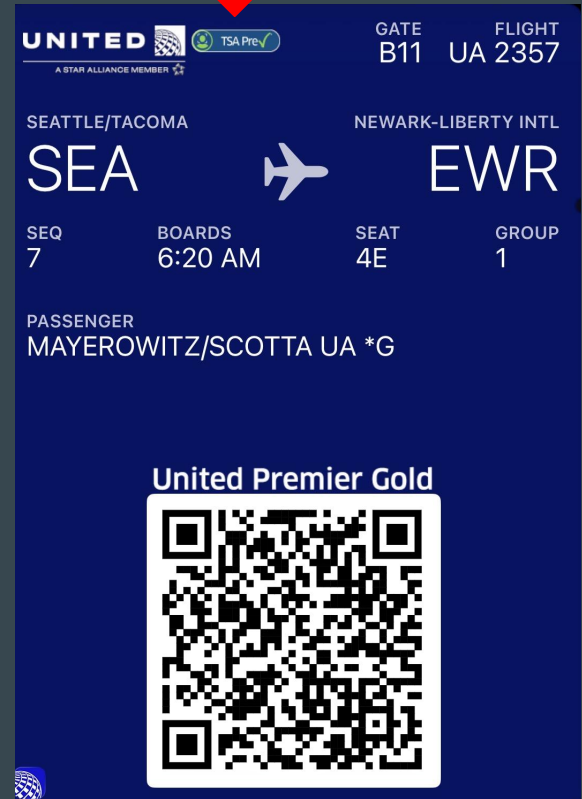
Travel Tips & Hacks

- Set **flight alerts** (FlightAware, FlightRadar24, Flighthy).
- Also track your **inbound plane**. If it is delayed, depending on the route, most likely you will be too.
- Research your own **alternatives**. Make a specific ask of the airline.
- Lounges are packed these days but have the best agents – especially during delays.
- If your flight is cancelled, you get a full **CASH refund** for the remaining parts of the trip.
- Know your EU 261 rights.



Check-in 24 hours in advance

- Ensures that your ticket is valid.
- Gives you time to fix any issues.
- Did PreCheck show up?
- Touchless ID
 - Biometric program with American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, Alaska Airlines, and Southwest Airlines.
 - Need to opt-in; faster lines.
- Airport have CLEAR?
- International
 - Passport saved?
 - Global Entry?
 - Mobile Passport?



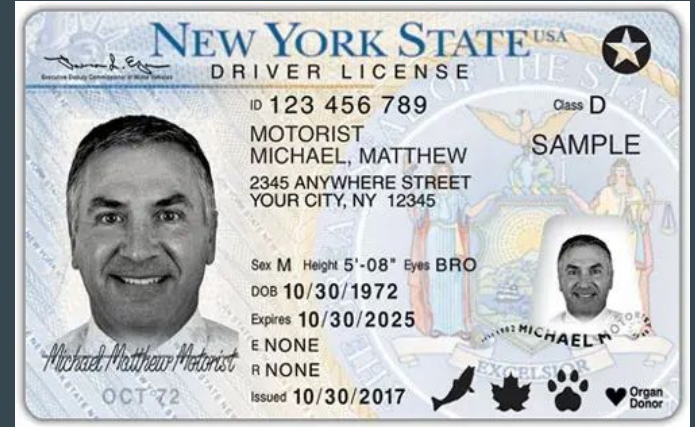
Real ID

- U.S. travelers must now have a REAL ID to board flights.

- Real ID driver licenses have one of these logos:



- Need to bring Social Security card and several other documents to DMV.
- Can also travel with your passport, military ID or some other federal government ID cards, like a Global Entry card.
- More info: <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>



Real ID

USA TODAY COUPLE TRAVEL Turbulence test PLANE CLASS Cabins explained WHY CRUISE? 7 reasons to sail

U.S. Politics Sports Entertainment Life Money [Travel] Opinion Crossword

TSA will charge you a \$45 fee if you travel without REAL ID

Zach Wichter and Eve Chen USA TODAY
Dec. 1, 2025 | Updated Dec. 3, 2025, 1:25 p.m. ET

abc NEWS Live Video Shows


TSA announces \$45 fee for travelers with no REAL ID

Traveling without a REAL ID? You'll have to pay fees starting in February.

Reuters World Business Markets Sustainability More My News

US agency will charge \$45 fee for air passengers without REAL IDs

By David Shepardson
December 1, 2025 1:09 PM EST · Updated December 1, 2025



Checking luggage

- How to protect your bag from the airlines
 - Know the minimum **cutoff times** for check-in.
 - **Avoid tight connections.**
 - Check the bag tags and the **three-letter code.**
 - Remove **prior tags.**
 - Print out a copy of your itinerary and put it inside.
 - Invest in Apple **AirTags.**



When the “Window Seat” lacks a window

- [areoLOPA](#)
- Seat alerts at [Expert Flyer](#)

DELTA COMFORT +

15	A	B	C	D	E	F
16	A	B	C	D	E	F
17	A	B	C	男女		
EXIT			18	D	E	EXIT
19	A	B	C	D	E	F
20	A	B	C	D	E	F
21	A	B	C	D	E	F



Booking Hotels

- Save your points for hotel bookings. You don't pay those expensive **lodging taxes**.
- With Hilton and Hyatt, you also avoid **resort fees** when using points!
- Transferable credit card points are usually a better value transferred directly to the chain vs. booked via the portal.
- Use Google Maps satellite and street views to see what's around the hotel.
- Premium credit card or a travel advisor. You get free breakfast and often a \$100+ resort credit.



Connecting rooms

- Hilton is the only major brand to guarantee connecting rooms at the time of booking.
- Other chains just lack the technology to do so.
- Why? Most hotels in a chain are actually independently owned, with their own reservation system.


Room 1 of 2

Select a Room


Room 1 Room 2 Payment


Your stay with Hilton Hotels & Resorts includes
✓ Non-smoking rooms ✓ On-site restaurant ✓ Outdoor pool ✓ Fitness center ✓ Business center

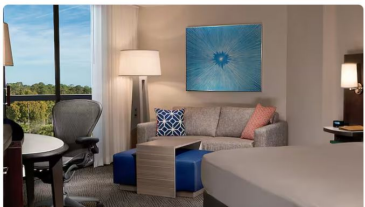
Special Rates Use Points & Money Accessible Rooms


Filter By:  Connecting Rooms 1 bed 2 beds Suite

Daily Resort Charge includes: Internet access; Disney Parks shuttle; daily sun-care product; float lagoon access including inner tubes; DVDNow rentals; notary services; 10% off food & beverage (excludes room service); 10% off cabana rentals.

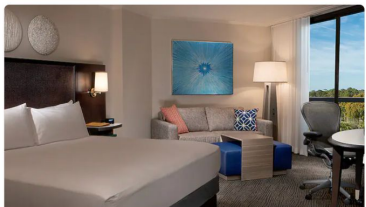
 We're showing Confirmed Connecting Rooms prices and availability.


15 rooms found. We're showing the average price per night. Prices include fees Select Currency  USD - US Dollar




1 King Mobility / Hearing Accessible W/ Tub 


[Room details >](#)





1 King Mobility/ Hearing Accessible W/ Ri Shw 

[Room details >](#)



Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace Disney Springs Area
[1900 E. Buena Vista Drive Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830 USA](#) 
[Hotel details >](#)

Reservation summary

Room 1  2 adults	\$0.00
Room 2  1 adult and 2 kids	\$0.00
Total for stay:	\$0.00

Best Use of Points:

Direct with Hotel vs. Chase, Amex or Capital One

- Example: Chase points transfer 1:1 to World of Hyatt
- When booking directly with a hotel's points, you don't pay nightly taxes!
- Hyatt and Hilton waive resort fees on award bookings.
- Hilton and Marriott give you a 5th night free when using points.
- Booking with points via Chase, Amex, Capital One etc. means paying the room rate + taxes + resort fees.

Example: Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort



Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort

1 King Bed
Mon, Apr 6, 2026 - Thu,
Apr 9, 2026
1 Room, 2 Guests

Price Summary

Total Cash **\$1,127.59**

3 Night Stay **\$852.30**

Mon, Apr 6 \$323.10

Tue, Apr 7 \$296.10

Wed, Apr 8 \$233.10

Taxes & Fees **\$275.29**

*Changes in taxes or fees will affect the total price.

State tax \$55.40

County tax \$51.14

Resort fees \$150.00

Resort fee tax \$18.75

Example: Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort

Booked with Chase Points ↓

Direct via
Hyatt ↓

Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress

3 nights, 2 guests

\$1,234.14 or ✈ 64,569 pts + \$168.75

was 106,538 pts + \$168.75

Includes taxes/fees

[Remove hotel](#)



Check-in: Mon, Apr 06, 2026, 04:00 pm

Check-out: Thu, Apr 09, 2026, 11:00 am

Room, 1 King Bed

Free cancellation until Fri, Apr 03, 2026 11:59 pm (property local time)

[Rules, policies and cancellations](#)

[Hotel details](#) ▾

Fees due at check-in: \$168.75

Total price includes fees for hotel-specific services and amenities that are due when you check in. For more information on these fees, read the rules, policies and cancellations.

Price Summary

Total Points†	51,000 Points
3 Night Stay	51,000 Points
Mon, Apr 6	15,000 Points
Tue, Apr 7	18,000 Points
Wed, Apr 8	18,000 Points

Additional charges for valet parking (\$52/night plus tax) or self-parking (\$37/night) will apply.

Leverage discounts

- Anybody can join AARP.
- Check corporate discounts, AAA, packages or other promo codes.
- This is especially true with car rentals.

The screenshot shows the IHG Hotels & Resorts website search interface. The search criteria are: Destination: San Francisco, CA, United States; Check In: 07/10/2024; Check Out: 07/17/2024; Rooms & Guests: 1 room, 1 guest. A red circle highlights the 'Rate Preference' dropdown menu, which is currently set to 'Best Available **'. The dropdown menu lists the following options:

- Best Available **
- AAA/CAA Rate *
- AARP Rate *
- Government/Military Rate *
- Reward Nights *
- Senior Discount *
- Corporate Special Rate *
- Group Rate *

Footnote: * Requires affiliation in the respective organization. ** Best available rate search does not include affiliation rates.

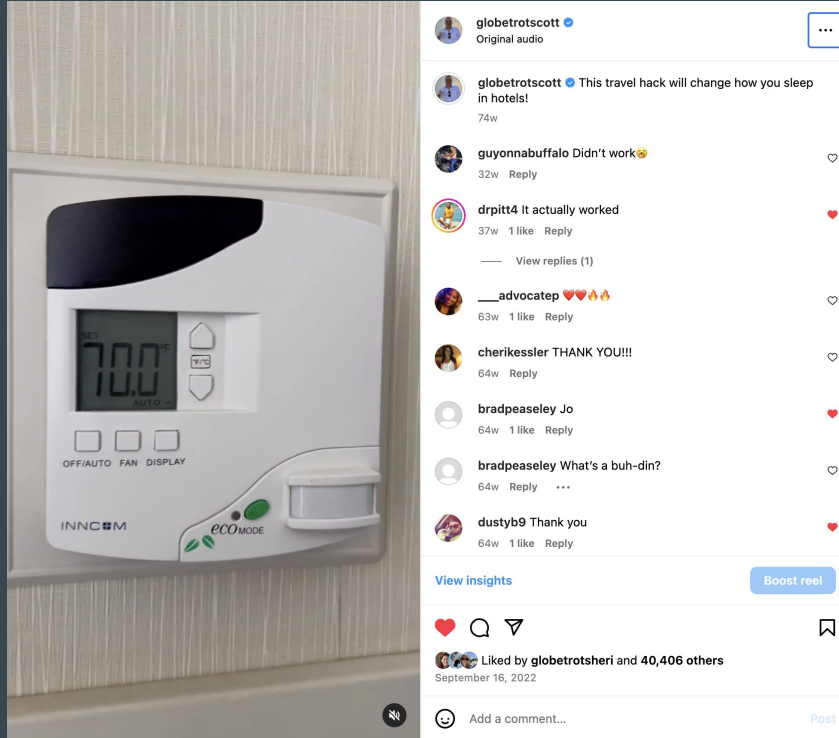
The screenshot shows the AARP website's 'Discover Benefits' section. The navigation bar includes 'Join', 'Renew', 'Membership & Benefits', 'What We Do', and 'AARP'. The main navigation menu lists: Health, Money, Work & Jobs, Social Security, Medicare, Caregiving, Games, Travel, More... The 'Discover Benefits' section includes: All Benefits By Category, My Saved Benefits, Health & Wellness (dropdown), and Travel (dropdown). The 'FLIGHTS & VACATION PACKAGES' section features two cards: 'AARP Travel Center Powered by Expedia' and 'BRITISH AIRWAYS'. Below the cards, the text reads: 'AARP Travel Center Powered by Expedia: Vacation Packages' with a '\$50 gift card of your choice when booking any flight package' offer, and 'British Airways' with a '\$65-\$200 off round-trip tickets purchased online' offer.

Sleeping Well & Blocking Light

- Clothing over alarm clocks (are they off?)
- Bathroom night light: press “test”
- Hanger blind trick



Staying Cool... or Warm



<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CikXCyNgJz5/>

Check the shower!

- Is there hot water?
- Are the shampoo, conditioner and body wash full?



Always Pack a Bathing Suit



Elite Status

- It's all about the spend!!!
 - Flight base fare, excluding taxes and fees.
 - So does most award travel.
 - Credit card spend.
 - American counts shopping partners + others.



What Does Elite Status Get Me?

- First class upgrades (much harder to get these days.)
- Free upgrades to extra legroom seats.
- Free checked bags.
- Earlier boarding = overhead bin space.
- Shorter waits for the call center, with better agents.
- Priority in being re-booked during cancellations.
- Higher tiers get choices of upgrade certificates, extra miles, lounge membership, gifting status to a friend.

Upgrade & Standby

UPGRADE LIST STANDBY LIST

Seats Remaining

First Class 1

Delta Comfort+® 3

Scottadam May...

First Class 3 of 32

First Class	
1	DRU/S
2	COO/T
3	MAYEROWITZ, SCOTTADAM
4	COH/M
5	COH/M
6	PAN/A
7	MUR/M
8	WELF

What is the best credit card?

- *Where do you live?*
- *What kind of rewards do you want?*
- *How deep do you want to go in the world of points & miles?*



Cash, check,
debit card

Simple,
fixed-value
credit cards

Travel credit
cards

Flexible,
transferable
cards

Why I still pay \$895 for this credit card

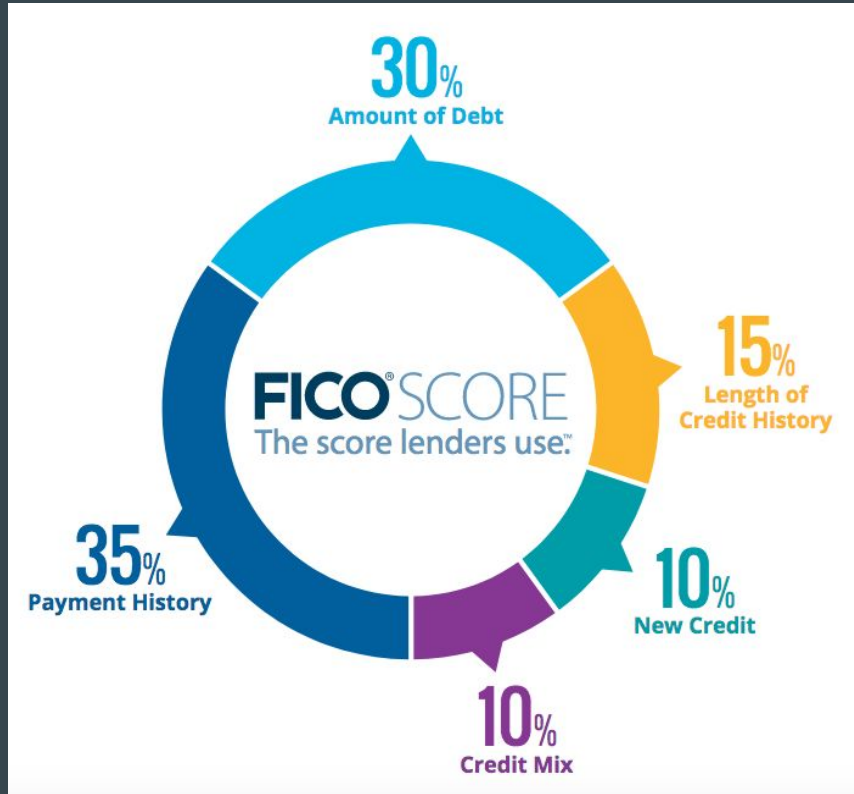
- \$200 in Uber credits.
- \$200 in airline credits.
- \$600 in credits for upscale hotels via Amex.
- \$400 in Resy credits.
- \$300 in Lululemon credits.
- \$300 digital entertainment credits (*New York Times, WSJ, Peacock, Hulu, Disney+, Paramount and YouTube.*)
- \$100 in Saks Fifth Avenue credits.
- \$300 credit for Equinox gym membership.
- Access to Centurion Lounges and Delta SkyClubs.
- Walmart+ membership.
- CLEAR membership.
- Amex Offers.
- 5X earnings on airfare.





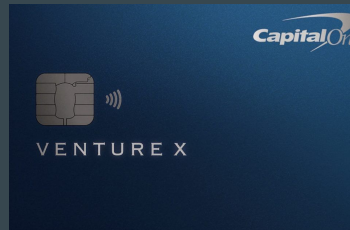
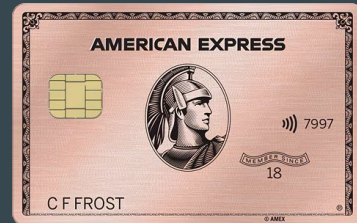
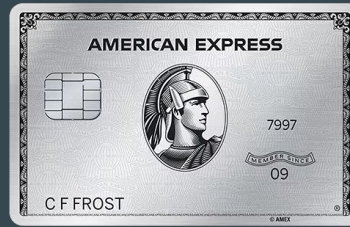
**ALWAYS PAY YOUR CREDIT
CARD BALANCE IN FULL
AND ON TIME**

CREDIT SCORE



- **Ranges from 300 to 850**
 - 740+ considered “very good” or “excellent.”
- **Applying for a new card**
 - Short-term, small drop to score.
 - Long-term, positive impact.
- **One card, \$10k limit, \$3k balance**
 - Amount of debt: 30%
- **Add a second card with a \$20k limit**
 - Amount of debt: 10%

Favorite credit cards: No fee to very high fee



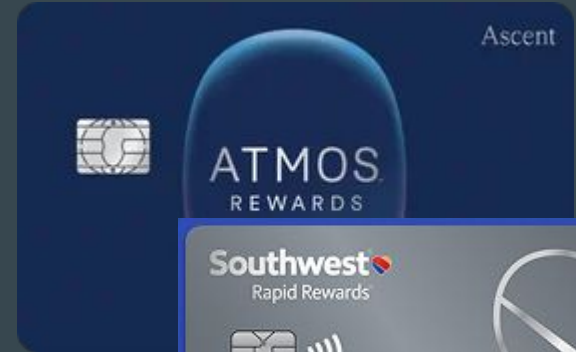
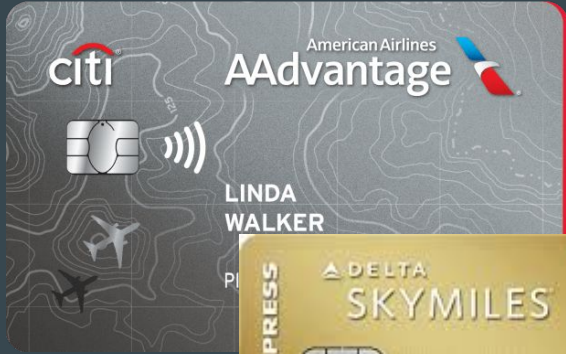
Learn more at:

globetrotscott.com/cards

or scan the QR code:



Do \$95-\$99 airline cards make sense?



- Yes, if you check a bag once a year
 - Read fine print
 - Some require you to pay with the card
 - Others are only for domestic trips

Simple steps you can take today

- **Online shopping offers**

- Amex Offers
- Chase Offers
- Citi Merchant Offers
- Capital One Shopping



Get +5 Membership Rewards® points per eligible dollar spent. Up to 1,500 points

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Get 20% back on purchases, up to a total of \$50
Marriott Bonvoy®

Uber

Uber

\$5 back

42 days left

Enrolled ✓

[Details](#)

Uber
Eats

Uber Eats

\$10 back

42 days left

Enrolled ✓

[Details](#)



PAY AT PUMP ONLY

5% back
29 days left

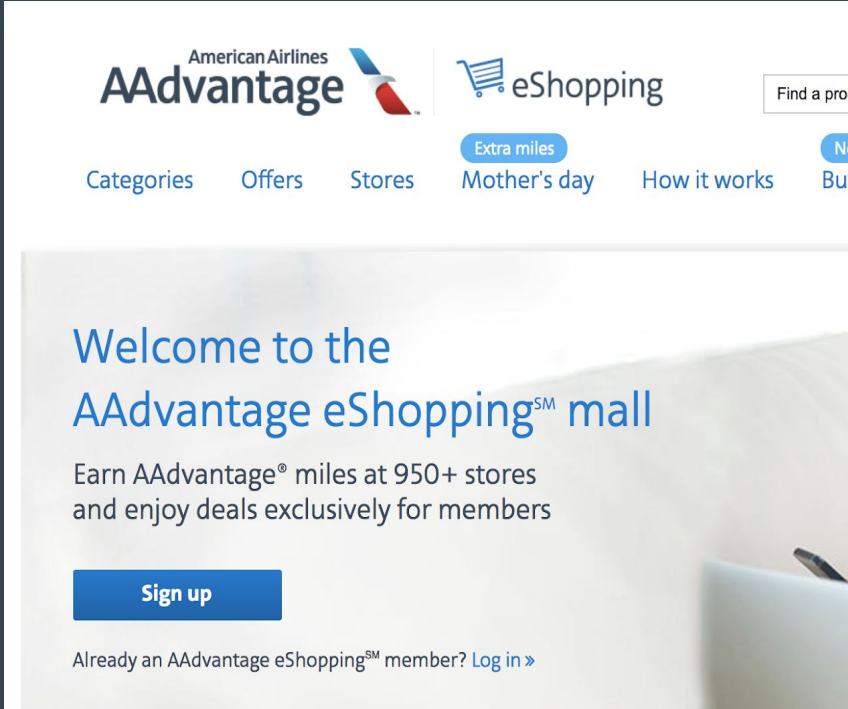


20% back
26 days left

amazon
music
UNLIMITED

\$5 back
30 days left

SHOPPING



American Airlines
AAdvantage

eShopping

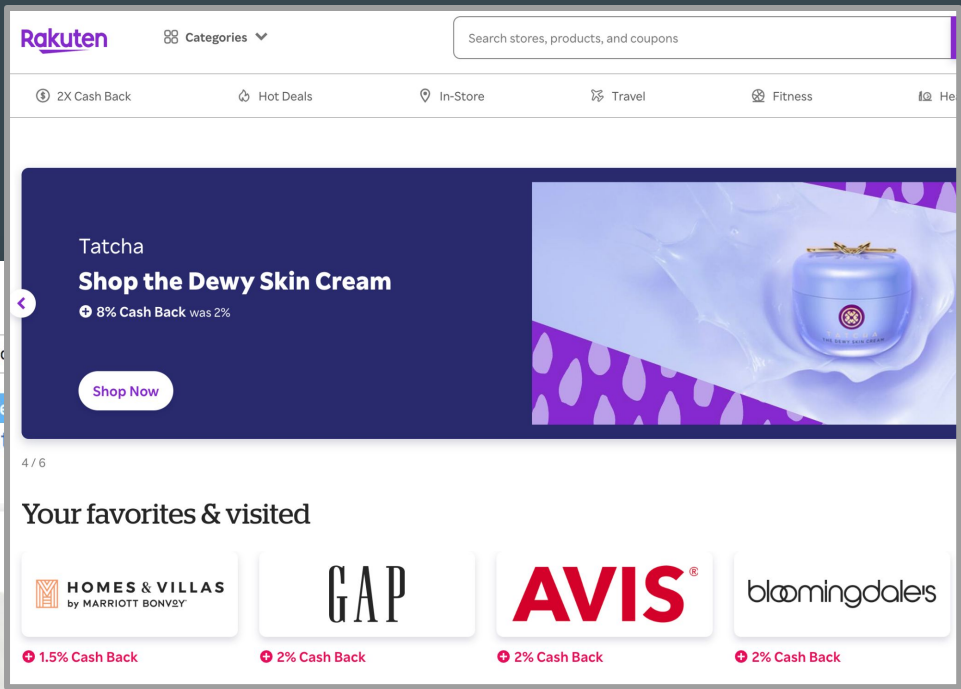
Categories Offers Stores **Extra miles** Mother's day How it works

Welcome to the AAdvantage eShoppingSM mall

Earn AAdvantage[®] miles at 950+ stores and enjoy deals exclusively for members

[Sign up](#)

Already an AAdvantage eShoppingSM member? [Log in](#) »



Rakuten Categories Search stores, products, and coupons

2X Cash Back Hot Deals In-Store Travel Fitness





Tatcha Shop the Dewy Skin Cream

8% Cash Back was 2%

[Shop Now](#)

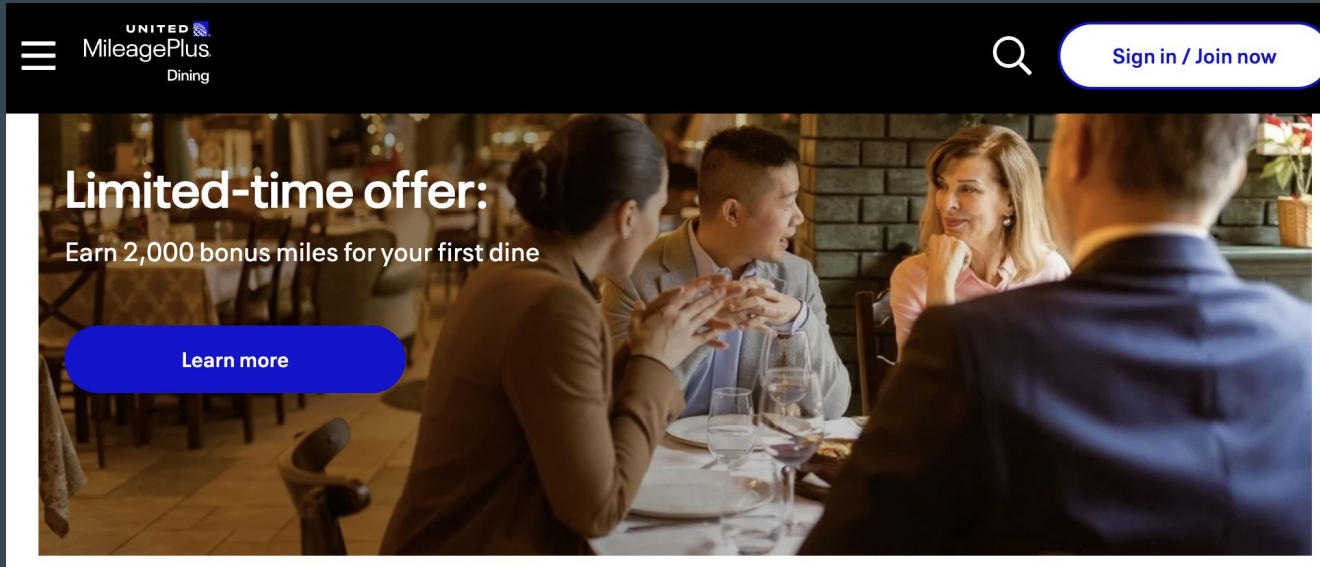
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Your favorites & visited

 HOMES & VILLAS by MARRIOTT BONVAY	 GAP	 AVIS [®]	 bloomingdale's
1.5% Cash Back	2% Cash Back	2% Cash Back	2% Cash Back

[Enroll in Rakuten here](#)

Airline or Hotel Dining Programs



The screenshot shows the United MileagePlus Dining website interface. At the top left is the United MileagePlus Dining logo. At the top right is a search icon and a "Sign in / Join now" button. The main content area features a photograph of four people dining at a restaurant. Overlaid on the left side of the photo is the text "Limited-time offer: Earn 2,000 bonus miles for your first dine" and a blue "Learn more" button.

UNITED MileagePlus Dining

Sign in / Join now

Limited-time offer:
Earn 2,000 bonus miles for your first dine

Learn more



Baires Grill Las Olas
★ 4.8 (179) \$\$\$ Argentine/Steak
Fort Lauderdale (Ft Lauderdale) 0.9 mi
3 miles/\$1 spent
+ 50 bonus miles with reservation



The Hummus House
★ 4.9 (64) \$\$\$ Israeli/Middle Eastern
Fort Lauderdale (Ft Lauderdale) 1.6 mi
3 miles/\$1 spent



Wild Thyme Oceanside Eatery
★ 4.6 (134) \$\$\$\$ American (Traditional)/Italian
Fort Lauderdale (Ft Lauderdale) 1.5 mi
3 miles/\$1 spent
+ 50 bonus miles with reservation

Gift cards

- Use bonus categories to buy gift cards, then shop online
 - Ink Cash: 5x points at office supply stores.
 - I needed to spend \$1,000 at Home Depot.
 - Could've earned 2x points per dollar on my Amex Blue Business Plus Card (2,000 points, worth \$40.)
 - Went online to Staples, bought 2 x \$500 Home Depot gift cards (5,000 points, worth \$100.)
 - Amex Gold: 4x at supermarkets.



The Pudding Guy

- Earned 1,253,000 frequent flyer miles from a Healthy Choice promotion.
 - You could earn up to 1,000 miles for every 10 product barcodes mailed to the company.
 - David Phillips found 25-cent individual cups on pudding.
 - For \$2.50, he could get 1,000 miles (worth at least \$10-\$15) plus some pudding.
- Purchased 12,150 cups of pudding — a total cost of \$3,150. He negotiated with store managers to get bulk discounts.
- But he and his wife couldn't cut out all the barcodes in time for the promotion deadline.
- Enter the Salvation Army. He got a local food bank to help cut them out in exchange for the donation of the pudding. And he got a \$815 tax deduction.



QUESTIONS?



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[@GlobeTrotScott](#) on social media

