

6 apps and websites that make award redemptions easier

(Courtesy of Tarah Chieffi, The Points Guy)

We get it — learning how to master this points and miles game is no easy feat. We have a guide to [getting started with points and miles](#), but what happens once you are ready to cash those points in for a trip?

Some experts have been doing this for years and could probably teach a college-level course on maximizing points and miles to travel more for less. That means more vacations, more comfortable seats (lie-flat business class, anyone?) and top-notch hotel stays for little to no cash out of pocket.

For the rest of us who don't care to become expert-level points users but would like a few pieces of handy technology to make the job easier, several tools can help find hotel and flight award availability. This way, you can spend those hard-earned points to travel how you want, when you want and where you want without spending your life running countless searches.

Here are six of our favorite apps and websites for maximizing your award travel redemptions.

Max My Point

What it does: Tracks hotel award availability at Hyatt, Hilton and Marriott properties.

What it costs: Basic membership is free. Monthly memberships start at \$3.99 per month.

[Max My Point](#) is a website that lets you check award availability for Hyatt, Hilton and Marriott properties worldwide, essentially taking the guesswork out of award redemption searches by showing only real-time pricing and availability. The homepage shows popular properties, but you can also sort by point value and availability or search for specific properties.

Hotel Rewards Checker

1,126,989
Alerts Sent

[New Year Membership Promotion at Pricing](#)
[Daily Change](#)

[Home](#)
[Alerts](#)
[Pricing](#)

Hyatt
Popularity

Search ALL Hyatt Hotels

Alila Ventana Big Sur

6%
4.88~8.25¢

Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort

16%
2.46~4.22¢

Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa

55%
2.66~5.16¢

MAXMYPPOINT.COM

Once you choose a property, you can view a calendar that displays standard room point pricing, standard suite points pricing and the lowest cash rate for a full year. This makes it easy to plan your trip around the dates with the best points pricing. When you click on the check-in date you want, it will automatically take you to that property's website to start the booking process.

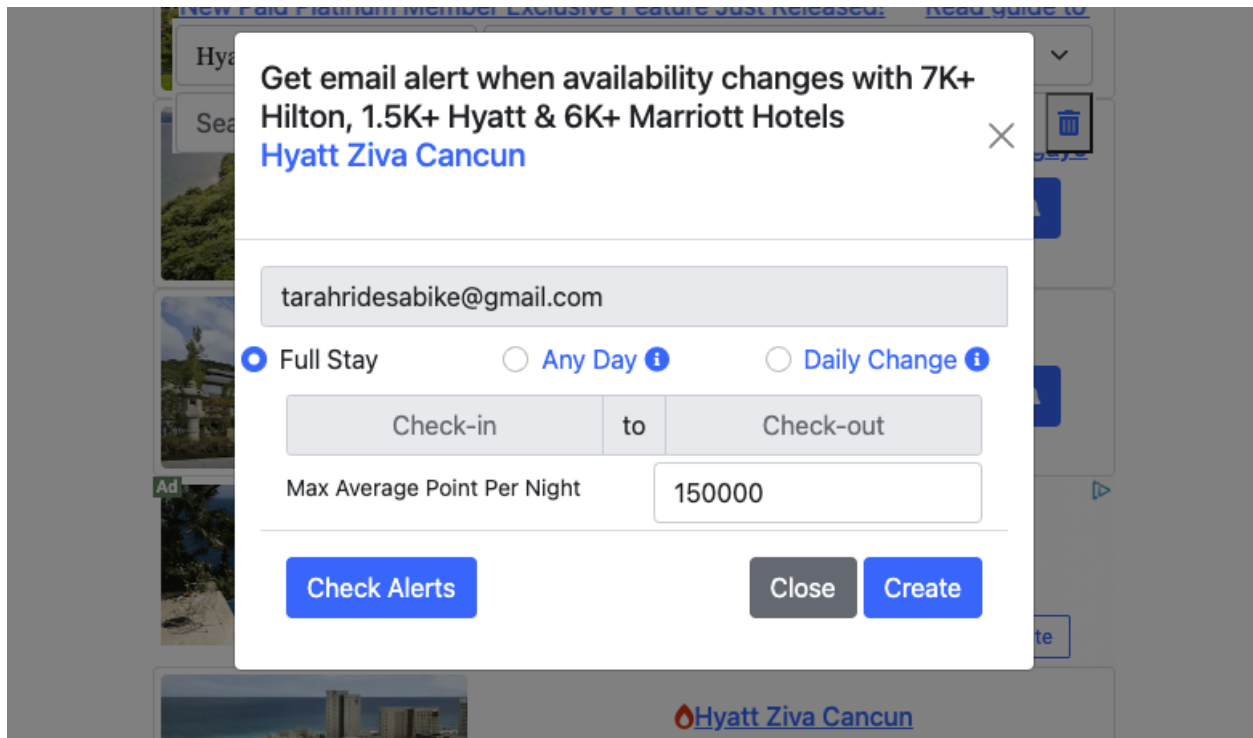
☒ Calendar View
☐ List View

<
>
today

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
25K \$600	\$624	25K \$608	\$624	\$688	\$688	25K 40K \$672
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
25K 40K \$600	25K \$600	25K \$600	25K \$600	25K \$600	25K 40K \$600	40K \$616
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25K \$584	25K \$584	25K \$584	25K 40K \$584	25K 40K \$644	25K \$644	25K \$644
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25K \$576	25K 40K \$576	25K 40K \$576	25K 40K \$576	25K 40K \$656	25K \$656	\$672

MAXMYPPOINT.COM



The screenshot shows a modal window on the Max My Point website. The modal has a title bar with a close button (X). The main text reads: "Get email alert when availability changes with 7K+ Hilton, 1.5K+ Hyatt & 6K+ Marriott Hotels" followed by "Hyatt Ziva Cancun" in blue. Below this is a text input field containing "tarahridesabike@gmail.com". There are three radio button options: "Full Stay" (selected), "Any Day" (with an info icon), and "Daily Change" (with an info icon). Below the radio buttons is a date selection interface with "Check-in" and "Check-out" labels, a "to" separator, and a "Max Average Point Per Night" label. The "Check-out" field is currently empty, and the "Max Average Point Per Night" field contains "150000". At the bottom of the modal are three buttons: "Check Alerts" (blue), "Close" (grey), and "Create" (blue). The background of the website is visible but blurred, showing a search bar and a "Hyatt Ziva Cancun" logo at the bottom.

MAXMYPPOINT.COM

If you don't see the availability you were looking for, you can register for a free account and set up an alert to receive an email if the availability changes. In the above example, we used the [Hyatt Ziva Cancun](#). Max My Point also offers two paid membership levels (\$3.99 and \$7.99 per month) that get you access to more frequent alerts.

TPG's director of content operations, Andrea Rotondo, likes using Max My Point to search for Hyatt award night availability. Although Hyatt guarantees standard room availability on points when the same room is available with cash, that isn't always the case once you start searching directly through Hyatt.


StayWithPoints

What it does: Tracks hotel award availability at Hyatt, Hilton and Marriott properties.

Download the TPG App today!

Maximize your spending, earn rewards faster, and easily track all of your points and all of your miles all in one place.


What it costs: Free.

 StayWithPoints

[Home](#)
[Hilton](#)
[Hyatt](#)
[Marriott](#)
[Search](#)
[FAQ](#)

Login


Hilton



Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam

5% available
Netherlands


Point Value: \$ 0.19~1.07



Zemi Beach House, LXR Hotels & Resorts

27% available
Anguilla

Point Value: \$ 0.16~1.01



Heliopolis Towers Hotel

0% available
Egypt

Point Value: \$ 0.00~0.00

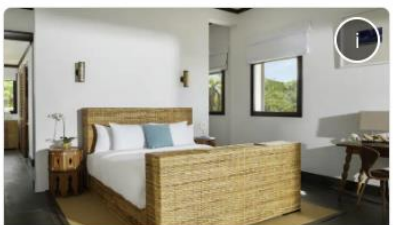


STAYWITHPOINTS.COM

On the [StayWithPoints](#) site, you can view points redemption availability from Hyatt, Hilton and Marriott properties around the globe. Or, you can let StayWithPoints make the decision for you by scrolling through their list of popular properties.

2023-03-30	—	\$1,115	—	
2023-03-31	—	\$1,115	—	
2023-04-01	1.01	\$1,115	110K	
2023-04-02	1.01	\$1,115	110K	
2023-04-03	1.01	\$1,115	110K	
2023-04-04	1.01	\$1,115	110K	
2023-04-05	1.01	\$1,115	110K	
2023-04-06	1.01	\$1,115	110K	

STAYWITHPOINTS.COM

While scrolling through the list, [Zemi Beach House](#) in Anguilla caught our eye. When you click through to a specific property, you can see a full year of award availability, points value and per-night cash and points pricing. It took some scrolling, but we eventually came across a full week of points availability at Zemi Beach House.

 <p>1 King Garden View Room-private Balcony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sleeps 2 Balcony Separate bathtub and shower Mini bar <p>Pay with Points: 110,000 per night</p> <div> <p>Quick Book Flexible Rate incl Breakfast</p> <p>\$1,199</p> <p>More Rates From \$1,115</p> </div>	 <p>1King Deluxe Garden View Room-private Balcony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sleeps 2 Balcony Separate bathtub and shower Mini bar <p>Pay with Points: 640,000 per night</p> <div> <p>Quick Book Flexible Rate incl Breakfast</p> <p>\$1,449</p> <p>More Rates From \$1,348</p> </div>	 <p>1 King Ocean View-private Balcony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sleeps 2 Ocean/water view Balcony Separate bathtub and shower <p>Pay with Points: 662,000 per night</p> <div> <p>Quick Book Flexible Rate incl Breakfast</p> <p>\$1,499</p> <p>More Rates From \$1,274</p> </div>
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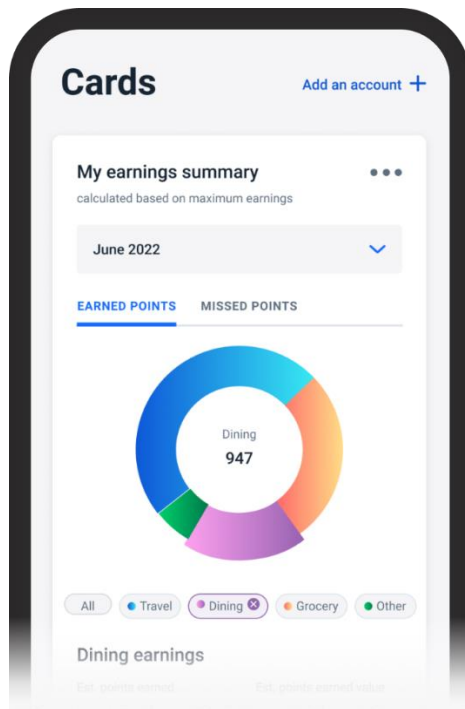
STAYWITHPOINTS.COM

When you click on your preferred check-in date, it takes you straight to the hotel's website to book directly. You can also register for a free account to receive alerts when award redemption becomes available for the property where you wish to stay.

TPG app

What it does: Syncs your credit cards and loyalty programs to help you spend smarter to earn more points and miles.

What it costs: Free.



TPG APP

We aren't above a little shameless self-promotion, and honestly, this list wouldn't be complete without a nod to our very own [TPG app](#). Within the app, you can see all of your credit cards in one place, track your hotel and airline loyalty program points and miles, get recommendations for the best card to use for different purchases, keep up with the latest TPG news and so much more.

The screenshot shows the 'Award Explorer' section of the TPG app. At the top, there's a header 'Award Explorer'. Below it is a search form with the following fields: 'Round trip' (dropdown), '1 passenger' (dropdown), 'Los Angeles (LAX)' (text input), 'Singapore (SIN)' (text input), and 'All loyalty programs' (dropdown). A blue button labeled 'Search award routes' is at the bottom. Below the button, there's a note: 'Actual prices may vary depending on availability and other data' and a link 'Estimated pricing'. At the very bottom, there's a section titled 'Popular destinations'.

TPG APP

Once you are ready to spend the points you've accumulated, you can use the TPG app's "Award Explorer" tool to find out how many points or miles you'll need to book your dream vacation.

Just input your departure airport, the destination and how many tickets you need, and the TPG app will display estimated points pricing across 21 loyalty programs (based on availability). You'll also be able to see how close you are to having enough points for that particular trip and whether you're better off paying in cash or points.

TPG's newsletter editor Becky Blaine likes using the TPG app to choose the card that will net her the most points based on where she is shopping. Earning more points more quickly helps her take those dream trips even sooner.

Point.me


What it does: Finds flight award availability based on your itinerary.

What it costs: \$5 for one-time use; premium plans start at \$129 annually.

New York → Munich



1 Review your flight details

**November 3rd, 2022**
Lufthansa – 1 stop

7:20 PM

–

New York (EWR) - Thu Nov 3rd

7h 35m


–

Lufthansa LH403
333

7:55 AM

–

Frankfurt (FRA) +1 - Fri Nov 4th



Business Class

(1h 20m layover)

9:15 AM

–

Frankfurt (FRA) +1

0h 55m


–

Lufthansa LH98
321

10:10 AM

–

Munich (MUC) +1 - Fri Nov 4th




Business Class

2 Select a way to book

We'll help you transfer your points to an airline program and then book directly with them. We'll guide you through this process step-by-step.

Total price includes taxes + fees for 1 adult. Additional bag fees and other fees may apply.

point.me pick: ⓘ

 → 

54,000 pts
+\$66.00*

Select Deal

Special offer: 30% Transfer Bonus

Transfer points from a credit card:

 → 

70,000 pts
+\$66.00*

Select Deal

 → 

70,000 pts
+\$66.00*

Select Deal

 → 

81,000 pts
+\$38.00*

Select Deal

 → 

80,000 pts
Unknown*

Select Deal

 → 

85,000 pts
+\$650.00*

Select Deal

 → 

113,400 pts
+\$650.00*

Select Deal

POINT.ME

[Point.me](#)'s robust interface checks for award flights on 33 loyalty programs across more than 100 airlines. After entering your itinerary details, Point.me shows you real-time award availability, including which transfer partner will get you the most bang for your buck.

Point.me also has a team of experts available 24/7 to help you travel more for fewer points with advice tailored specifically to your needs. How much you pay determines how tailored your experience will be.

If you try the service out for just one trip, you can pay \$5 to access Point.me for 24 hours (unless you have access to a complimentary code). Standard and premium plans are available, starting at \$129 annually. You can also opt for Point.me's concierge service to have one of their travel experts book your trip for you (\$200 per passenger). You can also schedule a one-on-one consultation to help you meet your points and miles earning (and burning) goals.

[Bilt Rewards](#) users can access a limited version of Point.me for free through the Bilt Rewards app. Similar to the full version, you can search for award flight availability, though you will only see results from programs that are Bilt transfer partners. If you have Bilt Rewards you want to transfer to an airline loyalty program to purchase tickets using points, this is a good way to try Point.me for free.

ExpertFlyer

What it does: Finds real-time seat availability and award flight availability.

What it costs: Free for free membership; memberships start at \$4.99 per month.

Economy

Aircraft: 320 (Airbus A320)

	A	B	C	D	E	F
7						
8						
10						
11						
12						
20						
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36						
37						
38						

Create Seat Alert[®]

Need Help? ?

Alert Name

SFO to AUS 10/19

Options

☒ I have preferred status with this airline
 ☐ I am willing to pay to move seats
 ☐ I can reserve blocked seats with this airline

Seats to look for

☐ Any Seat
 ☐ Any Aisle Seat
 ☐ Any Window Seat
 ☐ Any Exit Row Seat
 ☐ Any 2 Seats Together
 ☒ Select Specific Seats

7A,8A,10A,11A,12A,20A,21A,21C,20C,12C,11C,10C,8C,7C,7D,8D,10D,11D,12D,20D,21D,21F,20F,12F,11F,10F,8F,7F

☐ Have a test email of this alert sent to yourself

Create






Cancel

Sample seat availability map. EXPERTFLYER.COM






[ExpertFlyer](#) (owned by TPG parent company Red Ventures) has one free and two paid membership tiers. The free membership allows you to view real-time seat availability for your upcoming flights; you can set alerts to find out when the seat you want opens up. You can set an alert for aisle, window, exit row or two seats together (or for specific seat numbers if you have a favorite).

ExpertFlyer's basic plan (\$4.99 per month) offers more functionality to search for flight availability, including award and upgrade availability for various routes. You can also set up to four simultaneous seat alerts, but you are limited to 250 searches per month.






▼ Departing 10/18/22 - Tuesday

Flight	Stops	Depart	Arrive	Aircraft	Frequency Reliability 	Available Classes 			
						Description	Code	Seats	
0 Connections									
UA 923	0	LAX 10/18/22 5:15 PM	LHR 10/19/22 11:45 AM	789	Unavailable 84% / 28m	Business/Domestic First - Saver Award Economy - Saver Award	I X	No Yes	  






▼ Departing 10/19/22 - Wednesday

Flight	Stops	Depart	Arrive	Aircraft	Frequency Reliability 	Available Classes 			
						Description	Code	Seats	
0 Connections									
UA 923	0	LAX 10/19/22 5:15 PM	LHR 10/20/22 11:45 AM	789	Unavailable 84% / 28m	Business/Domestic First - Saver Award Economy - Saver Award	I X	Yes Yes	  

▼ Departing 10/20/22 - Thursday

Flight	Stops	Depart	Arrive	Aircraft	Frequency Reliability 	Available Classes 			
						Description	Code	Seats	
0 Connections									
UA 923	0	LAX 10/20/22 5:15 PM	LHR 10/21/22 11:45 AM	789	Unavailable 84% / 28m	Business/Domestic First - Saver Award Economy - Saver Award	I X	No Yes	  

▼ Departing 10/21/22 - Friday

Flight	Stops	Depart	Arrive	Aircraft	Frequency Reliability 	Available Classes 			
						Description	Code	Seats	
0 Connections									
UA 923	0	LAX 10/21/22 5:15 PM	LHR 10/22/22 11:45 AM	789	Unavailable 84% / 28m	Business/Domestic First - Saver Award Economy - Saver Award	I X	No Yes	  

▼ Departing 10/22/22 - Saturday

Flight	Stops	Depart	Arrive	Aircraft	Frequency Reliability ?	Available Classes ?			
						Description	Code	Seats	
0 Connections									
UA 923	0	LAX 10/22/22 5:15 PM	LHR 10/23/22 11:45 AM	789	Unavailable 84% / 28m	Business/Domestic First - Saver Award Economy - Saver Award	I X	No Yes	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

Sample award availability. EXPERTFLYER.COM

ExpertFlyer's premium plan (\$9.99 per month or \$99.99 per year) offers even more flexibility in terms of flight search options, unlimited searches, up to 200 simultaneous alerts and the ability to set up aircraft change alerts and seat alerts.

ExpertFlyer also has a mobile app so you can search on the go.

Read our full [ExpertFlyer guide](#) to learn how to best utilize all that ExpertFlyer offers.

Google Flights

What it does: Finds flight schedules and pricing for most major airlines with several filtering options.

What it costs: Free.

Round trip 1 Economy

Newark EWR Honolulu HNL

Tue, Jan 24 Tue, Jan 31





All filters (3) 1 stop or fewer X Exclude: Y9 +22 X Layover: Max 4 hr 30 min X Bags Price Times Emissions

Track prices Jan 24–31, 2023 Any dates Date grid Price graph

Best departing flights

Ranked based on price and convenience Prices include required taxes + fees for 1 adult. Optional charges and bag fees may apply.

Sort by: ↑

	7:00 AM – 3:45 PM Alaska	13 hr 45 min EWR–HNL	1 stop 1 hr 15 min SEA	505 kg CO₂ Avg emissions	\$522 round trip
	8:30 AM – 2:50 PM United	11 hr 20 min EWR–HNL	Nonstop	505 kg CO₂ Avg emissions	\$617 round trip
	12:00 PM – 7:48 PM United	12 hr 48 min EWR–HNL	1 stop 42 min LAX	675 kg CO₂ +26% emissions	\$626 round trip
	9:59 AM – 5:16 PM Delta	12 hr 17 min EWR–HNL	1 stop 41 min DTW	454 kg CO₂ -15% emissions	\$635 round trip

GOOGLE.COM/FLIGHTS

[Google Flights](#) is your one-stop shop for finding the best flight for your schedule and budget. You can search flight schedules and pricing across most major airlines and sort results based on price, duration, number of stops and more. You can also set flight price alerts or enter only your departure city and use the interactive map to choose your destination based on current pricing.


One way 1 Economy

Denver DEN Where to?


Trip in the next 6 months

All filters (3) Flights only X Nonstop X


About these results



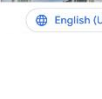
Las Vegas
Wed, Jan 18
Nonstop · 2 hr 4 min
\$87



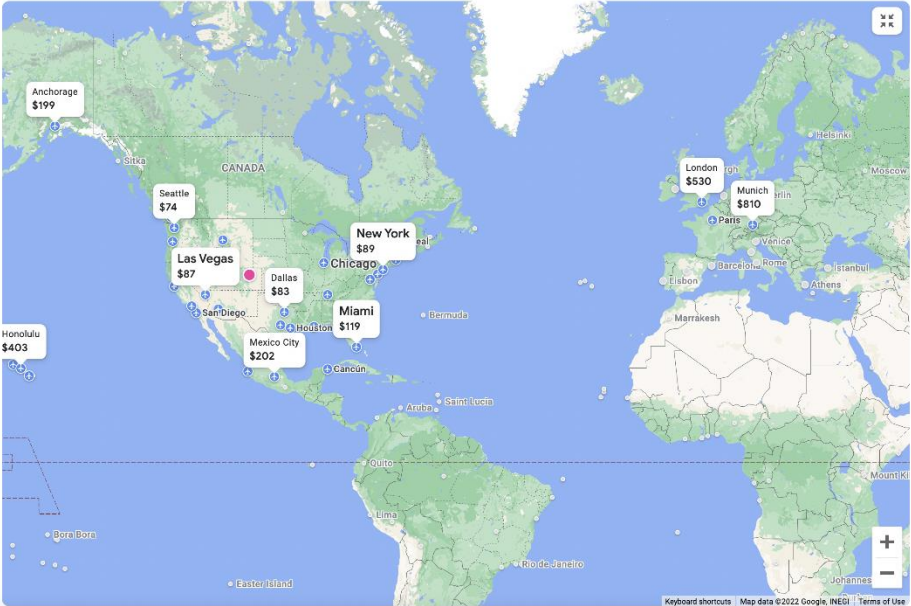
New York
Wed, Jan 25
Nonstop · 3 hr 34 min
\$89



Los Angeles
Tue, Jan 10
Nonstop · 2 hr 32 min
\$69



Miami
Wed, Jan 18
\$87



GOOGLE.COM/FLIGHTS

Google Flights does not display points pricing, but that doesn't mean it can't help you find award space. You'll still have to book directly through the airline, but you can save valuable search time by narrowing down your options through Google Flights first.

For example, if you have a bank of points and miles with a Star Alliance, OneWorld or SkyTeam partner airline, you can filter search results by alliance to see routing options. Or, you may find a nearby airport with better pricing that you wouldn't have searched for otherwise.

Bottom line

What's great about these tools is that you can use them together to find award flight and hotel availability.

For example, start with the TPG app to earn the most points for your purchases. Then, use a site like Point.me to find reward flight availability or StayWithPoints for reward hotel stay availability.

No matter which combination of sites and apps you use, they take the guesswork out of reward redemptions and put you on the fast track to becoming an expert in redeeming points and miles.