

# POINT.ME REVIEW: WHY THIS TRAVEL HACKING TOOL IS WORTH IT

(Courtesy of Nomadicmatt.com)

I've been travel hacking for over a decade and usually rack up around [one million miles per year](#). Travel hacking — the art of collecting points and miles that you can use for free travel or travel perks — is hands-down the best way to transform your everyday spending into free flights and hotel stays so that you can travel more, without spending more.

But, while maximizing earning points and miles is something I enjoy, for most travelers, it can come off as complicated and time-consuming. Managing different points and miles programs and finding the best redemptions can be overwhelming [if you're new to travel hacking](#).

Enter [point.me](#).

Point.me aims to streamline the process of finding the best redemptions so that you don't have to spend valuable time searching for them. It helps you get the most bang for your buck with the points and miles that you have.

But is it worth the price? And does it *actually* work?

What is point.me?

[point.me](#) is a search and booking engine that helps you find the best ways to use your points and miles. It searches 30+ loyalty and 100+ airline programs to find the best value possible.

Here are just some of those airlines and programs:

Airlines	Credit Card Rewards	Loyalty Programs	
Aegean	Brussels Airlines	Garuda Indonesia	Ravn Alaska
Aer Lingus	Canadian North	Gol Transportes Aéreos	Royal Air Maroc
Aeroflot	Cape Air	Gulf Air	Royal Jordanian
Aerolineas Argentinas	Cathay Pacific	Hainan Airlines	S7 Airlines
Aeroméxico	China Airlines	Hawaiian Airlines	SAS
Air Canada	China Eastern	Horizon Air	Saudia
Air China	China Southern	Iberia	Seaborne Virgin Islands
Air Dolomiti	CityJet	Icelandair	Shanghai Airlines
Air Europa	Comair (South Africa)	Japan Airlines	Shenzhen Airlines
Air France	Condor	JetBlue	Singapore Airlines
Air India	Copa Airlines	Jetstar	South African Airways
Air Mauritius	Croatia Airlines	Jetstar Asia	Southwest
Air New Zealand	Czech Airlines	Jetstar Japan	SriLankan Airlines
Air Serbia	Delta	Juneyao Airlines	Swiss
Air Tahiti Nui	Easyjet	Kenya Airways	TAP Air Portugal
Air Vanuatu	Edelweiss Air	KLM	TAROM
Aircalin	EgyptAir	Korean Air	Thai
Airnorth	El Al	LATAM	Turkish Airlines
ANA	Emirates	LOT Polish Airlines	United
Alaska Airlines	Ethiopian	Lufthansa	Vietnam Airlines

Point.me works like airline booking tools like [Skyscanner](#): you put in your desired flight details (location, dates, etc.) and it brings up all the available award flights that you could book for that journey.

The interface is sleek and easy to use, and it walks you through every step of the booking process, making it great for [new travel hackers](#).

## How Does point.me Work?

Say you want to book a flight from [New York](#) to [Paris](#).


An optional first step is syncing your awards programs with point.me. You do this by connecting point.me with [AwardWallet](#), a free points and miles tracking tool that syncs with almost 700 rewards programs, from airline to hotel to car rental programs.


If you already use AwardWallet, all you do is hit a button and you're all set.


If you don't already use AwardWallet, you'll have to sign up (it's free) and connect all your award programs there first. To do this, you'll have to allow AwardWallet access to your accounts.


Note: If you don't feel comfortable doing that, you can always manually filter by your awards programs or preferred airlines. You can choose to manually filter by a few programs or only a specific program:

One Way ▾ 1 passenger ▾ Economy & Premium Economy ▾

 From  
New York (JFK)

 To  
Paris (CDG)

 Depart  
9/22/2022

Search 

Airlines

Stops


Times

Programs

point.me picks: 1

Total price includes taxes and fees. We show real-time availability and pricing are not guaranteed.

265 flights

Select all programs 

☒ Aegean Miles+Bonus

Only

☒ Aer Lingus AerClub


Only

☒ Aeromexico Club Premier


Only

☒ Air Canada Aeroplan

Only

Filter results to match my card & airline loyalty programs 

Sort  
point.me picks ▾

thankyou  14,000 pts

If you do choose to connect your award accounts to AwardWallet, you'll see them listed in the drop-down menu like this:

Your Rewards

**3 programs**



Active Plan



## My Card Programs

American Express  
Membership Rewards

**147,218 pts**

 Synced 5/16

Chase Ultimate Rewards

**98,007 pts**

 Synced 5/16

[Add another](#)

## My Loyalty Programs

Delta SkyMiles

**2,727 pts**

 Synced 5/16

[Add another](#)

Manage synced accounts 

**Next, it's time to search for flights.**

Once your results are up, you might want to play around with filters and sorting, to get a good look at your options. Here is the finished search from above, sorted by “point.me picks” (again, which uses an algorithm to deliver the best overall flight):

From

New York (JFK)

To

Paris (CDG)

Depart

9/21/2022

Search

Airlines

Stops

Times

Programs

point.me picks: New York (JFK) → Paris (CDG)

Total price includes taxes + fees for 1 adult. Additional bag fees and other fees may apply. We show real-time results and airline inventory can change quickly. Availability and pricing are not guaranteed.

Filter results to match my card & airline loyalty programs

Sort

point.me picks

278 flights

9:00 PM – 10:20 AM

7h 20m – Nonstop

\$480

AF

Air France

Economy

JFK → CDG

Retail Price

CHASE

ultimate rewards

10,000 pts

+\$147.00\*

12,000 pts

Special offer: 30% Transfer Bonus

+ 20 add'l options

However, you'll notice that while the number of points required is quite low (just 10,000 points), the fees are quite high (\$147 USD). This is where you probably will want to start playing around with dates. There might be better options on other days, as reward flights can vary drastically by day.

In this case, this was the next day's result:

From

New York (JFK)

To

Paris (CDG)

Depart

9/22/2022

Search

Airlines

Stops

Times

Programs

point.me picks: New York (JFK) → Paris (CDG)

Total price includes taxes + fees for 1 adult. Additional bag fees and other fees may apply. We show real-time results and airline inventory can change quickly. Availability and pricing are not guaranteed.

Filter results to match my card & airline loyalty programs

Sort

point.me picks

265 flights

11:50 PM – 1:15 PM

7h 25m – Nonstop

\$530

AF

Air France

Economy

JFK → CDG

Retail Price

thankyou from citi

14,000 pts

+\$62.00\*

16,500 pts

Special offer: 25% Transfer Bonus


+ 10 add'l options

You'll notice that while the points required are higher, the fee is lower. To see which is a better deal, you might want to use a points calculator such as [the one offered by The Points Guy](#), which is constantly updated with current point valuations.

The right choice also depends on your personal situation. For example, you might have tons of Chase points but not many Citi points (or vice versa). For this example, let's assume you have a ton of miles and prefer to use less cash. That means the second option is clearly the better one for you.

Once you've picked your redemption option, hit "view booking options" and you'll see this:

### 1 Review your flight details

 **September 22nd, 2022**  
Air France – Nonstop

11:50 PM


– New York (JFK) - Thu Sep 22nd

7h 25m

– Air France AF9  
772

1:15 PM

– Paris (CDG) +1 - Fri Sep 23rd





 Economy 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: ⓘ

	→		<b>14,000 pts</b> +\$62.00*	Select Deal
Special offer: 25% Transfer Bonus				
	→		<b>14,000 pts</b> +\$62.00*	Select Deal
Special offer: 25% Transfer Bonus				

#### Transfer points from a credit card:

	→		<b>17,000 pts</b> +\$62.00*	Select Deal
	→		<b>17,000 pts</b> +\$62.00*	Select Deal
	→		<b>16,500 pts</b> +\$62.00*	Select Deal

[Load 8 more options](#)

Choose your preferred option, and it'll bring you to a page that gives you an overview of the three main steps in the booking process and what you need to do:

**New York → Paris**

[Change flight](#)

Membership Rewards

14,000 pts

+ \$62.00\*

→

16,500 pts

Special offer: 25% Transfer Bonus

**September 22nd, 2022**

Air France – Nonstop

11:50 PM – New York (JFK) - Thu Sep 22nd

7h 25m – Air France AF9 772

1:15 PM – Paris (CDG) - Fri Sep 23rd

Economy Class

BOOK IT YOURSELF

**Booking award flights can sometimes be clunky, but we're here to help! We'll walk you through the steps.**

**New York → Paris**

[Instant Transfer](#)
[Online Booking](#)
[Allows Award Hold](#)

**1. Prepare Account**

- Create account with FlyingBlue.
- Find matching flight using FlyingBlue booking search.

**2. Transfer Points**

- Confirm balance of American Express Membership Rewards\*.
- Transfer American Express Membership Rewards\* to FlyingBlue.

**3. Book Flight**

- Use award points to book FlyingBlue.
- Confirm award booking.

[Book your Flight](#)

Next, [point.me](#) walks you through each step of actually booking the flight, with screenshots and even videos on the right-hand side that show you exactly where you need to click. Here you can see the step for learning how to transfer from a credit card (American Express Membership points) to an airline rewards program (Flying Blue):

**New York → Paris**

[Change flight](#)

Membership Rewards

14,000 pts

+ \$62.00\*

→

16,500 pts

Special offer: 25% Transfer Bonus

**September 22nd, 2022**

Air France – Nonstop

11:50 PM – New York (JFK) - Thu Sep 22nd

7h 25m – Air France AF9 772

1:15 PM – Paris (CDG) - Fri Sep 23rd

Economy Class

**TRANSFER**

**Transfer points to Air France/KLM Flying Blue**

[Instant Transfer](#)

In the American Express membership portal from the previous step, enter in the point value needed to book these flights.

Point value needed: 16,500 (for all passengers)

Proceed to transfer 14,000 to Air France/KLM Flying Blue.

[Transfer points](#)

[Skip](#)

1000 Membership Rewards points = 1000 Flying Blue® Miles

Membership Rewards point transfers that result in more than 999,999 Flying Blue® Award Miles will not be accepted.

[Link an additional AIR FRANCE KLM account.](#)

Name on Account

AIR FRANCE KLM Account Number

When transferring points, check availability with the partner and points needed before completing the transfer, as all transfers are final.

**TRANSFER MEMBERSHIP REWARDS POINTS**

Type in the number of points you would like to transfer. Membership Rewards points must be transferred in increments of 1000.

MEMBERSHIP REWARDS POINTS

14,000

Please enter a value...

FLYING BLUE® MILES

16,500

Please enter a value...

\* Screenshots and animations may vary from your experience.

All you have to do is follow the steps and book your preferred flight. Experienced travel hackers that are already familiar with the process can simply click to skip through these steps.

Now that we've gone over the process, you may have already figured out some of the pros and cons of point.me. But this wouldn't be a comprehensive review without a full breakdown, so let's take a look!

## **Pros of Point.me**

### **1. The ability to search across many programs at once**

The most obvious pro of using point.me is pulling up all available award flights for your desired journey. Without this tool, you'd have to search across all the programs in which you have points and miles. That involves logging into each website, finding the award charts, factoring in any fees, and comparing across all programs. It's not that hard, but it does take time.

### **2. Enhanced search features**

point.me also includes enhanced search features that aren't available elsewhere. These show mixed-cabin flights (meaning that you'll be in different classes on different legs of the route, such as economy on one leg and business on another). These can be great options if you're taking a long journey and want to pay for the longest leg in a more comfortable (and more expensive) class but still save money by traveling in economy class on shorter legs.

There is also a "point.me picks" filter, which ostensibly uses an algorithm to find the absolute best options across the board. It shows you the most comfortable flight available (i.e., the fewest transfers and shortest layovers) for the best point redemption. Sometimes this is the same as sorting by "points low to high" (that is, from the lowest to the highest number of points required), but not always. It's nice to see at a glance what you're working with.

Finally, it highlights programs that are currently offering transfer bonuses, which is when programs offer more points if you transfer between programs before a certain date.

### **3. You can connect your awards accounts**

I love the ability to connect all your awards accounts to point.me by syncing with AwardWallet. For our purpose of tracking airline points, you only need to connect your airline and travel credit card programs, but if you want to use it to track everything, go wild!

### **4. The interface is easy to use**

The website is very straightforward and easy to use, and for newer travel hackers, it walks you through every step of the process, with screenshots and tips.

## **Cons of Point.me**

### **1. The subscription fee**

[point.me](#) has a monthly fee: \$12 per month, or \$129 a year (there's a 10% discount when you pay yearly). You can also pay for a one-time day-pass for just \$5, so you can check it out and even book a flight.

However, if you're new to travel hacking and haven't quite memorized the ins and outs of each program, \$12 is a bargain when you consider the potential savings point.me offers.

And, as a Nomadic Matt reader, you can get your first month for just \$1 with the code *NOMADICMATT*.

## 2. The search options need some improvement

Another drawback is that, as of the time of writing, you can only search by specific airport, with no ability to search by city.

For cities with just one main airport, this isn't an issue, but if you're looking to fly between cities with more than one airport, like in our example search from [NYC](#) to [Paris](#), for example, there are various airport combinations that you might be open to. Right now, you must search separately for JFK to CDG and JFK to ORY, and possibly even include EWR (Newark) to cover all your bases.

You also can't use flexible dates or a date range to search, something that's key when booking award flights, as they can vary drastically depending on the day (this is even a tip that point.me highlights in the pointers offered while you wait). For now, you have to search by individual dates, which can get tedious.

### **Who is Point.me For?**

[point.me](#) is especially geared toward travelers that are newer to redeeming points for award flights. If that's you, using it is a no-brainer, as it makes the entire process straightforward, saving you time (and money) in the process.

But even experienced travel hackers can get a lot of value out of the website, as it really does speed up the process of finding award flights. If you're a pro that already has a process down pat for booking award flights, then you might not see the benefit of using a website like this.

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[point.me](#) is a powerful booking tool that streamlines the award-booking process. It helps you find the best award flights, including some that you might not have even considered. It's a great addition to any travel hacking arsenal, especially if you're a newer travel hacker looking to maximize your points and miles without spending tons of time going down the points rabbit hole.