

Have you ever found yourself in a bind because you need to go somewhere specific at a specific time and you can't find flights for less than \$500? \$800? Possibly even \$1500?

Examples:

- Weddings, Funerals (or other last-minute family emergencies)
- Family reunions, guy trips, girl trips, etc.
- Trips to exotic destinations that rarely go on sale

To make matters worse, Murphy's law usually says you're not just talking about one ticket, but four or five. *I don't care how well off you are financially -- having to buy 4 or 5 tickets at triple or quadruple what you were hoping to pay is ALWAYS frustrating.*

99% of the time, it's too late to do anything about it and

- A travel agent can't help you...
- Travelocity, Google Flights, or Kayak can't help you...
- Mistake fares can't help you...
- I can't help you...

You're pretty much screwed unless you have a backup plan. You'll either have to begrudgingly pay an arm and a leg, or not go at all.

Although it's too late to do anything for trips in the next 2 or 3 months, you CAN prepare a very simple backup plan for next time so it NEVER happens again...

What is this backup plan you speak of, Joel?

Frequent flyer points. I know what you're thinking. *"I don't want to go through the trouble of switching to a new card."* Compared to the hours you typically spend beating your head against a wall trying to find cheap trips that simply don't exist, spending 30 minutes applying the tips in this quick-start guide is a breeze.

Read the "quick start guide" in the following pages and I'll show you how to have an "emergency stash" of 50,000 to 100,000 points in the next 60 days.

Those points can be redeemed in emergencies for between \$1000 and \$4000 in travel benefits.

Happy travels!

--Joel

Joel's Quick-Start Point-Hacking Guide

A guide from a cheapskate world-traveler who hasn't paid more than a nickel-a-mile for a flight since 2015.



1. Check your credit on [CreditKarma.com](https://www.creditkarma.com) or [NerdWallet.com](https://www.nerdwallet.com). (If you're pretty sure you have good credit, I'd recommend NerdWallet. If you don't think you have good credit, I'd recommend CreditKarma.)
2. Once you verify your score is higher than 690, go to [Chase.com](https://www.chase.com) and apply for a new card offering 50,000 to 100,000 point signup bonuses & wait for it to show up in the mail. (Trust me - Just start with a card that sounds good with Chase. You'll thank me later.)
3. Put your old card in a drawer when the new one arrives
4. Spend the minimum amount required on your new card(s) within the required time period. (Usually between \$1,000 and \$4,000)
5. Pay off your balance by the statement due date. (DO NOT carry a balance. ALWAYS pay off the balance on your card.)
6. Your miles will be worth \$1000 to \$3000 in travel benefits.
7. Save your miles for an emergency when you need them in the future & book a couple flights for free.

That's it!

Not sure which card is best for you? Discover "The JGOOT Way" as a JGOOT premium subscriber and:

- You'll have access to a private member area full of hundreds of travel hackers who are using points to hedge their bets against EVER paying full price for airfare again.
- You can ask about what card is best for your needs, and get answers from people who have actually been there/done that.
- Have access to webinars, and my full report showing how to choose what card is best for your needs, when to use points, and when to pay cash for a flight, and more.
- To make sure you stretch your miles as far as possible, you'll get mistake fare alerts from your home airport that are actually *better deals* than the trips you book with points (*which means you don't have to fill your wallet with credit cards just to travel affordably.*)

[More details here.](#)

Still need convincing? Read on.

Still wondering if the savings is worth the trouble?

Here is a sample of the most recent 10 flights I've taken through a simple combination of:

1. Being flexible on when/where I vacation and booking [mistake fares](#) that are better deals than wasting thousands of dollars worth of points.
2. Using points as a backup plan when I don't like the prices I'm finding for when/where I want to go.

Destination	Normal Cost (Per Person)	Our Cost (Per Person)	Below Market
Turks & Caicos	\$550	\$96	83%
Indianapolis/Ohio	\$350	\$11	97%
Puerto Vallarta	\$475	\$86	82%
Raleigh, NC	\$300	\$84	72%
Los Angeles, CA (Last minute for a funeral)	\$390	\$11	97%
Kauai, HI	\$1,326	\$22	98%
New York, NY	\$465	\$11	98%
Detroit, MI	\$291	\$77	74%
Indianapolis, IN	\$275	\$29	89%
Las Vegas	\$220	\$84	62%
	\$4,642	\$511	89%

Don't want to manage a bunch of credit cards?

Then Don't.

Travel as often as possible on [mistake fares](#) and just use points as a backup plan when you NEED to get somewhere specific and don't like the prices you're finding.

Signing up for one card takes 10 minutes, can have a signup bonus worth \$1000 to \$4000 in travel benefits, and those benefits will go a LONG way when you least expect needing them.

Still not convinced?

- [Become a JGOOT premium subscriber](#) & get support whenever you need it via our private Facebook discussion group. Look at the post Kristin added just 8 weeks after becoming a premium subscriber:



Kristin Theard Raikes Just booked a trip for the family to [Denver](#) (5 people) using our SW points and companion passes - less than \$60 total and less than \$75,000 total points! Love it!

Worried about your credit score?

This strategy doesn't hurt your credit, it *improves* it. (I cover that in my comprehensive report and in [member-only webinars for JGOOT premium subscribers](#).)



Chris Foland I agree. Honestly if it wasn't for your advice I wouldn't of attempted this. Also the 2 new cards upped our credit scores over 40 points. That was pleasantly shocking bonus to this whole process. Nerdwallet analyser showed this might happen but I thought this was to good to be true. Can't wait to share my travels with everyone.

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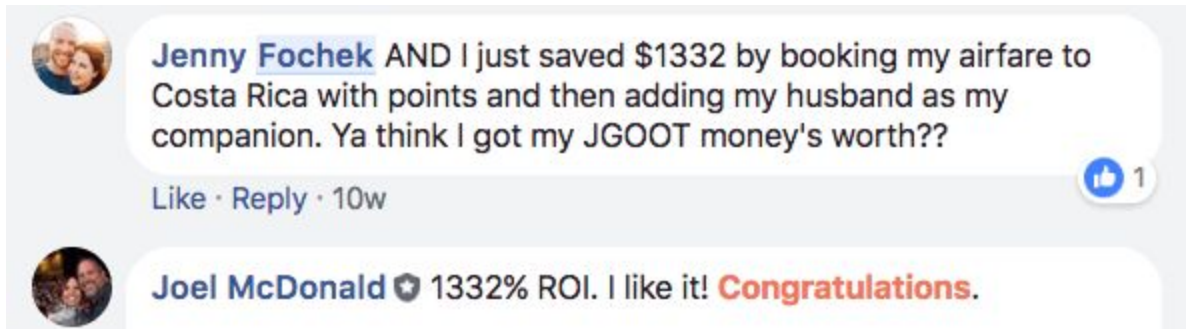


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Here is another fun one:



And check out what Jenny did 12 weeks after becoming a [JGOOT premium subscriber](#):



STILL thinking it's not worth the trouble?

That's fine. Just don't be surprised when the inevitable mandatory trip comes up that costs 3 or 4 times as much as you were hoping to pay.

I get over a dozen inquiries a week from people in that position, and points are the only answer to their problem. Unfortunately, it's too late for them to do anything about it.