

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...
- As awesome as it is for flexible trips - [my trip-alert service](#) can't help you.

Unless you have a backup plan - you're pretty much screwed. Although it's too late to do anything for trips in the next one or two months, you CAN prepare a very simple backup plan for any time after that so it NEVER happens again...

What is this backup plan you speak of, JoeR?

Frequent flyer points. I know what you're thinking. *"I don't want to go through the trouble of switching to a new card."*

But compared to the *hours* you typically spend trying to find cheap trips that simply don't exist, spending 20 minutes - applying the tips in this quick-start guide is a breeze.

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

Any time you don't like the prices you're finding for flights or hotels, those points can be redeemed for a minimum of \$750 and as much as \$12,000 in travel benefits. (Not bad for 30 minutes of work, eh?)

Happy travels!

--Joel

Joel's Quick-Start Point-Hacking Guide

A guide from a cheapskate world-traveling dad who averages about eleven cents on the dollar for his family's travels.



1. Check your credit on CreditKarma.com
2. Once you verify your score is higher than 690, go to Chase.com and [apply for the Chase Sapphire Reserve Card](#).
3. Put your old card in a drawer when the new one arrives
4. Spend (and immediately pay off) at least \$4000 on your new card within the required time period. (DO NOT carry a balance. ALWAYS pay off the balance on your card.)
5. Once you spend (and pay off) \$4000, you'll be given 50,000 frequent flyer points worth \$750 to \$10,000 in travel benefits (literally)
6. Save your valuable miles for an emergency when you can't find a trip at 50% to 90% below normal rates.

That's it! There is no reason to keep reading. In fact, the more you over-analyze this... the less likely you'll get started... the more likely you'll find yourself NEEDING to travel somewhere and HATING the prices the airlines are charging.

Still reading?

OK, fine.

Watch this video. It's about both sets of my parents - who put off point-hacking for years.



*If the the above link doesn't work, visit
JGOOT.com/pointhackingparents

Why the Chase Sapphire Reserve?

Because too many people get overwhelmed trying to find the best card for their needs. The whole point of this “quick start guide” is to get you started ASAP - so you have a backup plan in place when that unexpected expensive trip comes up and the [Sapphire Reserve](#) (CSR) is one of the best (and most flexible) travel cards in the industry.

Don't want to fork out the \$550 for the Sapphire Reserve?

[The Sapphire Preferred card](#) only costs \$95 per year, and will get you the same points that are worth \$1000 to \$5000 in travel benefits.

But here are just a few reasons the reserve is a much better deal:

1. They automatically reimburse you for the first \$300 you spend in travel every year, so it's really only \$250 per year.
2. You get 15% discounts on all Lyft rides (and 10 points per dollar spent on Lyft.)
3. You get 3 points for every dollar spent on travel and dining.
4. You get free access to hundreds of Priority Pass airport lounges and restaurants around the world - which can be worth as much as \$112 in free food and drink - *per trip through an airport!* (The free food and drink we get in lounges during layovers (not to mention much more comfortable seating, charging stations, and faster wifi) has easily justified the cost of the card two times over.

Concerned about being able to responsibly spend \$4000 in 3 months for either of the Sapphire cards?

[Try a Southwest card](#). They only require \$1000 in spend in 3 months, but it won't have *nearly* as much flexibility as a Sapphire card.

But seriously - don't get hung up on any more analysis than that. Otherwise, the next thing you know, it will be 6 months later, you'll need to go on a trip, you'll waste hours trying to find affordable flights that don't exist, and you'll be kicking yourself for not spending 10 minutes just applying for one of the cards above.

Still need convincing? Read on.

Still wondering if the savings is worth the trouble?

Here is a sample of the most recent 10 flights my family and I have taken through a simple combination of:

1. Taking advantage of affordable trips posted on [JustGetOutOfTown.com](https://www.justgetoutof-town.com) that are all 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%

Oh yeah...

Then there's THIS \$12,000 flight that we booked from the signup bonus from ONE Chase Sapphire card:



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

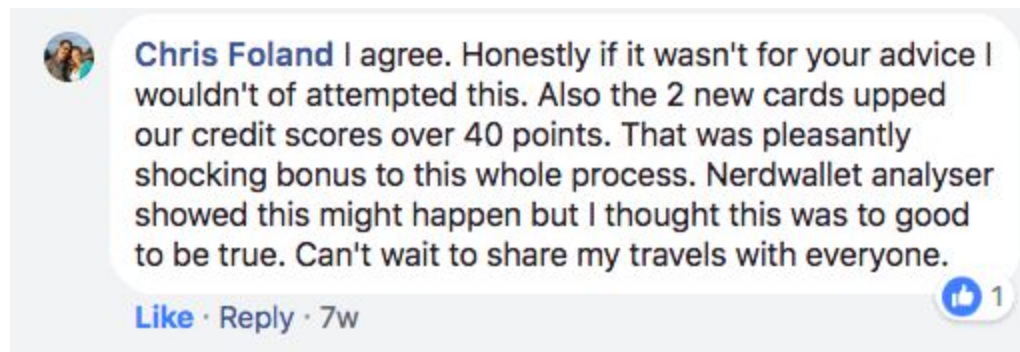
Then Don't.

Travel as often as possible on 50% to 90% off fares that you get as a JGOOT subscriber, and *only 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 \$10,000 in travel benefits (*literally*), and those benefits will go a LONG way when you least expect needing them.

Worried about your credit score?

This strategy doesn't hurt your credit, it *improves* it.



STILL thinking it's not worth the trouble?

I understand.

Just don't come crying to me when you *need* to take a trip and can't find affordable prices. Unless you have a time-machine to travel back 3 or 4 months and apply the tips in this quick-start-guide, you'll be forced to pay whatever price the airlines are charging.

Here are those 3 links again.

1. [Chase Sapphire Reserve](#)
2. [Chase Sapphire Preferred](#)
3. [Chase Southwest Card](#)

Now quit overthinking it!

Pick a card and get started (because every day you put it off is like driving your car without having insurance. It's only a matter of time before you find yourself **NEEDING** to fly somewhere and you won't be able to find affordable flights "the traditional way.")

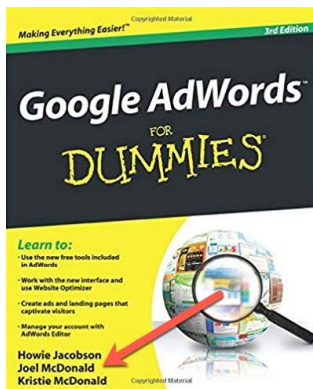
Want more support than this quick-start guide?

- If you [try our trip-alert service](#) - you'll be sent an invite to our private point-hacking group after your 30-day trial. You'll join thousands of savvy point-hackers who are experts at this kind of travel, you'll find more resources, webinars, and you can ask any question you like about the wonderful world of point-hacking.

Here is one of our members who answers a lot of questions in our point-hacking group:



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!



Joel McDonald is the author of several books for Google. He and his team use their ex-Google algorithmic super-powers to save 50% to 99% *every time they travel*.

He teaches subscribers in his [blog](#), his [Facebook Group](#), and his [Youtube channel](#) to do the same for themselves.

Joel also has a [paid trip-alert service](#) that allows you to review the best-priced flights on the internet - over your daily morning coffee.

Still reading???

Here's some inspiration from JGOOT subscriber Jenny:



And 12 weeks after [subscribing to JGOOT](#):



Know a friend who wishes they could travel more? Feel free to forward this information to them. Travel changed my life, and my mission is to help 10,000 families stop saying "I wish I traveled more" because they falsely *assume* that it's too expensive.

Disclosure:

Except for the Chase Sapphire Reserve (which is so valuable - they don't need to pay referrals) - I may receive frequent flyer points for referring you via the links in this quick-start-guide.