

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...

Unless you have a backup plan - you're pretty much screwed. 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 any time after that 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.*" But compared to the hours you typically spend beating your head against a wall 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" in the following pages 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 between \$1000 and \$5000 in travel benefits.

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 \$1000 to \$5000 in travel benefits.
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!

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](#) is one of the best travel cards in the industry.

Don't want to fork out the \$450 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 \$150 per year.
2. You get 3 points for every dollar spent on travel and dining.
3. 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!* (I've easily gotten over \$1000 in free food and drink during layovers (not to mention much more comfortable seating, charging stations, and faster wifi.)

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 mad that you didn't spend 10 minutes 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 JustGetOutOfTown.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%

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

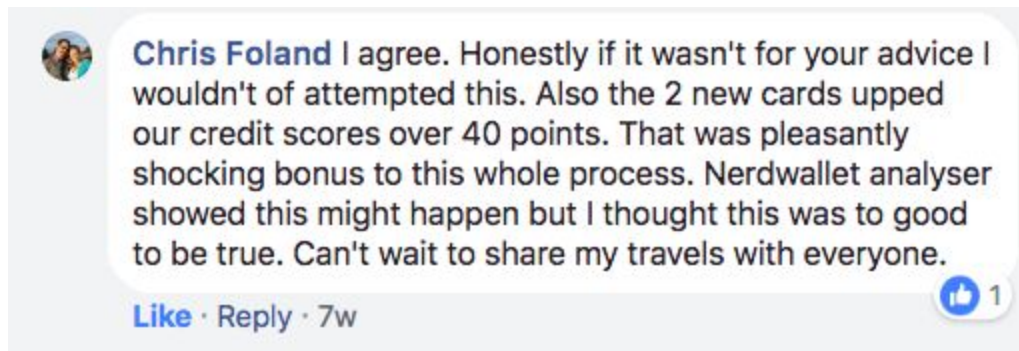
Then Don't.

Travel as often as possible on 50% to 90% off fares, 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 \$5000 in travel benefits, 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 be upset 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 they're charging.

Happy travels!

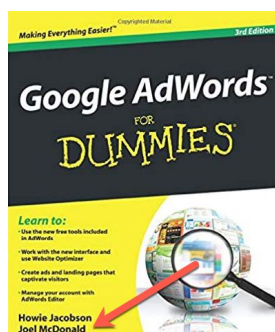
Joel McDonald

Founder: JustGetOutOfTown.com

Here are those 3 links again.

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

Now quit over-thinking it, pick one, and never worry about over-paying for travel again!



Joel McDonald is the author of several books for Google. He and his team use his algorithmic super-powers to analyze airline pricing algorithms find flights for 2¢ to 50¢ on the dollar.

He teaches subscribers of his free [blog](#) and his [Youtube channel](#) to do the same themselves, and he has an optional [paid trip-alert service](#) that does a lot of that work for them.

Want more support than this quick-start guide?

- [Become a JGOOT premium subscriber](#), get support whenever you need it, and learn to stretch your newfound miles as far as possible. 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!

Here's another fun one from premium subscriber Jenny:



Jenny Fochek Hi, all! Traveling is my absolute favorite thing. I'm the big planner and my husband is always (happily) along for the ride. Some of my favorite destinations have been Rwanda, Thailand, Peru, Japan, and Australia. We travel a lot, so learning to play the points game could help me stop busting the travel budget.



Like · Reply · 22w



Joel McDonald Welcome Jenny! I look forward to learning from your worldly travel experience. Please feel free to ask any questions you like and I, or any of the other travel experts in this group will be glad to help out.

Like · Reply · 22w



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



Jenny Fochek AND I just saved \$1332 by booking my airfare to Costa Rica with points and then adding my husband as my companion. Ya think I got my JGOOT money's worth??

Like · Reply · 10w



Joel McDonald 🌟 1332% ROI. I like it! **Congratulations.**