

# Earning Points Through Promotions Without Traveling



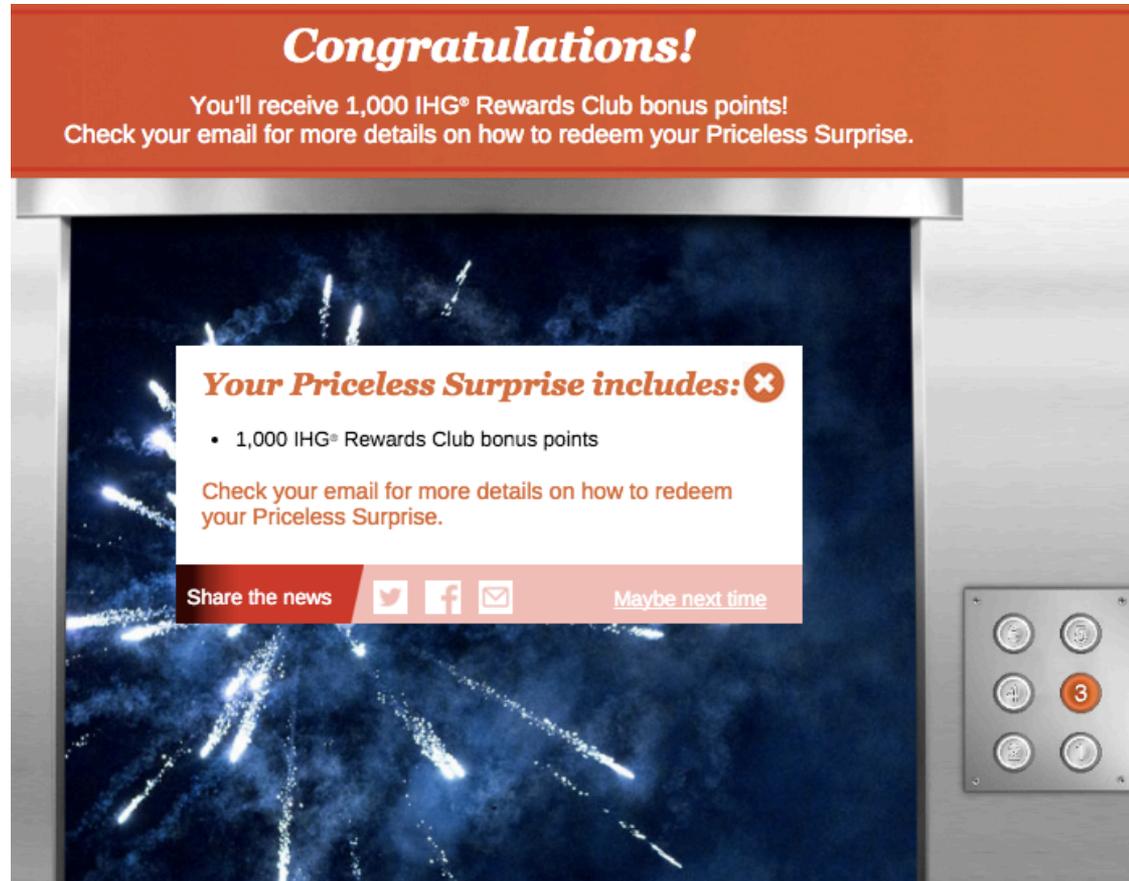
# You Do Not Have to Travel to Earn Points!

- Some people think the only way they can earn points and miles is by traveling or signing up for credit cards...  
WRONG!
- Every single person is eligible to earn some off the beaten path points and miles.

What are some non-travel ways  
you've earned points/miles?



# Example 1: Earning IHG Points



Anyone take advantage of the IHG Priceless Surprise Giveaway Promotion?



# IHG Priceless Surprises Details

- November 2015, IHG had a “Surprise” giveaway. Those that stayed at an IHG hotel during the promotion dates received a surprise bonus after their stay.
- BUT... You didn't actually have to stay. There was a mail in entry method. For every postcard entry, you would receive an instant win game.
- Everyone was eligible to enter 94 times with the minimum number of points earned being 500 points per entry. This meant you'd **earn a minimum of 47,000 points**.
- To send in 94 envelopes cost \$46.06 in postage + the cost of index cards and envelopes.



# Everyone Eligible!

There was only one requirement for taking advantage:

- You had to be an IHG member. And if you weren't, joining took just a few minutes and was free.
- You did not have to stay at an IHG hotel, you did not have to have status, you did not need to have anything! Literally, anyone who wanted to put in the time could earn a ton of IHG points!



# The Catch

- The terms stated that all entries had to be hand written on a 3" x 5" piece of paper. BUT... a month into the giveaway, reports showed that the envelopes did not need to be handwritten, only the piece of paper (i.e., the index cards).
- You had to include the first 6 digits of your MasterCard credit card. BUT... since the 6-digits of your MasterCard are not unique you could find someone who had a MasterCard and use their first 6-digits for the entry.



# Cost Per Point

- The minimum number of points you could earn was 47,000. From my personal experience and reports from others, most earned at least 50,000 points. One Deals We Like readers actually won 1 million points.
- The cost of postage was \$46.06. Cost of envelopes and index cards varied. **But I estimate most spent approximately \$50 all in.**
- Assuming you won 50,000 points and spent \$50, that means you essentially “purchased” points at 0.001 cent per point. I personally value 50,000 IHG points at approximately \$250. *Through a roundabout method you can always “purchase” points at .06-.07 cents per point*



# Things Can Go Wrong

- ❑ The terms stated that you'd receive your instant win game within 5 business days. But... it took weeks and months!
- ❑ Those that sent in their entries towards the end of the promotion timeframe never received their instant win games.
- ❑ Since this was a 3<sup>rd</sup> party running the promotion, they said the promotion was over and to contact IHG. IHG said to contact the 3<sup>rd</sup> party company, HelloWorld. No one would take responsibility.
- ❑ Points can always devalue! *This did happen soon after the promotion ended!*



# Example 2: Free Flights from RiteAid



**FABUARY**

**EARN FUN AND FABULOUS REWARDS**  
with every \$50 spent on participating products  
now through February 28th\*

[See All Rewards](#) [Shop Now](#)

The banner features the word 'FABUARY' in large, colorful, overlapping letters. Below it, the text 'EARN FUN AND FABULOUS REWARDS' is in blue, followed by 'with every \$50 spent on participating products now through February 28th\*' in black. At the bottom, there are two buttons: a dark blue one with white text 'See All Rewards' and a red one with white text 'Shop Now'. The background is light blue with a pattern of faint, overlapping circles.

Anyone take advantage of the RiteAid FABuary Promotion?



# RiteAid FABuary Promotion

- In February 2015, RiteAid ran a promotion where for every \$50 you spent on participating products you'd receive 1 reward code. You could earn up to 5 reward codes per card member.
- If you earned 5 reward codes (so \$250 spend), you could redeem for a free roundtrip domestic flight, a cruise, or a resort stay.



# Maximizing Your Free Flight

- Many restrictions – only had three months to redeem and only certain airports included
- Find the most expensive flight possible during the 3-month window. Then cancel the ticket and use the credit for a future flight.
- I personally booked the most expensive ticket I could find departing from Hawaii. After it was booked, I canceled my flight and used the credit from American Airlines at a later time.



# Cost For My American Airlines Credit

- To earn the free flight I had to **spend \$250 at RiteAid**. This was easy to do as there were over 6,000 participating products and I purchased items I use anyways. I also used coupons (which didn't go against the \$250 spend), so ended up spending about \$200 in total.
- I had to pay \$100 for the taxes/fees to book the flight.
- When I canceled the flight, I received a credit of \$750 (the flight cost \$900 and I was charged \$150 from American Airlines for canceling)
- **So I essentially paid \$300 for a \$750 American Airlines credit.** But also received a ton of drug store items I would need to purchase at some point anyways. *My husband will have razors for the rest of his life!*



# Smooth Process

- For this promotion there was no catch. Everyone was eligible. And you didn't even need to live close to a RiteAid – online purchases were eligible as well.
- There were absolutely no hiccups with this promotion.
- There was also no potential loss. RiteAid allows you to return products within 30 days, so if the promotion did not go as planned, you could return the items.



# Other Examples Over the Years

- ❑ **US Airways Grand Slam Promotion:** Earn US Airways points for completing various tasks.
- ❑ **25,000 Delta miles:** Purchase Samsung Galaxy tablets from the Delta SkyMall for \$626.38 and receive 25,000 Delta miles/purchase. I resold each tablet for \$480. Earned 100,000 Delta miles for \$585.52.
- ❑ **16,000 Wyndham points:** Stay at a 1 of 20 participating Wyndham Hotel, earn 16,000 points. With Wyndham you do not need to physically check in to receive the points. I spent approx \$60 including tax per night.
- ❑ **Club Carlson Free Points/Nights:** You physically had to check in to be eligible for this promotion, you could find a \$80ish hotel room and then use your free night/points for way more.
- ❑ **150,000 MyPoints Points:** Purchase \$500 worth of products from OpenSky and get 75,000 points (new members earned double points). Worth 35,000/70,000 United points. Re-sell products.
- ❑ **7,500 American Airline Miles:** Test drive a Cadillac and earn 7,500 miles. No purchase required. Had to register quick!



# 12,000 Flying Blue Miles for 2 Night Stay

- ▣ The hotel booking site **PointsHound** is giving out a bonus of 12,000 Flying Blue Miles with a 2+ night stay. *This is on top of the points you'd earn anyways.* **Must book by October 15 (TONIGHT!) for a future stay.**

## Earn thousands of Flying Blue Miles with hotels

**Special Offer** Corporate Flying Blue members earn **12,000 extra bonus miles** with a first booking of 2+ nights.

Give your Award miles balance a big boost today!

**Learn more:**

<https://flyingblue.pointshound.com/refer/corporatemilesoffer>



# Worth It?

- It looks like hotel prices are way more expensive than when they initially launched this promotion (cheap Las Vegas and Atlantic City hotels are not listed on the site anymore).
- IF you have a vacation where you need a hotel, worth looking into it. For example, \$204 + tax will net 13,200 Flying Blue points.

## Westgate Towers Resort

★★★★☆ | ●●●●○ 552

Disney's Maingate West

Disney's...

Room cost

**\$102** avg/night

earned

1,200

**+13,200** Miles

Book this deal

# What Will It Get You?

- One-way flights between North America and the Caribbean/Central America cost 15,000 miles + tax
- One-way flights between North America and Hawaii cost 15,000 miles + tax
- Transfer points from:
  - Citi Thank You Points (1:1)
  - American Express Membership Rewards (1:1)
  - Chase Ultimate Rewards (1:1)

Points expires 18 months after they earned! Not mattress run worthy in my opinion.



# Other Ways to Earn Points

- **Surveys** –
  - Frontier: e-Miles and e-Rewards
  - JetBlue: Points for Surveys
  - Southwest: e-Miles, e-Rewards, Valued Opinions
  - Spirit: Miles for Thoughts
  - United: Opinion Miles Club, e-Miles, e-Rewards
  - Virgin America: e-Rewards
  
- **Shopping portals** – Go to the hotel/airline shopping portal first before making your online purchase.
  
- **Dining rewards programs** – Earn points by linking your credit card and dining out at participating restaurants.
  
- **Subscribing to newsletters** – Right now you can earn 500 Virgin America points by signing up for their newsletter (*third time within a few weeks*)
  
- **Random offers** – Consultations (LASIK), trial memberships (netflix), getting a mortgage, utilities (DirectTV, Energy Plus), sending flowers (1-800 Flowers, Teleflora, FTD), donating to charity, tickets (Score Big and Audience Rewards)



# Q&A



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