

# The Best Way to Go to Hawaii

Using Frequent Flyer Miles



# Why Hawaii?

- Do we really need to explain why? ;)
- If you're like 99% of Americans, you've dreamed of taking a vacation to Hawaii!
- For Canadians, especially on the East Coast, it's often a difficult destination to reach

# Get me there... now!

- For many starting out with TTWFF, earning enough miles for an award ticket can be daunting
- But getting to Hawaii on miles and points from North America is not terribly difficult

Airline	Islands They Fly to	Cities They Fly From	Lie-Flat Seats in First? Can you buy additional legroom in coach?	Number of FF Miles Required	Other FF Programs You Can Earn on to Redeem on This Airline	Other Programs Where You Can Transfer Into the FF Program	Good Availability?
Alaska	Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Big Island	<b>Kona</b> (ANC, PDX, SJC, OAK, SEA); <b>Maui</b> (ANC, BLI, SEA, OAK, SMF, SAN, SJC); <b>Honolulu</b> (ANC, BLI, SEA, OAK, SMF, SAN, SJC); <b>Lihue</b> (OAK, PDX, SJC, SEA)	No lie flat, no extra coach legroom.	40,000. Or if you use British Airways Avios points, it's just 12,500 each way from the West Coast.	Delta, American	Starwood	Yes, in both coach and in first, but be prepared to have to connect.
American	Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Big Island	<b>Kona</b> (LAX); <b>Honolulu</b> (LAX, DFW, ORD); <b>Maui</b> (LAX, DFW); <b>Lihue</b> (LAX)	Lie-Flat only from Dallas (angled lie flat). Can't buy extra legroom in coach.	45,000 (35,000 Jan. 12 - Mar. 8; Aug. 22 - Dec. 15). Or if you use British Airways Avios points, it's just 12,500 each way from the West	Alaska	Starwood	Yes in both coach and first if you are willing to fly on Alaska or Hawaiian. Flights on AA metal are far less available.
Delta	Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Big Island	<b>Lihue</b> (LAX); <b>Honolulu</b> (ATL, SLC, LAX, MSP, SEA); <b>Maui</b> (LAX); <b>Kona</b> (LAX)	Only from Atlanta (angled lie flat), they charge 10,000 miles extra round trip. You can buy extra legroom in Economy Comfort on some aircraft.	40,000	Alaska, Hawaiian	Amex Membership Rewards; Starwood	They show no low level availability for months on end.
Hawaiian	Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Big Island	<b>Honolulu</b> (SEA, PDX, SMF, OAK, SFO, SJC, LAS, LAX, PHX, NYC); <b>Maui</b> (SAN, PDX, SEA)	No	40,000 (35,000 if you have their credit card and are flying on a Hawaiian plane)	Delta	Amex Membership Rewards; Starwood	Terrible for the JFK flight, not bad from the West Coast.
United	Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Big Island	<b>Lihue</b> (SFO, LAX, DEN), <b>Honolulu</b> (EWR, IAD, IAH, LAX, SFO); <b>Maui</b> (LAX, SFO, DEN) <b>Hilo</b> (LAX, SFO), <b>Kona</b> (LAX, SFO, DEN)	Cradled seats from Newark, Washington and Houston. You can buy up to Economy Plus for legroom.	40,000	US Airways	Chase Ultimate Rewards, Starwood (though it's a terrible transfer ratio)	Quite good in coach and first for flights from LAX and SFO. Good from east coast nonstops in coach, poor in first, unless you connect.
US Airways	Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Big Island	<b>Lihue</b> (PHX); <b>Honolulu</b> (PHX); <b>Maui</b> (PHX); <b>Kona</b> (PHX)	No	40,000 (35,000 if you have their credit card and are flying on a US Airways plane)	United	Starwood	Not great on US Airways metal, but lots of availability on United flights.

# The lowdown

- For major carriers, the price is set at 40K miles for a round trip ticket (US Air, United, Delta)
- To fly business: 70-80K
- Aeroplan, from anywhere in Canada, is 45K — one of the better values for this program
- American, United, and Aeroplan let you book one-way tickets
- With American, off-peak tickets can be had for 35K, compared to 45K during peak season

# British Airways

- Avios points are based on distance, so 25K (roundtrip) points are needed from LA to Honolulu!
- From other farther cities, you will pay up to 50K or more



# How to Calculate Needed Points (With Avios)

- Go to [www.milez.biz](http://www.milez.biz) and put in two cities
- Select BA Executive Club from dropdown menu
- Milez.biz will show you how many BA points you need, calculated via a layover in whatever city makes the most sense. You're done!

## What is Milez?

500 Bonus AIR MILES™ reward miles.  
That's enough for \$50 at Jean Coutu.

BMO 

Use milez.biz as your:

- Air Canada Aeroplan Mileage Calculator
- VIPorter Mileage Calculator

[Essayez milez.biz en français!](#)

The Milez.biz engine allows you to calculate and compare flight redemption rates of different frequent flyer programs. Have you ever wondered which frequent flyer program has the best award rates ...

## Milez Lookup

Select Programs 

No selection = All programs

[▶ GET MY MILEZ!](#)

Travel distance in miles		British Airways Avios miles required for the award			
From	To	Economy	Premium Economy	Business	First
0	649	4500	6750	9000	13500
650	1149	7500	11250	15000	22500
1150	1999	10000	15000	20000	30000
2000	2999	12500	18750	25000	37500
3000	3999	20000	30000	40000	60000
4000	5499	25000	37500	50000	75000
5500	6499	30000	45000	60000	90000
6500	6999	35000	52500	70000	105000
7000	100000	50000	75000	100000	150000

- British Airways charges for each segment you fly and lets you redeem Avios miles with partners.
- If you find an economy non-stop on AA or Alaska from LAX to any of the Hawaiian islands like Oahu, Maui or Hawaii, you will pay only 12,500 British Airways Avios each way.

# How to Get Avios

- Transfer from SPG at 1:11 or get 25K Avios for 20K SPG. You can earn those with the Starwood Amex Card
- Transfer from Amex Membership Rewards at 1:1 (including from Canada)
- Transfer from Chase Ultimate Rewards at: 1:1
- From the British Airways branded cards

- British Airways Avios can be redeemed on American Airlines and Alaska Airlines
- Don't forget, if traveling from a different city, you can still use British Airways Avios and fly to Hawaii. You'll just have to pay more miles for your flights to one of the cities on the list. Refer to the chart for pricing

	Honolulu (Oahu)	Kahului (Maui)	Kona (Big Island)	Kihei (Kauai)
Los Angeles	AA	AA	AA	AA
Oakland	AS	AS	AS	AS
Portland	AS	AS	AS	AS
San Diego	AS	AS		AS
San Jose	AS	AS	AS	AS
Seattle	AS	AS		AS
Anchorage	AS	AS	AS	
Bellingham	AS	AS		

# Searching for Award Availability

- It is best to search for availability on the American Airlines website
- Depending on whether you are flying American Airlines or Alaska Airlines, the booking process with British Airways Avios is different. With AA, you can book online on the British Airways website. However, with Alaska Airlines, you will have to call

# Alaska Airlines

- Companion tickets for \$99!
- The Alaska Airlines credit card comes with an annual companion ticket voucher valid for one year
- If you don't mind flying economy and having a stopover in Seattle when flying from the East Coast, then the companion certificate could still be a good deal
- You'll earn miles on the companion ticket, as well as the fully paid ticket



- Can be used on paid coach ticket on Alaska Airlines only
- With companion voucher, you pay for the first ticket, but the second ticket only costs \$99 + taxes.  
Both passengers earn miles on these tickets!
- You have to travel in coach and both passengers, not necessarily the cardholder though, must be booked in the same itinerary
- You can use the companion voucher on round-trip or one-way travel. You can gift the companion voucher to friends or family to use, as long as the person who holds the companion voucher arranges and purchases the tickets!

# Hawaiian Airlines

- You can fly from anywhere Hawaiian serves in the U.S. to Hawaii for 35,000 miles roundtrip if you're a Hawaiian Airlines credit card holder (regular: 40K)
- It's a better deal because Hawaiian Airlines miles are worth less than most programs' miles
- Hawaiian also has the only direct flight from Honolulu to JFK, which at 35,000 miles and \$5 is a fantastic value
- The other flights Hawaiian operates from Honolulu to the mainland go to Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Oakland, Phoenix, Portland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, and Seattle

- Hawaiian miles can be used for oneway awards at half the price of a roundtrip award
- For instance that means that if you can't get the Avios deal both ways, this can be combined with a oneway Avios deal

# Summary

- The best redemption depends entirely on who has the best flights for the least amount of points at the particular time you want to go, and to the particular island(s) you want to go to
- The award chart may say one thing, but actual availability changes all the time
- Your perspective on the best frequent flyer miles for Hawaii may depend on a few factors, such as the city you're flying from (for nonstop), your preference for domestic first/business class or coach, and of course which frequent flyer miles you've already earned
- And don't ignore cheap fare sales to Hawaii. These can often be a much better deal than using miles to get to Hawaii, especially if you live near LAX or on the West Coast, although there have even been some notable fare sales from the NYC area due to airline competition

# Demo on Using Aeroplan

End of Video