

Bonus Material for “The Best Way to Go to Hawaii Using Frequent Flyer Miles”

By Shelli Stein

****SPECIAL SECTION ON MAUI****

Maui is a favorite vacation destination. There are many different ways to get to the Island using points. Here are 7 ways to get to Maui on miles and points.

The fares listed below are roundtrip:

Alaska Airlines

Alaska Airlines offers direct flights between many west coast cities and Maui, and allows both oneway and roundtrip redemptions.

Economy

- SuperSaver: 40,000
- Choice: 55,000
- Full Flex: 75,000

First

- Supersaver: 75,000
- Full Flex: 150,000

American

While Alaska is a favorite among west coast residents, American offers (indirect) flights from many of its hubs outside the west coast. Like Alaska, American allows oneway redemptions for half the points required for a roundtrip.

MileSAAver off-peak awards are valid for travel between January 12-March 13, August 22-December 15.

Economy

- MileSAAver Off-peak: 35,000
- MileSAAver Peak: 45,000
- AAnytime: 90,000

Business/First

- MileSAAver Peak: 75,000
- AAnytime: 150,000

First

- MileSAAver Peak First: 95,000
- AAnytime First: 190,000

British Airways

British Airways allows oneway redemptions and has a distance based award chart, so the amount of miles required for travel on their partner airlines depends on where you are traveling from. Below are a few sample awards:

Economy

- Los Angeles: 25,000
- Dallas: 40,000
- New York: 50,000

Business

- Los Angeles: 50,000
- Dallas: 80,000
- New York: 100,00

British Airways Avios can be earned directly or points can be transferred from American Express Membership Rewards. The advantage to going the Amex route is that they often offer transfer bonuses upwards of 40% stretching your points even further.

Delta

Sometimes you might be short on points in one program and will want to book oneway flights from two different programs in order to make a trip work. That is not possible with Delta, which requires the same amount of points for both oneway and roundtrip flights.

Economy

- Low: 40,000
- Medium: 65,000
- High: 90,000

Business

- Low: 75,000
- Medium: 135,000
- High: 180,000

First

- Low: 85,000
- Medium: 145,000
- High: 190,000

Hawaiian

The great thing about flying on Hawaiian is that even economy passengers receive complimentary meals on board.

Economy

- SuperSaver: 40,000
- Saver: 60,000
- Flex: 80,000

First

- Saver: 80,000
- Flex: 160,000

United

United allows both oneway and roundtrip redemptions. These miles are relatively easy to get.

Economy

- Saver: 40,000
- Standard: 80,000

Business/First

- Saver: 80,000
- Standard: 160,000

US Airways

US Airways fares to Maui look great at first glance, but there are two issues: 1. Oneway and roundtrip awards are priced the same. 2. The really great low redemption levels are not always available.

Economy

- Low: 35,000
- Medium: 60,000
- High: 80,000

First

- Low: 60,000
- Medium: 100,000
- High: 140,000

There are many different ways to get to Maui, and the best one depends on your departure city and time of travel.

***** SPECIAL SECTION ON BRITISH AIRWAYS AVIOS*****

West Coast to Hawaii for 12,500 British Airways Avios Each Way!

If you're lucky enough to live on the West Coast, you can take advantage of great British Airways Avios award travel opportunities: **Flights to Hawaii on American Airlines or Alaska Airlines for just 12,500 each way!** That's 25,000 miles for a round trip ticket. Most airlines charge that for a round trip ticket in mainland US, except you'll get to use your miles for a trip to Hawaii!

Hawaii is an expensive destination for our most well-known miles programs. You'll often be paying at least 20,000 each way for an economy award:

- [American Airlines](#): 22,500 AAdvantage miles each way during high season, 17,500 miles each way during low season.
- [US Airways](#): 40,000 Dividend Miles round trip only.
- [United Airlines](#): 20,000 Mileage Plus miles each way.
- [Delta Airlines](#): 40,000 SkyMiles round trip.
- [Alaska Airlines](#): At least 20,000 miles each way depending on whether you are flying Alaska Airlines, American Airlines or Delta Airlines.

What's interesting is that, for many cities on the West Coast, Hawaii is not much further than New York. The flight from LAX to New York is 2,442 miles and the flight from LAX to Honolulu is 2,556 miles. Yet American Airlines AAdvantage will charge you 22,500 miles each way for the flight to Hawaii in high season and only 12,500 for the flight to New York. Almost twice as much!

Fortunately, the **British Airways Executive Club award chart will only charge based on the distance of the individual segments. Moreover, British Airways Avios can be redeemed on partners American Airlines and Alaska Airlines. Both have an extensive network with decent award availability between Hawaii and the West Coast.**

Booking with British Airways Avios not only lets you save miles when flying short distances, but **they do not charge a fee for award bookings less than 21 days in advance** as many other airlines do. Since partner airlines do often release award space close to departure dates in case flights have empty seats, British Airways lets you take advantage of that last minute availability.

British Airways Award Chart

British Airways charges for each segment you fly, and lets you redeem Avios miles with partners. These include Oneworld partners as well as Alaska Airlines, which happens to not be a member of Oneworld, but is a partner of British Airways. **If you find an economy non-stop on American Airlines or Alaska Airlines from Los Angeles to any of the Hawaiian islands like Oahu, Maui or Hawaii, you will pay only 12,500 British Airways Avios each way.** That's because the flight would fall into the 2000-2999 miles band.

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 Award Chart

If you have multiple segments in your itinerary, you pay for each segment. For example, if you're flying on American from Dallas to Honolulu with a stop in Los Angeles, you will pay separately 7,500 miles from Dallas to Los Angeles and 12,500 miles from Los Angeles to Honolulu. The value of British Airways Avios on longer trips with multiple stops quickly deteriorates, but for short direct flights, the British Airways Avios award chart is certainly a gem.

Earning British Airways Executive Club Avios

- **Transfer from Starwood Preferred Guest** at 1:1 or get 25,000 British Airways miles for every 20,000 Starwood Preferred Guest points transferred. These can be earned with the **Starwood American Express** card.
- **Transfer from American Express Membership** rewards at 1:1.
- **Transfer from Chase Ultimate Rewards** at 1:1.
- The **Chase British Airways Visa Signature® Card** co-branded credit card.

Redeem British Airways Executive Club Avios on American Airlines or Alaska Airlines

British Airways Avios can be redeemed on American Airlines and Alaska Airlines. **Here is a list of all direct flights between the West Coast and Hawaii costing only 12,500 British Airways Avios each way** when flying Economy (or 37,500 Avios when flying First Class)

- **Los Angeles:** Honolulu, Maui, Big Island and Kauai on American Airlines
- **Oakland:** Honolulu, Maui, Big Island and Kauai on Alaska Airlines
- **Portland:** Honolulu, Maui, Big Island and Kauai on Alaska Airlines

- **San Diego:** Honolulu, Maui and Kauai on Alaska Airlines
- **San Jose:** Honolulu, Maui, Big Island and Kauai on Alaska Airlines
- **Seattle:** Honolulu, Maui and Kauai on Alaska Airlines
- **Anchorage:** Honolulu, Maui and Big Island on Alaska Airlines
- **Bellingham:** Honolulu and Maui on Alaska Airlines

And here is a handy table:

	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		

AA = American Airlines, AS = 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 above for pricing.

Searching For Award Availability

Even though you're using British Airways Avios, **it is best to search for availability on the American Airlines website.**

While British Airways will display flights on American Airlines, their award search will only show one day at a time. **The British Airways search engine will not show Alaska Airlines award availability at all.** The American Airlines search engine will actually show a calendar view for both airlines so you can quickly see award level availability for a month at a time.

You can book Alaska Airlines award flights with British Airways Avios by calling British Airways customer service. I have had the occasion to call British Airways customer service many times, and it's always been a pleasure to work with them!

To search for award availability, visit the [American Airlines website](#) and type in your destination and dates. Make sure to check Redeem Miles.

When looking at the calendar availability, you want to specifically look for award availability that is light green. This is the SAAver level for American Airlines awards, which is what you want. Light green is the award space you want to look for.

Not dark green, not light blue, not dark blue. Dark green and dark blue are AAnytime awards and will not be available with British Airways miles. Light blue awards are available with British Airways Avios, but will cost 37,500 Avios each way for a direct flight.

Departure

From: Los Angeles International - LAX and Area
To: Honolulu International Airport - HNL
Flight Date:
Miles Used:
Taxes and Carrier Imposed Fees:

Number of Stops: No Preference ▾
 Calendar(s) displays the lowest available Award Miles for that day

Award Legend: 22.5K Economy MileSaver (Green), 45K Economy AAnytime (Dark Green), 37.5K Business/First MileSaver* (Light Blue), 75K Business/First AAnytime* (Dark Blue), 47.5K Not Available (Grey)

* Valid for Business/First on flights with two classes of service where applicable and Business class on all other flights.

June / July 2013							Requested: Thu May 16	<input type="button" value="Close Full Calendar"/>
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
				13 37.5K	14 22.5K	15 37.5K		
16 37.5K	17 45K	18 45K	19 45K	20 37.5K	21 37.5K	22 37.5K		
23 37.5K	24 37.5K	25 45K	26 37.5K	27 37.5K	28 37.5K	29 45K		
30 45K	1 37.5K	2 45K	3 37.5K	4 37.5K	5 37.5K	6 22.5K		
7 37.5K	8 45K	9 37.5K	10 37.5K	11 22.5K				

Award availability LAX-HNL

Return

From: Honolulu International Airport - HNL
To: Los Angeles International - LAX and Area
Flight Date:
Miles Used:
Taxes and Carrier Imposed Fees:

Number of Stops: No Preference ▾
 Calendar(s) displays the lowest available Award Miles for that day

Award Legend: 22.5K Economy MileSaver (Green), 45K Economy AAnytime (Dark Green), 37.5K Business/First MileSaver* (Light Blue), 75K Business/First AAnytime* (Dark Blue), 47.5K Not Available (Grey)

* Valid for Business/First on flights with two classes of service where applicable and Business class on all other flights.

June / July 2013							Requested: Mon May 20	<input type="button" value="Close Full Calendar"/>
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
	3 37.5K	4 37.5K	5 37.5K	6 22.5K	7 37.5K	8 37.5K		
9 37.5K	10 22.5K	11 37.5K	12 22.5K	13 37.5K	14 37.5K	15 22.5K		
16 37.5K	17 37.5K	18 22.5K	19 22.5K	20 37.5K	21 37.5K	22 37.5K		
23 45K	24 45K	25 37.5K	26 37.5K	27 37.5K	28 37.5K	29 22.5K		
30 45K	1 37.5K							

Award Availability HNL-LAX

For my dates, I will select June 14 and June 19 and I'll see which flights are available. For the flight to Honolulu, there is a direct flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu leaving in the morning. Perfect! I'll write down the flight number. I'm going to need it in the next step.

The screenshot shows a flight search interface with date selection buttons at the top: Thu Jun 13, Fri Jun 14 (highlighted in blue), and Sat Jun 15. Below the dates is a green information box containing the text: "Additional eligible airports for award travel may be included." A flight result is displayed in a yellow box: "22.5K" (miles), "283" (flight number), "Flight Details" (link), "10:30 AM LAX", and "1:15 PM HNL".

On the return, two flights are available. While I can book either with British Airways Avios as they are on partners American Airlines and Alaska Airlines, I want the direct flight. It's more convenient and will cost fewer miles, as I will have to pay for each segment. So that's Flight 283 on the way back.

The screenshot shows a flight search interface with date selection buttons: Tue Jun 18, Wed Jun 19 (highlighted in blue), and Thu Jun 20. Below the dates is a green information box containing the text: "Additional eligible airports for award travel may be included." Two flight results are listed in yellow boxes. The first flight is "22.5K" (miles), "284" (flight number), "Flight Details" (link), "2:45 PM HNL", and "11:10 PM LAX". The second flight is "AS 834" (airline), "AS 566" (flight number), "Flight Details" (link), "11:05 AM HNL", "7:40 PM PDX", "8:50 PM PDX", and "11:09 PM LAX".

Be careful. Some of the low-level award availability may be on Hawaiian Airlines. While Hawaiian Airlines is a partner of American Airlines, you cannot use your British Airways Avios on Hawaiian Airlines. So those flights are off limits! Having selected our flight on the American Airlines search engine, we are now ready to book!

Booking the Award Flight with British Airways Avios

Depending on whether you are flying American Airlines or Alaska Airlines, the booking process with British Airways Avios is different. **With American Airlines, you can book online on the British Airways website. However, with Alaska Airlines, you will have to call.**

American Airlines: Any eligible award you find on American Airlines can be booked right online with the British Airways website. With flight information in hand, you can visit the [British Airways Executive Club Avios booking website](#) and log in with your id and password.

On the next page, put in your dates and destinations.

Book with Avios **Book and upgrade**

› Book with cash
› Reward flight availability

From
Los Angeles, USA, LAX,

To › Where we fly
Honolulu, USA, HNL, Hol

Depart
14/06/13 One way only

Return
19/06/13

Class › what's this?
Economy

Adults	Child	Infants
(12+)	(2-11)	(0-2)
1 <input type="button" value="▼"/>	0 <input type="button" value="▼"/>	0 <input type="button" value="▼"/>

› Children travelling alone, up to age 18?
› Disability assistance

Get flights ▶

British Airways Award Search

Of course, as expected, the flight we want appears. No surprise there as we already checked availability!

The image contains two side-by-side screenshots of a flight search interface. Both screens show a flight from Los Angeles (LAX) to Honolulu (HNL).
The top screen shows a flight on June 14 at 10:30 AM, arriving at 13:15 PM. The flight is operated by American Airlines (AA) with flight number AA0283. The class is Economy. A note indicates "Total journey time: 05 hours 45 minutes". A red banner at the bottom right states "Only 7 reward flight seat(s) left in this class".
The bottom screen shows a flight on June 19 at 14:45 PM, arriving at 23:10 PM. The flight is also operated by American Airlines (AA) with flight number AA0284. The class is Economy. A note indicates "Total journey time: 05 hours 25 minutes". A similar red banner at the bottom right states "Only 7 reward flight seat(s) left in this class".

After I select my flights, I can see they price at 25,000 British Airways Avios + \$5.00. Booked and done!

The image shows a "Price breakdown" table. It includes a summary table on the left and a detailed breakdown table on the right.
Summary table:

Avios	25000
Inclusive total	\$ 5.00

Detailed breakdown table:

	Avios per person	Price per person	Taxes, fees and carrier charges* per person	Inclusive total
1 Adult	25000	\$ 0.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
Total	25000 Avios + \$ 5.00			

Alaska Airlines: For Alaska Airlines awards, you cannot book them online. You will actually have to call customer service and give them the flight numbers. I very strongly recommend finding the exact flights you want before calling and not relying on the agent to find them for you. While agents do work for the airline, all kinds of mistakes can happen. Some may not know that Alaska Airlines is a partner or that you can book award seats with them. If you know the exact flights you want are available, the process will go much smoother.

Once you call, just give them the days and flight numbers you've selected. Since the British Airways award chart is very straightforward, they should have no problem pricing the award. Just remember, **your flights have to be at the SAAver level on the American Airlines website**. British Airways does assess a phone booking fee. However, since your award was not actually bookable online, you can ask them to waive the fee. In my experience, they often comply with the request.

Good luck planning your trip to Hawaii!