



Maximizing Credit Card Rewards

Kent Marume

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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For Today's Class...

- Please turn your camera ON
- Mute when you are not speaking
- Recording and screenshots



Our Mission

*“To enhance the quality of senior life in
Our Community”*

How we deliver our mission is evolving



Quality of Life



What Does Keiro Do?

Older Adults



Caregivers



Community



Kent Marume

- Program Manager
- Joined Keiro in 2019
- Involved in:
 - Quality of Life Classes
 - Nikkei Senior Network
 - Events



Kent Marume

- Traveling since childhood
- Avid travelers
- 3.4 million points and miles



Kent's Recent Trip

- Singapore Airlines Business class from LA to Tokyo
- Cost: \$55



Disclaimer





Maximizing Credit Card Rewards

Goals

- Explore the power of reward options
- Overview of credit card options
- Identify ways to maximize rewards

Outline

- Why credit vs. debit cards
- Types of credit cards
- Types of rewards
- Maximizing rewards

Poll question

- How do you use your credit card(s)?
- Do you use credit card rewards?

Credit vs. Debit Cards

Credit Cards

- Borrowed funds/credit, issued by a bank
- Builds credit
- Interest
- Fraud and purchase protection
- Rewards and discounts

Debit Cards

- Your money, subtracted from a checking account
- Won't assist in building credit
- No interest charges
- Less protection
- No rewards

Types of Credit Cards

- Average cards
- Balance transfer cards
- Cash back cards
- Rewards cards
- Premium rewards cards



Cash Back vs. Rewards Cards

Cash Back

- Easy to track
- Rewards in the form of cash, not points
- Low maintenance, typically fee free
- Category multipliers e.g. gas, grocery, dining
- Some purchase and travel protection

Rewards Cards

- More tracking needed
- Points or miles
 - Value ranges depending on redemption
- Fees vary
- Higher category multipliers e.g. gas, grocery, dining, travel
- More purchase and travel protection



Accruing Cash Back and Rewards Points

What Are Points/Miles Worth?

- At a minimum points/miles are worth:
 - 1 point/mile = \$0.01
 - Depending on how you redeem your points, the value could range from \$0.01 - \$0.05/point



Accruing Cash and Points

Certain cards have category multipliers

- For example:
 - 4x back on dining
 - 3x back on groceries
 - 2x back on gas
 - 1x everywhere else
- Having a card or cards that support your everyday spend can help you accrue points faster
- For example:
 - 2x on a \$40 gas transaction = 80 points
 - 1x on a \$40 gas transaction = 40 points

Cash Back Card Example

- 4x/\$1 on gas
- 3x/\$1 on dining and some travel
- 2x/\$1 on purchases at Costco
- 1x/\$1 everywhere else
- Cashback annually via check



Costco.com

Rewards Card Example

- 3x/\$1 on dining
- 3x/\$1 on streaming services
- 3x/\$1 on online grocery
- 5x/\$1 on Lyft
- 2x/\$1 on travel
- 1x/\$1 everywhere else
- Points can be used in Chase travel portal or transfer to airlines and hotels



Chase.com

Hybrid Rewards Card

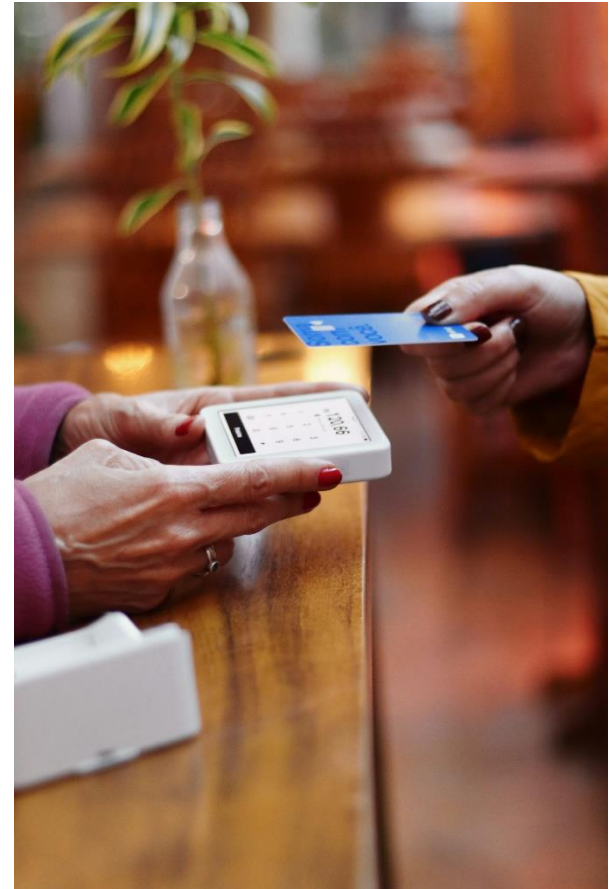
- 5x/\$1 on hotels and rental cars booked through Capital One portal
- 3x/\$1 on dining, entertainment, streaming services, and groceries
- 1x/\$1 everywhere else
- Rewards can be redeemed as cash back or transferred to airlines and hotels.



creditcards.com

Credit Card Bonuses

- Large bonus, in points or cash, after spend
- Can be the best way to amass points
- Good way to receive a lot of points with typical/everyday spend like groceries, gas, dining, etc.



Credit Card Bonus Example

Current offer:

- After \$4,000 in 90 days
- 75,000 points
- \$750 value
- (\$95 annual fee)
- *\$4,000 in 90 days can be a lot but recall you can use this card for everyday spend like dining, groceries, gas, etc.

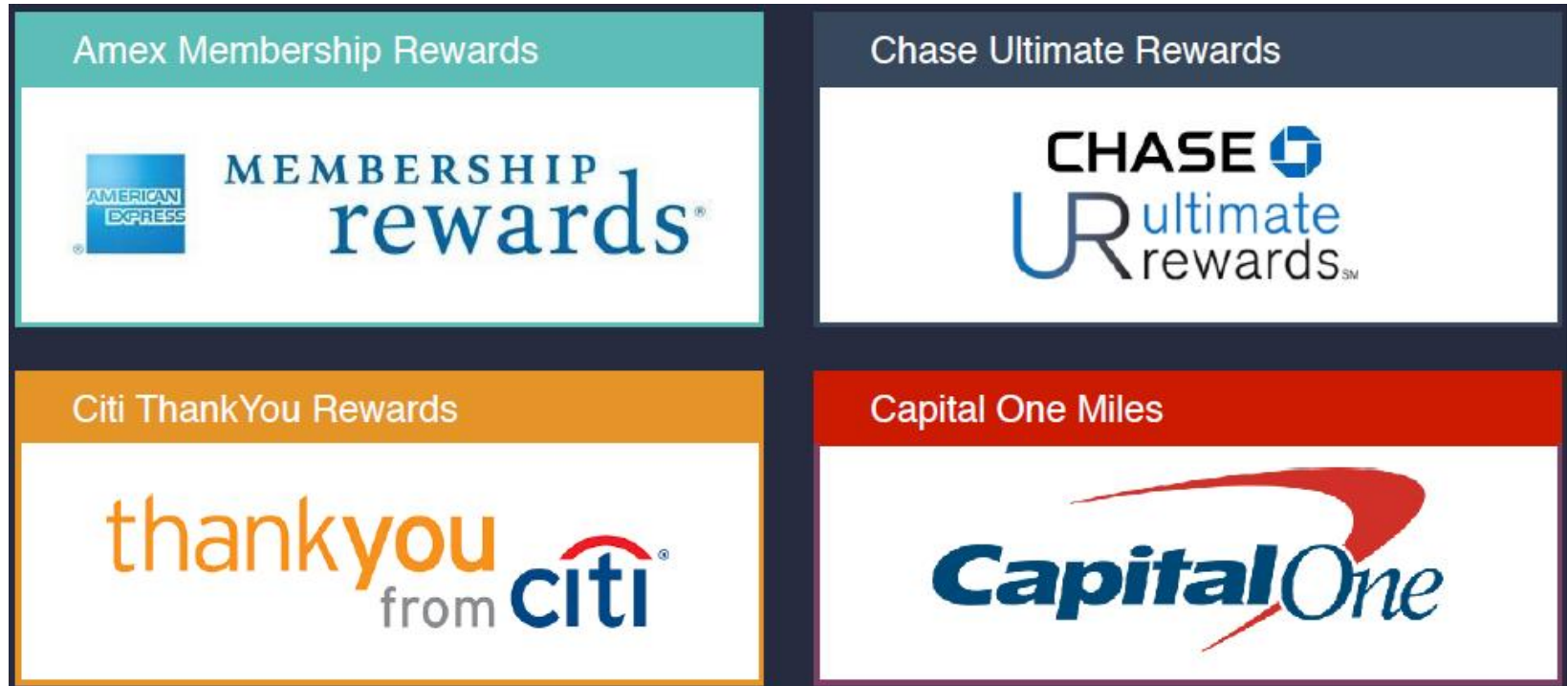


Capitalone.com



Maximizing Credit Card Rewards

Redeeming Rewards Points



TripPlus.cc

Capital One Travel Portal



Rewards balance [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for travel



Change card ▾

 Flights

 Hotels

 Rental Cars

 Premium Stays

 You have (5) travel offers available!

[View travel offers](#)

×

Earn **5X miles** on flights with your Venture X account.

Book with flexibility and enjoy elevated travel benefits.

☒ Round-trip ☐ One-way ☐ Multi-city


 1 Traveler ▾

 Fare class ▾

 Nonstop only

☐

 Where from?

  Where to?

 Departure

→

 Return

[Search Flights](#)

New Personalize your flight search results ⓘ

[Add flight preferences to your travel profile](#) ×

Chase Travel Portal



📍 Sitges, Spain

Your most rewarding trips start here

 Hotels

 Flights

 Activities

 Cars

 Cruises

 Tours

📍 Where to?

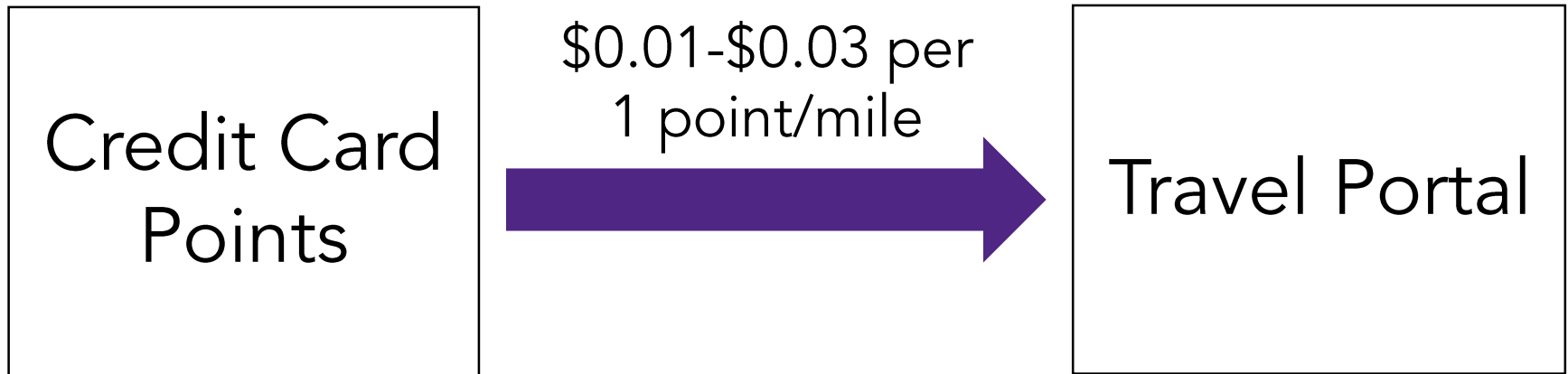
📅 Check-in date

📅 Check-out date

👤 2 ▼



Travel Portal Redemption





Chase Travel Portal Redemption

LAX - LAX - Los Angeles, CA, Los Ang...

↔

HND - HND - Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Apr 7

🔍

All filters

Price: lowest ▾

See fare details ▾

01:30 PM - 05:25 PM

Japan Airlines • LAX-HND • +1 day arrival

Economy class
\$548

11h 55m

Non-stop

02:25 PM - 10:25 PM

Japan Airlines • LAX-HND • +1 day arrival

Economy class
\$553

16h 00m

1 stop (KIX)

One-way

Japan Airlines
LAX → HND
Apr 07 • 11h 55m • Non-stop
JL 15
Economy class

Itinerary details >

Seat map >

[Baggage fees](#)

[Rules, policies and cancellations](#)

Flight total

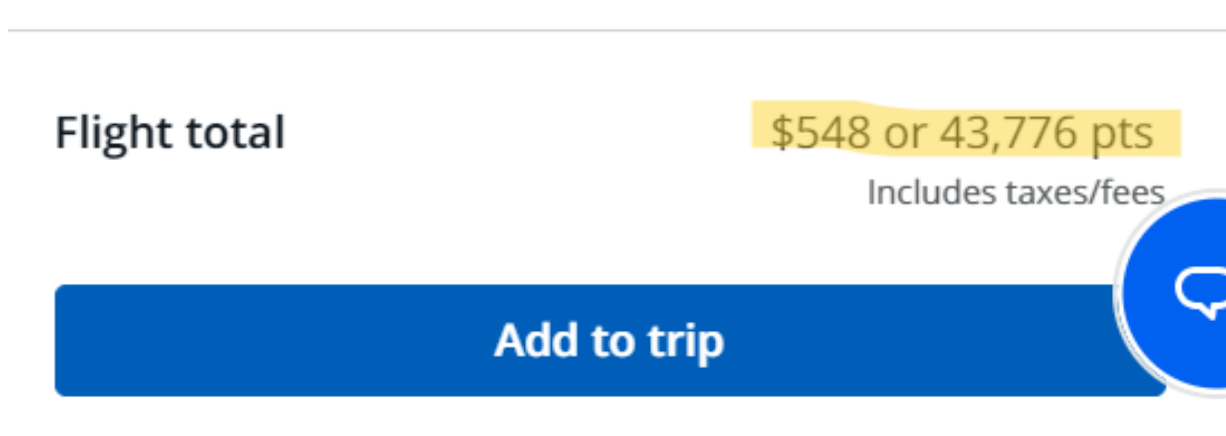
\$548 or 43,776 pts
Includes taxes/fees

Add to trip

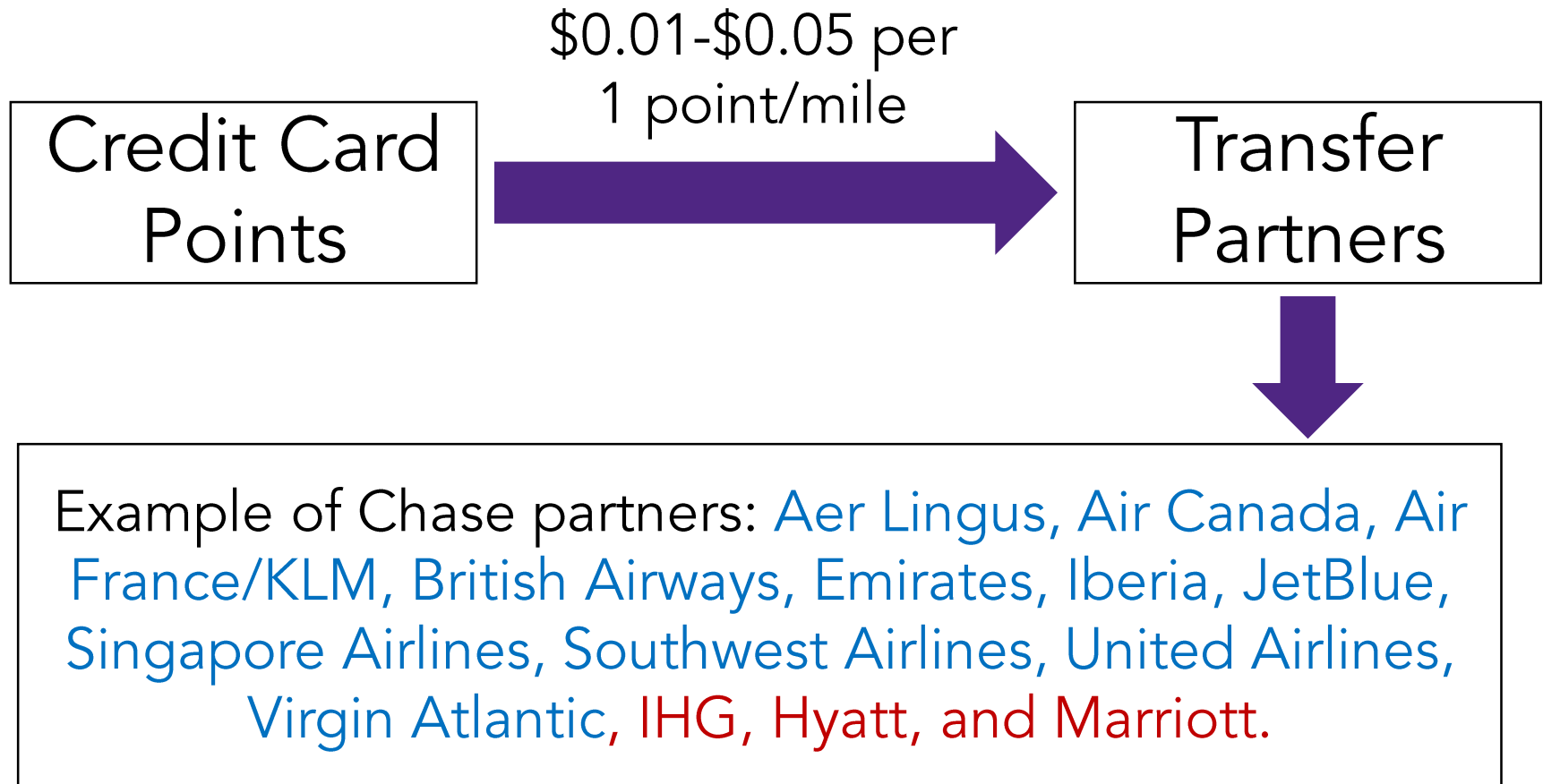
💬

Chase Travel Portal Redemption cont.


- Let's do the math:
 - $\$548 / 43,776 = \0.012
 - This redemption = $\$0.012/\text{point}$



Transferring Points to Partners



Transferring Points to Partners cont.

CHASE  **for BUSINESS**

wards details ▼ Convert to cash ▼ Shopping & Experiences ▼ Travel ▼

Step 1 of 3

KRISFLYER
SINGAPORE AIRLINES GROUP

Enter your KrisFlyer details


Confirm card user

You can only transfer points to yourself or one additional authorized user on your account.
For questions about authorized users, [visit our FAQs](#).

KENT MARUME

Tell us your KrisFlyer account number

Singapore Airlines KrisFlyer



Next

Transferring Points to Partners cont.



Step 2 of 3

Tell us how many points you want to transfer

Ultimate Rewards points

i.e. 20,000

You have 71,888 available points. Points must be transferred to the nearest 1,000.

Transferred points hold a 1:1 ratio. Visit your chosen partner's website to determine how many points you may need.

Next

Transferring Points to Partners cont.

One way
08 APR (TUE)

Los Angeles (LAX)



08 APR (TUE)

Tokyo (NRT)

Total fare

1 ADULT

-

[EDIT SEARCH](#)

SHOW FLIGHTS FOR

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

STAR ALLIANCE

OTHER PARTNER AIRLINES

I. Los Angeles to Tokyo

The number of miles shown is lowest available for one passenger, and do not include taxes or fees.



Singapore Airlines Group

<	SAT 05 APR from 38,500 miles	SUN 06 APR from 65,000 miles	MON 07 APR from 65,000 miles	TUE 08 APR from 38,500 miles	WED 09 APR from 38,500 miles	THU 10 APR from 65,000 miles	FRI 11 APR from 65,000 miles	>
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---

SORT BY:

TRAVEL DURATION

ARRIVAL TIME

DEPARTURE TIME

[↕ Compare award types](#)

Non stop • 11hr 30mins

LAX 14:20

LOS ANGELES

08 Apr (Tue)



11h 30m

NRT 17:50

TOKYO

09 Apr (Wed)



Singapore Airlines • SQ 11

[More details](#)

ECONOMY

SAVER FROM
38,500
miles

ADVANTAGE FROM
65,000
miles

Transferring Points to Partners cont.

LAX - NRT • 1 Adult

One way
08 APR (TUE)
Los Angeles (LAX)



09 APR (WED)
Tokyo (NRT)

[EDIT SEARCH](#)

Lowest available fare

I. Los Angeles to Tokyo

[See 7-day fares](#) Singapore Airlines Group

Non-stop • 11hrs 30mins

LAX 14:20

Los Angeles
08 Apr (Tue)



NRT 17:50

Tokyo
09 Apr (Wed)



Singapore Airlines • SQ 11

[More details](#)

ECONOMY

FROM USD
534.30
PER ADULT



PREMIUM ECONOMY

FROM USD
1,238.30
PER ADULT



Transferring Points to Partners cont.

- Let's do the math:
 - $\$534.30 / 38,500 = \0.014
 - This redemption = $\$0.014/\text{point}$

ECONOMY	
SAVER FROM 38,500 miles	ADVANTAGE FROM 65,000 miles

ECONOMY	PREMIUM ECONOMY
FROM USD 534.30 PER ADULT ▼	FROM USD 1,238.30 PER ADULT ▼

Transferring Points to Partners cont.

- To Recap:

- Travel portal = \$0.012/point
- Point transfer = \$0.014/point
- 43,776 vs. 38,500



Flight total

\$548 or 43,776 pts

Includes taxes/fees

Add to trip

ECONOMY

SAVER FROM
38,500
miles

ADVANTAGE FROM
65,000
miles

Redeeming Rewards Points cont.

- In **MOST** cases, transferring is the best way to maximize points because you can maximize point value.



Rewards Points cont.

- When does transferring not make sense:
 - When booking a flight or hotel and the cash rate is equal to or less than \$0.01/point. In that case, pay cash.
 - For example:
 - Air France one-way from LAX to CDG should cost 30k – 40k points for economy. If it's 50k, that's not the best redemption.



Let's Take a Pause...





Redemption Examples



LAX to EWR Example

- Chase Travel Portal:
 - \$220 or 17,559
 - $\$220 / 17,559 = \$0.013/\text{point}$
- Transfer to United
 - \$220 or 14,800
 - $\$220 / 14,800 = \$0.015/\text{point}$

\$220
per person
Total (1 person)
\$220 or 17,559 pts
Includes taxes/fees
[Choose fare](#)

\$220	Economy
United Economy (K)	14.8k miles + \$5.60 Saver Award

Point Transfer Example

- 2023 Japan
- 70k Chase points → to United Airlines
 - \$105 (taxes and fees)
 - \$1,400 cash price
- Redemption value:
 - $\$1,400 / 70k = \$0.02/\text{point}$



Point Transfer Example cont.

- Where did I get 70k points?
 - Everyday spend and 1 sign-up bonuses!
 - Dining
 - Groceries
 - Drugstores
 - Gas
 - Entertainment
 - Rent*



Hotel Rewards

- Most hotel programs points are worth \$0.005/point
- Most cases → does not make sense to transfer from bank to hotels*
 - *Exceptions:
 - Hyatt
 - Choice Privileges
 - (Points are worth \$0.01/point, can redeem at 1:2)

Hotel Strategy Options

- Use hotel-branded cards for everyday purchases
- Purchase points at \$0.005/point or better
- Transfer when the redemption is in your favor



IHG.com



Kent's Recent Trip Revisited

- Singapore Airlines Business class from LA to Tokyo
- Cost:
 - 75k points → to Singapore Airlines
 - \$55 (taxes and fees)
 - Cash price \$3,942 - \$10,618
- Redemption value:
 - $\$3,942 / 75k = \$0.05/\text{point}$



Takeaways

- You don't have to break the bank or tap into savings to travel
- The hobby can be as easy or as advanced as you like
- Pick cards based on your goals
- Bank ecosystems
- Maximize your rewards that best fits your needs!



Q&A

Keiro Quality of Life Classes

Maximizing Credit Card Rewards Quality of Life Class Survey

💬 Thank you for participating in our

Maximizing Credit Card Rewards Quality of Life Class.

📄 Please take a moment to complete this short survey to help our team improve our programs. Your input is deeply appreciated and helps us plan for future classes. Thank you for your feedback and time.

✉️ If you have any additional questions or comments please email programs@keiro.org.

kent.marume@gmail.com [Switch account](#)



📧 Not shared

* Indicates required question

Preferred Email *

Your answer

Senior Travelers: Secrets to Rewards

- Tuesday, November 26 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.



Keiro Quality of Life Classes

December 2024

- **Cooking with Oba-chan: Okinawan Goya**
Thursday, December 5, 2024 | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- **Navigating Local Transportation with Confidence**
Thursday, December 12, 2024 | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Visit keiro.org/qol to register for FREE and for class descriptions.



Will you Join us?

Help Keiro Improve the Quality of Senior Life



Visit our Website:

keiro.org/support

Follow us on Social Media:

[@KeiroConnect](https://twitter.com/KeiroConnect)

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