

Get Paid To Travel With These Rewards Cards

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PERSONAL FINANCES

CREDIT

The combination of mass vaccination efforts, declining number of new cases, and the promise of summer have people excited to travel again. With the fear of delinquent payments diminishing, banks are rolling out huge deals to get you to open credit accounts—including large sign-on bonuses with travel-centric rewards.

Below, are our top picks for the best travel rewards credit cards.

Chase Sapphire Preferred® – Enroll now and receive a sign-up bonus of 80,000 bonus points (if you spend \$4,000 in the first 3 months), a \$50 statement credit for groceries, a complimentary 12-month DashPass subscription to DoorDash®, and \$60 back on eligible Peloton® memberships. Moreover, you can earn 2 points on worldwide dining and travel expenses and 1 point on all other purchases. Plus, now through March 2022, earn 5 points whenever you use Lyft. Bonus—earn extra points for everyday purchases made with Shop Through Chase®. Make sure you redeem these points through Chase Ultimate Rewards® when you book your next trip—points are worth 25% more when redeemed for travel versus cash back. Enjoy other redemption options like paying for Amazon or Apple® purchases, transferring points to affiliated airlines and hotels, attending exclusive events, or purchasing gift cards. If you enjoy traveling and want a card that helps you pay for it, you can't beat the benefits of Chase Sapphire Preferred, for only a \$95 annual fee.

Chase Freedom Unlimited — If you like the flexibility and perks of Chase Ultimate Rewards but don't want to pay an annual fee, look no further than the Chase Freedom Unlimited card. Earn 5% cash back on travel purchased through Chase Ultimate Rewards, 3% on drugstore purchases and restaurants (including takeout and delivery), and 1.5% on all other purchases. Enroll now and receive a \$200 signup bonus (if you spend \$500 in the first 3 months), a complimentary 3-month DashPass subscription—with 50% off for the following 9 months—and 5% cash back on Lyft rides through March 2022. Note—unlike the rest of the cards on this list, Chase Freedom Unlimited has a foreign transaction fee.

Capital One® Venture® – Receive a huge bonus offer of 100,000 miles when you spend \$20,000 in the first 12 months. If you don't reach that number, you can still earn 50,000 miles if you spend \$3,000 in the first 3 months of opening your account. This bonus offer plus great flat-rate rewards of 2 miles per \$1 spent on all purchases makes this a great option if you want to maximize your mile earnings. Plus, if you book hotel and car rentals through Capital One TravelSM, you'll earn a total of 5 miles for each \$1 spent. Redeem your miles as account credits for past travel or pay for future travel through their Rewards Center. Use your miles for non-travel rewards like cash back, gift cards, or purchases made through Amazon or PayPal. Plus, you can transfer your miles to any of their affiliated loyalty programs.

Capital One will also give you a credit of up to \$100 for Global Entry or TSA PreCheck[®] fees so you can skip the airport lines. For an annual fee of only \$95, the Capital One Venture card should easily pay for itself.

Bank of America® Travel Rewards – Sign-up now and get a bonus offer of 20,000 points when you spend \$1,000 in the first 90 days. If you prefer not to pay an annual fee, then consider this card. Earn a flat rate of 1.5 points per \$1 spent on all purchases and redeem them for cash back, gift cards, or statement credits to offset qualifying travel, dining, and experience purchases (zoos, circuses, etc.). Plus, earn 3 points per \$1 when you book through Bank of America's Travel Center. If you're a Preferred Rewards member, the points you earn for purchases increase by 25%-75%.

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