



## Useful guide to get started

### The Platinum Card® from American Express



Flytrippers Valuation of ≈ \$1211

Rewards: ≈ \$1710

Fees: \$499 net (\$699 minus \$200 travel credit that can be cashed out)

Rewards obtained with the welcome bonus

114,000 American Express Membership Rewards points

(limited-time increased offer that ended September 20, 2022)

## Welcome

Here's the complete guide on **how to get started** with your new American Express Platinum Card.

Another guide on **how to maximize** your Amex points (and plenty more pro tips) will follow, so stay subscribed to this free newsletter.

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## 3 things to know before getting started

Before getting into your card's details, here are a few things you need to know first.

### 1. Warning for the future

First of all, congratulations: You've taken advantage of **one of the best welcome bonuses** in Canada. You'll definitely grow fond of great welcome bonuses, but having gotten such a great one comes with a risk.

The risk is thinking that all other bonuses will be as high as this one!

It's easy to get a lot of travel rewards every year when you know how to do it, but typically, a welcome bonus worth  $\approx \$300$  is very good. So **don't take this amazing deal for granted** too much and make sure to unlock the full bonus (and to use it well after if you want to maximize its value).

### 2. Important reminder regarding bonus details for all cards

Many people have been writing to us saying they can't find **the welcome bonus offer details anywhere**. Indeed, for any card (from any issuer), the welcome offer details are never included in the documents you get in the mail (or anywhere else).

That's the way it is. Always.

It's important to write down the details when you apply for a card. It's perfectly normal that you don't know this when you're first starting out, which is why we've created [a free checklist](#) to use every time you apply for a new card (and why we're creating a page with the checklist and all card links on our website).

This guide will of course include the welcome bonus details to make your life easier. But for all your next cards, following the 8 checklist items will help you remember important things like taking a screenshot of the specific offer you're getting. Because offers are constantly changing (that's why we do [a monthly ranking](#), so you can get the right card at the right time).

You can [download the checklist](#) for free right now. There are other equally important notes in it (like a reminder not to cancel your old cards — this has nothing to do with the card you just got: we're talking about the OLD cards you already had).

### 3. Last general piece of advice

**Being well organized** will definitely make your life easier throughout your travel rewards journey, so you can also [download our free card tracking template](#).

There are also some useful tools in there (in the 2<sup>nd</sup> tab in the file).

## Details of your welcome bonus offer

First, welcome bonuses usually have a much simpler structure. But because the bonus is so big this time, it actually has several components this time.

The components are **completely independent and separate from one another**. But it's by combining all of them that it gets very rewarding, if you want.

Of course, you always have to look at both sides of the equation, meaning the rewards and the fees.

Here's a summary of your Amex Platinum Card welcome bonus (and we'll cover some tips and rules after).

## 1. REWARDS

You can get 114,000 Amex points (Flytrippers Valuation of  $\approx \$1710$ )

### 1.1 STANDARD WELCOME BONUS

Spend \$6,000 in 3 months = Get 90,000 points

### 1.2 SPECIAL RATE AS PART OF THE WELCOME BONUS

Spend \$2,000 of those \$6,000 at grocery stores or at restaurants at a special bonus rate of 10 pts/\$ = Earn 20,000 points

### 1.3 EARNINGS ON OTHER MINIMUM SPEND

Spend the remaining \$4,000 of those \$6,000 at the base rate of 1 pt/\$ = Earn 4000 points

## 2. FEES

You have to pay \$499 in net fees (\$699 minus \$200) for this offer

### 2.1 CARD FEE

Fee of \$699

## **2.2 \$200 YEARLY TRAVEL CREDIT (CAN BE CASHED OUT)**

\$200 travel credit that can be cashed out of the 1<sup>st</sup> day

## **3. TOTAL WELCOME BONUS**

Rewards:  $\approx \$1710$  (114,000 Amex points)

Fees: \$499 net (\$699 minus \$200)

Flytrippers Valuation of  $\approx \$1211$

Net return rate of **20%** on \$6,000 (minimum spend required)

## 1. Rewards

Here are the details.

### 1.1 Standard welcome bonus

(Spend \$6,000 in 3 months = Get 90,000 points)

For such a high bonus, the minimum spending required is also higher. With your regular expenses (including groceries for the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the welcome bonus), the \$6000 in 3 months is a lot for many people. It's the equivalent of **\$462 per week**.

If you can't reach the \$6,000 organically, here are our [5 tips to reach it more easily](#).

With those tips, most people will be able to not miss out on this welcome bonus.

To be clear: for this part of the reward, you don't technically need to make purchases anywhere in particular.

It's just that in order to get the maximum points for the least amount of spending (that's what travel rewards are all about and why welcome bonuses are key), we recommend that you spend \$2,000 of the required \$6,000 (the 2nd part of the bonus) at grocery stores.

## 1.2 Bonus on grocery and restaurant spending

(Spend \$2,000 of the \$6,000 at grocery stores or at restaurants at a special bonus rate of 10 pts/\$ = Earn 20,000 points)

This special bonus rate applies only for 3 months and on a maximum of \$2,000 in spending for 20,000 easy bonus points.

You can check out the full [list of grocery stores that accept Amex cards in Canada](#), but the main ones are Sobeys, Metro, Whole Foods, No Frills, Super C, etc. Finally, Giant Tiger and Circle K/Mac's/Couche-Tard code as grocery stores too.

In terms of restaurants, almost all chains accept Amex cards (and many independent restaurants do too). You can see [the complete map](#) of the hundreds of thousands of businesses that accept Amex card.

Of course, **you can buy more than just groceries**: you just have to buy gift cards at one of the merchants that code as a grocery store and then use them somewhere else.

For example, Petro-Canada is not a grocery store... but you can simply buy a Petro-Canada gift card at your grocery store, you can get the 5X bonus. Walmart does not code as a grocery store... but by buying a gift card, you can get the 10X bonus on your Walmart spending (they don't usually have Walmart gift cards in grocery stores so you need to get that one in your convenience store that codes as grocery store). And so on.

There are dozens and dozens of retailers like this if you look at the gift card displays at your local merchant that codes as a grocery store. You can see a very exhaustive list with pictures.

Gift cards are completely free by the way. No fees. However, if you like to take advantage of the purchase insurance and extended warranties that your card offers, use the gift cards only for items for which you do not want these protections.

There are also prepaid credit cards, which are not free: there is an activation fee. However, it may be worth it to pay the fee given the incredible 10X earn rate (to get 10X the points at Costco, for example).

Ideally, you should find a \$500 prepaid Mastercard that has a \$7.95 activation fee in some convenience stores that code as grocery stores.

Choosing the prepaid cards with the higher amounts on them will reduce the fee, because \$7.95 on \$500... that's just a 1.59% fee (you're racking up  $\approx$  15% with the 10X promo, so a net of  $\approx$  13.41% anywhere). If you buy a prepaid card with just \$100 on it... the \$7.95 fee is almost an 8% fee. That's not as profitable.

Doing the math is very important in the world of travel rewards!

We recommend keeping your prepaid cards after they have been used, in case you want to get a refund on something you paid for with them.

### 1.3 Earnings on other minimum spending

(Spend \$4,000 at the 1X base rate = Earn 4000 points)

Spending the remaining \$4,000 will give you **a minimum of** 4000 points at the base rate of 1 point per dollar.

But you can earn even more for this portion if you spend it in a category with a 3X multiplier rate like restaurant expenses (once you've reached the \$2000 from the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the bonus) or a 2X multiplier rate like travel expenses, as explained in the section on earn rates below.

## 2. Fees

Here are the details.

### 2.1 Fee

Again, doing the math is important, because even though it says \$699 in fees, it's really just \$499 net thanks to the \$200 annual travel credit that can be cashed out (and thus becomes a statement credit that brings the fees down to \$499 net).

Then, as mentioned in [the free checklist for when you get a new card](#), you should always re-evaluate each card after the 1<sup>st</sup> year to determine if the benefits of that card are worth it to you: every traveler is different.

Some travelers will consider that the ≈ \$1211 profit in the 1<sup>st</sup> year makes up for the \$499 net fee for 2 more years after that, to keep the unlimited access to airport lounges for 3 years total.

Others prefer to maximize the value and simply make sure that for their next card applications, [other cards](#) with lounge access and new welcome bonuses will replace that access.

## 2.2 Annual travel credit

This annual travel credit is actually a benefit of the card. To be clear, it has nothing to do with the welcome bonus: every year, having the Amex Platinum Card entitles you to this free \$200 to offset the fee.

In theory, the credit is supposed to be used only to pay for travel booked on the Amex Travel portal (unlike points, which can, among other things, give you a "credit" applicable to any expense, no matter where you book).

But it's possible to easily cash it out thanks to the refundable hotel trick if you prefer, so from the 1<sup>st</sup> month, it becomes a credit on your statement that just lowers the annual fees.

It's a simple trick, but one you can't guess if you don't know about it! That's why it's important to follow the pros to maximize the wonderful world of travel rewards.

## 3 basic reminders to unlock a welcome bonus

Here are **some very important reminders** about minimum spend requirements.

(These are all in [the free checklist](#) so you can easily remember them).

### 1. When the countdown starts

Your countdown to reach the minimum begins the day your application is approved (NOT when you receive your card and NOT when you activate it).

### 2. What counts as an expense

Be careful not to count your card fee in the amount in case it appears on your statement and therefore in your total balance due.

You need purchases: not ATM withdrawals, not cash advances, not balance transfers. Not anything else: only actual purchases.

Be careful not to make returns/refunds that might make your drop below the required minimum spend amount.

### 3. Why it's important to be organized

There's no flexibility on the timing for the minimum spend. None!

Even if you miss the deadline by just one day and by just one dollar, there's absolutely no way to get the welcome bonus points back if you don't meet the requirements. Those are the rules.

So make sure you reach the required amount. We suggest you set up regular reminders to monitor your progress.

## Logistics of creating your accounts to get started

The detailed guides on points will have more details, but here are the basics.

You can obviously easily pay the balance of your Amex Platinum Card from any bank account by simply adding it as a bill payment.

But to manage your account and rewards, you need to create a free online account.

You need to create **an Amex account AND an Aeroplan account** (or Avios, or Flying Blue, etc.) if you want to eventually transfer your points that way to maximize their value.

These are separate rewards programs, so you need separate accounts.

For Amex, if you don't already have other Amex cards, create an Amex account online on the Amex website (blue button at the top right). They also have a handy app.

Then, for Aeroplan, create an online account on Air Canada's website because in most cases, transferring Amex points to Aeroplan is by far the best use to increase the value of the points by  $\approx 50\%$ !

Pro tip: the 2-player mode is obviously twice as fast to earn more points, so to make it easier to combine Amex points when your travel companion is going to get their own welcome bonus, you can create an Aeroplan account right away and then set up "Aeroplan Family Sharing."

It allows you to combine all your Aeroplan points together and you can do that with any traveler, they don't really have to be in your family. You can do it with anyone you want. It's easier with this combined account, although of course you can always use your points to buy a ticket for anyone else regardless.

We recommend never transferring points speculatively (without a specific use in mind) but you can at least start looking at your future point uses.

And we rarely recommend transferring to Marriott, because transfers to airline programs give much more potential value (Aeroplan; but also Avios).

If you're ready to use your Amex points this way and don't want to wait for our guide on how to use them, you can [read this article to see the simple steps to transfer your Amex points to Aeroplan or Avios or Marriott](#) (it's the same easy process for any transfer partner).

## Your card's rewards earn rate

Here are the earn rates for your Amex Platinum Card (excluding the promo rates of the first 3 months):

- **3 points per dollar** ( $\approx 4,5\%$ ) on restaurants and food delivery services
- **2 points per dollar** ( $\approx 3\%$ ) on travel
- **1 point per dollar** ( $\approx 1,5\%$ ) on all other purchases

Of course, it's not with your regular purchases that you'll earn points quickly, but rather with welcome bonuses (which you probably figured out given the size of this welcome bonus).

But it's good to know your card earn rates so you can use the right card at the right place depending on which ones you have.

This is useful for times in the year when your expenses won't be used to unlock extremely lucrative welcome bonuses, which you should get regularly.

With earn rates, there are always 2 important things to pay attention to:

- The base earn rates
- The multiplier rates on specific categories

The base rate on your Amex Platinum Card is pretty standard and there are 2 decent multiplier rates on some interesting categories.

But if you really want to maximize that, consider the "best" card in Canada for your next one: the American Express Cobalt Card which earns 5X Amex points on restaurants AND groceries at all times, an outstanding rate to be honest.

(It has a nice welcome bonus that's sometimes increased, but it's pretty much the only card in Canada worth considering just for its excessively high earn rate, since 5X the points is very, very lucrative!)

Keep in mind that your Amex Platinum Card's earn rates obviously also may be worth even more, since Amex points are variable-value rewards that have the potential to have an outsized value and an unlimited value. The base rate can easily be 2% instead of 1.5% if you use your points well.

## Your card benefits

In addition to travel rewards you get with your welcome bonus, you now enjoy other valuable benefits with your Amex Platinum Card.

Here's how each one works.

### **Unlimited access to 1400+ airport lounges around the world**

Airport lounges are really great. With your card, you get free access, and it's the **best benefit in Canada**.

You get unlimited access to the 1300+ airport lounges in the Priority Pass network, which are located around the world. You always get a free guest. You have access no matter what flight you're on or how you paid for the flight.

You also have access to some other lounges that are not within the Priority Pass network, but are part of the American Express Global Lounge Collection.

This includes the many Plaza Premium Lounges in Canada and a few others. The best of them are the American Express Centurion Lounges in many airports, especially in the United States.

We'll soon be publishing a complete guide to airport lounges, including those here in Canada specifically, but you can read our intro to airport lounges in the meantime!

Perks that you can't put a price tag on like airport lounge access are never included in our Flytrippers Valuation, since the value varies too much.

But it can easily be worth hundreds of dollars in free food and beverages, which is in addition to the welcome bonus'  $\approx \$121$  net value!

You'll need to create a Priority Pass account once you've activated your Amex card (by calling the Amex number behind your card), and it's your Priority Pass card that you'll show at those lounge entrances (the digital version on the Priority Pass app is easier).

For all other lounges included, you don't need to do anything and it's your Amex Platinum Card that you'll present directly.

## NEXUS credit

The Amex Platinum Card comes with a \$100 NEXUS credit that will make your NEXUS card free and make a 2<sup>nd</sup> card for a travel buddy almost free too.

It helps you avoid all the security lines at Canadian and US airports, the customs lines at Canadian and US airports, and the lines at the land border.

Having the NEXUS card is absolutely **one of the best travel pro tips**. And there you have C\$100 to cover the entire cost for you and part of the cost for a travel buddy as well (NEXUS costs US\$50).

Again, our Flytrippers Valuation doesn't include that \$100 either, so the Amex Platinum Card is even more valuable if you unfortunately don't have your NEXUS card yet.

## **Additional card to share benefits**

You can get an additional card (“joint” card) for \$175 to share the travel benefits. This gives you 2 more lounge access, which is convenient for families or couples who sometimes travel separately.

You can also get one without benefits for \$50 so that someone you trust can help you earn more points (and have them all in the same Amex account), but that's really not recommended given the cost.

It doesn't count as a credit application for the additional cardholder and it doesn't prevent them from eventually getting their own card, which of course **your travel buddy should do** to get their own welcome bonus, because welcome bonuses are key (and to get another year of lounge access).

You are entitled to 9 additional cards and the minimum age is 13 years old.

## **Gold Elite Status at Marriott, Hilton, and Radisson**

Having elite status at over 15,000 hotels around the world makes for a really luxurious travel experience.

It's great for the 8000+ hotels that are part of the Marriott Bonvoy program, since it's by far the best hotel rewards program for Canadians.

It gives you:

- 25% bonus points (when you pay in cash)
- A welcome gift (whether you pay in cash or in points)
- Guaranteed late check-out (whether you pay in cash or in points)

- Often, free upgrades to better rooms and VIP treatment, depending on which Marriott hotels you stay at (whether you pay in cash or in points)

You can read more about the [Marriott Bonvoy program](#).

Hilton Gold status at 6000+ hotels also provides you with many benefits, including free breakfast (unlike Marriott), as well as room upgrades. But this program is not as beneficial for Canadians.

The Gold status at Radisson Americas is not as interesting.

In all 3 cases, you must register for this benefit via [this link](#) (or by calling Amex).

## Elite status at Hertz and Avis

The status at these car rental companies is not nearly as interesting as the elite status at hotels, but it is certainly **better than nothing**. The more often you rent cars, the more likely it is that Hertz and Avis will be the cheapest options and that you will be able to take advantage of the benefits.

I loved it recently when 10 people were standing in line and looked frustrated because there was only one employee. It seemed like they had been waiting a long time. I went in and instantly went ahead of them all thanks to the priority service. They didn't like it much. That's the great thing about the [Amex Platinum Card](#), and you really get used to it!

In other main airports, with Hertz, I don't even have to go to the counter: there's a screen with my name on it that tells me which car to take directly, without any wait.

In short, this elite status gives you:

- Priority service at the counter
- A one-category upgrade
- A discount on car rentals (always check on a comparison site to see if other companies are cheaper)

At Hertz, there are 2 additional benefits:

- 4 extra hours of rental for free
- The addition of a spouse as a 2<sup>nd</sup> driver for free

### **24/7 personalized concierge service**

If you want to live like the rich and famous, well now you can. You have access to a personalized concierge service at no charge. It's available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

That means that when you call your Amex concierge, they can **take care of a lot of things for you**. They can find you restaurant reservations. This service is apparently very good at finding a reservation even when the restaurant says it's full! Amex has the right contacts!

You can even have your concierge do some research for you, like finding a special gift. You can have them arrange a flower delivery. Or have them arrange to have anything delivered to you without you having to do it yourself. Or any other search like this.

It's the concierge service itself that's free of course, the items will be charged to your card.

## Metal card

The card is made **of metal** and weighs 18 grams. The luxurious and heavy Amex Platinum Card is internationally recognized as a status symbol.

It's really just a bonus if you think it will impress people and you care about that.

## Benefits at Toronto-Pearson Airport

If you travel through Toronto-Pearson Airport (YYZ), you can access priority lanes to avoid waiting at the security checkpoint.

Even if you already have a NEXUS card, this benefit is interesting because **you can share this priority access** with an infinite number of travel buddies. I tested it out by requesting access for 16 people in June when I was traveling with my delegation to the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference.

All you have to do is login through this special Amex link to get a QR code to go through the priority lane with the automated white gate.

## Access to the Amex Offers program

As an Amex cardholder, you have access to the Amex Offers program, which offers **interesting discounts and freebies** on select purchases throughout the year (at the bottom of your online account or on the Amex app).

## Access to the American Express The Hotel Collection program

You get access to The Hotel Collection program, which gives you privileges at luxury hotels (such as a US\$100 hotel credit and a free room upgrade) **if you like to pay for expensive hotels.**

Only stays of at least 2 nights are eligible. You must book through the [Amex Travel website](#).

## Access to the American Express Fine Hotels + Resorts program

The Fine Hotels + Resorts (FH+R) program is exclusive to this card, for even better benefits at even more expensive hotels, **the most luxurious hotels in the world.**

You get a luxury VIP package that can be worth a lot:

- Free breakfast for 2
- Early check-in at noon
- Late check-out at 4pm
- \$100 hotel credit (spa, meals, drinks... it varies by hotel and it's indicated when you do your research)

No minimum stay required with this program. But beware: these are not hotels that are only \$200 a night.

You must book through [the Amex Fine Hotels + Resorts program](#).

## Access to American Express Experiences

You have access to American Express Experiences, including exclusive Amex Front of the Line invitations, which give you early access to event tickets, for example (via email).

## Exclusive Platinum events

This is basically the same benefit as the previous one, but you also get a lot more invitations as an Amex Platinum Card holder, including exclusive (and sometimes free) invitations.

For example, you get free access to the Platinum Studio/Platinum House events, a very nice VIP party that often takes place in Miami Beach during the Art Basel festival for example. It's basically an Amex Platinum VIP lounge on the beach and it's free. A detailed article will come and maybe we'll meet there in December?

## Card with no preset spending limit

This is a benefit for those who want to make expensive purchases — many people with the Amex Platinum Card like to spend a lot of money — but in practice, it's not so useful for most travelers.

That's because it's technically a "payment card" and not a standard credit card. There's only Amex that has that.

It doesn't change anything if you always pay everything in full on time, as you should do if you want to maximize travel rewards and be financially responsible.

## Your card's insurance coverage

The free insurance coverage included is another great reason to take advantage of card deals on a regular basis (so you're always covered for free with welcome bonuses).

Here are the ones you get with your Amex Platinum Card while you wait for our ultimate guide to insurance.

### Medical travel insurance

First, medical travel insurance coverage provides 15 days of coverage for your trips (maximum \$5 million).

Unlike other types of credit card insurance coverage, medical travel insurance is valid whether or not you pay for the trip with your card.

This is always the case for this type of coverage, contrary to the very popular belief. In the world of travel rewards, it's really best to assume that what everyone thinks is just wrong!

So you can pay for your tickets and hotels with any card you want or with any points you want: at least you'll have the most important insurance.

## Flight delay insurance

When you pay for your flights with your Amex Platinum Card or with your Amex points, you will get a free flight delay insurance that will give you \$1000 for a hotel and meals (minimum delay of 4 hours).

Almost all other cards in Canada only give \$500.

Airlines don't owe you anything when the delay is due to the weather and that's normal: they don't control the weather!

So this insurance is really useful. It's always good to take responsibility and not depend on anyone else.

And even when the cause for delay is under the airline's control, why go stand in line to maybe get a hotel that's probably lousy (or maybe get told that they won't pay anything). Take responsibility and use that insurance.

I have used this insurance 10 times and it's great. I never have to wonder what's causing the delay or fight to get anything... and I never have to pay anything.

I book the most expensive hotel possible as soon as my flight is delayed overnight and I don't waste my time in line or complain that the airline isn't giving me anything. I go straight to a nice hotel!

And I even collect a lot of points on the stay paid in cash (reimbursed by the insurer) to get free hotel nights in the future too, in addition to the free night during the delayed flight.

## **Trip cancelation and interruption insurance**

You also have trip cancelation and interruption insurance (beware of the COVID-19 exclusions that are currently in place for those types of insurance, unlike others).

For all valid reasons other than COVID-19, coverage is available for trips paid for with your Amex Platinum Card or with your Amex points.

Trip cancelation insurance reimburses you if you have to cancel a trip for one of the valid reasons covered (maximum \$2500 per person and \$5000 total).

Interruption insurance is similar, but if one of the valid reasons occurs while you are on your trip (maximum \$2500 per person and \$6000 total).

## **Hotel burglary insurance**

You also have hotel burglary insurance (maximum \$1000) if you paid for the hotel with your Amex Platinum Card or Amex points.

## **Car rental insurance**

You'll be covered if you paid for your rental car with your Amex Platinum Card or Amex points. You don't have to pay for the unnecessary insurance car rental companies offer, the one on your card is free.

Note that this applies to damage/loss/theft only; no card covers the liability insurance portion.

For that, your personal car insurance may cover you in some countries, and if not, liability insurance is often included by default with the basic price of car rentals in many countries. Be sure to check.

But at least, don't pay for the damage insurance part. Coverage does not apply to cars worth more than \$85,000 and pickup trucks (among others), which is standard.

Coverage does not apply to rentals longer than 48 days or to rentals from individuals.

### **Insurance for baggage and personal effects while traveling**

You also have insurance for lost or damaged baggage during your trip (up to \$1000) if you paid your flight with your Amex Platinum Card or Amex points.

### **Baggage delay insurance**

You also have insurance in case your baggage arrives late (maximum \$1000 in combination with flight delay insurance) if you paid for your flight with your Amex Platinum Card or Amex points.

## **Accident insurance**

You are covered for up to \$500,000 if you die or are maimed while traveling if you pay for your plane, train, boat, or bus tickets with your Amex Platinum Card or Amex points.

## **Purchase insurance**

You have theft and damage protection for 120 days after most of your purchases (maximum \$1000 per instance), as with most cards (but most cards just give you 90 days).

## **Extended warranty insurance**

Finally, you also have an extended warranty (double the original warranty; up to 1 year) on most of your purchases (maximum \$10,000 per item; \$25,000 per year), as with most cards.

## Amex points expiry

We'll talk more about this in our guide to use the points, but we want to reconfirm that **there's no time limit to use your Amex points.**

Some people seem to think that means the points don't expire. It's not that they don't expire, it's that you have no time limit for using them. It's not quite the same thing.

Amex points don't expire as long as you have an Amex card that earns you points. If you cancel your card, you can also simply transfer them to programs like Aeroplan so you don't have to use them right away.

With Aeroplan points, there's no time limit to use them either. But that also doesn't mean they don't expire.

Aeroplan points expire if you have no activity for 18 consecutive months. But it's excessively easy to earn or use a single Aeroplan point in 18 months, even without a credit card, and thus push the expiration back literally forever.

If you travel once in 18 months, it's done. Otherwise, you just need to make an online purchase (at many of the retailers you already buy from) through the [Aeroplan online shopping portal](#) (and you'll get free bonus points as well).

So it's very, very simple to never have to worry about expiration with one easy task in 18 months.

## How to use your Amex points

Stay subscribed to this free newsletter to receive the next part of this guide, which is how to use your Amex points (with lots of other pro tips too).

## Conclusion and what's next

With this information, you'll be able to start your journey with Amex Platinum Card and your Amex points.

Feel free to email us at [points@flytrippers.com](mailto:points@flytrippers.com) if you have any questions about your card.

We'll soon help you **maximize the value you get** with your points with the next part of this guide.

Thank you and talk soon,

*Andrew & Kevin*  
Flytrippers co-founders

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Thank you!

