

PART TWO: TRAVEL REWARDS CREDIT CARDS

Disclaimer: *This content is not provided or commissioned by the credit card issuer. Opinions expressed here are author's alone, not those of the credit card issuer, and have not been reviewed, approved or otherwise endorsed by the credit card issuer. This content was accurate at the time of this post, but card terms and conditions may change at any time. This site may be compensated through the credit card issuer Affiliate Program.*

4 Ultra-High Paying Miles Rewards Cards

By Jarret DiToro
Updated: June 4th, 2016

“Credit card issuers are in such fierce competition these days to attract new customers that most have started offering outrageous deals to win you over, like huge introductory bonuses worth hundreds of dollars, and miles programs that pay more than ever before. For example, who can say no to [earning 40k miles](#) just taking a new credit card on a test drive?*

But with so many cards offering so many different potential rewards and bonuses, which cards have the best features, and which is best for your particular spend and travel habits? In order to help answer those questions, we researched all the miles rewards cards we could find, then put together the pros and cons of the best of the best below. Happy travels!!”



Image is part of this article and indicated as such.

TRAVEL REWARDS CREDIT CARDS STUDY

The Top Miles Card For Those Who Spend More Than \$1,500 Per Month



Capital One® Venture® Rewards

Industry-Leading 2 Mile Per Dollar Reward Rate. 40K Mile New-Account Bonus (essentially a free trip off the bat)

Pros: Best-in-class miles rewards rate of 2 miles per dollar of spend. Huge introductory (\$400 value) bonus offer for activating and using the card to make at least \$3,000 in purchases in the first 3 months. That's basically a free trip just for signing up and using the card for 3 months. No blackout dates, total flexibility on where you can use your miles: any airline, any hotel, any time. Rewards are redeemable for cash value. No foreign transaction fees when you use your card abroad.

Cons: The \$59 annual fee (waived for first year), although this is effectively the cost of entry to a card paying such high rewards. Requires good credit.

The Verdict: We recommend this card to anyone who will spend more than \$1,500/month, as that is when it really becomes worth it to pay the fee in exchange for the higher miles per dollar earned by the card. Because there is no annual fee in the first year, it's a great move to test the card out, earn the 40k mile bonus while in the no-fee first year, and then have the full year to decide if you spend enough per month to justify keeping the card for a second year. Bottom line, for those who spend more than \$1,500 a month, the large bonus and high ongoing miles reward rate makes the Venture Rewards a tough card to beat, and our highest-rated card in the travel category.

Recommended Credit: Good to Excellent

[More Details >](#)

TRAVEL REWARDS CREDIT CARDS STUDY

The Top Miles Card For Those Who Might Spend Less Than \$1,500 Per Month



Discover it[®] Miles

Incredible 3 Miles Per Dollar Reward Rate During First Year

Pros: Discover it Miles is our top no-fee miles reward card for a simple reason: the card will add up all the miles you earn using the card during the first year, then double them. Because the base rate is already a very high 1.5 miles per dollar, that means if you get the Discover it Miles, you'll earn an insane 3 miles per dollar throughout the first year, with no limit. You get that high a miles per dollar reward rate, and you don't have to pay an annual fee, unlike many miles rewards cards which offer far lower rewards rates. In addition, the Discover it[®] Miles has a 0% intro APR* on purchases for 14 months. There is also the option of getting a direct deposit of cash to your bank account instead of accumulating mile rewards dollars.

Cons: You trade an up-front large intro bonus for no annual fee and an intro APR on purchases for 14 months.

The Verdict: If you plan on spending more than \$1,500 per month on your card, the Discover it[®] Miles would be a good choice because of the matching miles offer at the end of the first year. If you maintain at least a 1,500 spend per month, that will net you at least 54,000 bonus miles (a \$540 value) with end of the year with your matched miles reward. There are no blackout dates on any airline anytime, and there is an unlimited 1.5 mile per dollar travel reward which can be converted to cash if you prefer. The 0% intro APR for purchases for 14 months and no annual fee are also good perks.

Recommended Credit: Good to Excellent

TRAVEL REWARDS CREDIT CARDS STUDY

Runner-Up No Fee Miles Reward Card



Capital One® VentureOne® Rewards

No Annual Fee. 1.25X Miles Rewards Rate, 20,000 Miles Bonus For New Accounts

Pros: If you don't plan on spending more than \$1,000 per month on your card, the VentureOne Rewards would come out on top because of the higher bonus offer for new accounts (for spending more than \$1,000 total in the first 3 months). The \$200 value of the bonus is quite nice, especially in the context of a no-fee card. We also like the idea of earning all those miles during the first year without paying anything in interest during the intro period.

Cons: The 1.25X miles rewards rate is lower than the Discover it Miles.

The Verdict: A great combination of no annual fee, 0% intro APR, solid miles rewards, and a nice fat 20k mile bonus.

Recommended Credit: Good to Excellent

[More Details >](#)

Authors comment:

I did not need to use this card for my travelling expenses but did plan to use it for ordinary expenses while on vacation. I was able to upgrade the Capital One® VentureOne® Rewards Card to the CapitalOne Quicksilver Cash Rewards Card. The travel points would have converted to half their value as dollars on the Travel Rewards card. On the other hand, there is no loss of points converted to cash by upgrading to the Quicksilver Rewards Card.

TRAVEL REWARDS CREDIT CARDS STUDY



BankAmericard Travel Rewards® Credit Card

No Annual Fee. 1.5 Points Per Dollar Reward Rate. 20k Point New-Account Bonus

Pros: We recommend this card to anyone who might spend less than \$1,500 per month on their credit cards. It pays a very high point per dollar reward rate (1.5) while never charging an annual fee. This means you don't have to worry about an annual fee offsetting the rewards you worked hard to earn. Rewards are also very flexible, with no blackout dates, and there are no foreign transaction fees. The BankAmericard also features an especially appealing offer for existing Bank of America account holders: if you have an account at B of A, you will be eligible to earn up to an additional 75% (which would take your points reward rate per dollar spent to 2.6!) of the base rewards rate.

Cons: Not so much a con as a question of optimizing: if you spend more than \$1,500 a month, you're better off with the Capital One Venture Rewards card.

The Verdict: High paying no fee card, highly recommended for those who either spend less than \$1,500/month on their cards, or have an existing Bank of America account.

Recommended Credit: Good to Excellent

[More Details >](#)

Summary

With so many issuers competing to offer such great incentives, it seems smart to make use of them in the right way! We hope our reviews of these cards was helpful, and if you have any comments, please don't hesitate to let us at the LendingTree Credit Card Review Team know!

Disclaimer: This content is not provided or commissioned by the credit card issuer. Opinions expressed here are author's alone, not those of the credit card issuer, and have not been reviewed, approved or otherwise endorsed by the credit card issuer. This content was accurate at the time of this post, but card terms and conditions may change at any time. This site may be compensated through the credit card issuer Affiliate Program.

** The Capital One Venture Rewards Card will pay 40,000 bonus miles after new users spend \$3,000 using the card in the first 3 months.*

TRAVEL REWARDS CREDIT CARDS STUDY

[How 5 of the most powerful travel rewards credit cards stack up](#)

Tanza Loudenback and **Skye Gould**, from **Business Insider**

Mar. 31, 2017, 10:37 AM

“... The [five largest credit issuers in the US by market share](#) — American Express, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Citibank, and Capital One — are continually one-upping each other with increasingly lucrative offers on their most powerful travel rewards cards.

Benefits often include hundreds of dollars in travel credit annually, massive sign-up bonuses, and hefty discounts on travel booking, [occasionally at the company's own expense](#).

Though three of the most elite travel cards come with a steep annual membership fee, the cost could pay for itself, provided you take full advantage of the rewards offered. For some, the new member deals are attractive enough to warrant the high fee: Put your everyday purchases on your new card and if you meet the spending threshold within the first 90 days, receive hundreds of dollars to book airfare and hotels.

And if you're not ready to fork over upwards of \$450 annually for a bevy of benefits, there's low cost, or no cost, cards that still offer pretty sweet rewards.

***“But be warned: While travel hackers have made [redeeming rewards from multiple cards](#) a modern-day art form, signing up for any credit card makes you responsible for paying off the balance, ideally in full every month. Not doing so will subject you to incredibly high interest rates and could likely damage your credit.*”**

“... See how the most premium current travel offerings from the credit behemoths stack up:” (Bold and italic type is Alison D. Gilbert’s emphasis)

TRAVEL REWARDS CREDIT CARDS STUDY

THE MOST POWERFUL TRAVEL REWARDS CARDS

	 Chase Sapphire Reserve	 Citi Prestige Card	 Platinum Card from American Express	 Bank Americard Travel Rewards Credit Card	 Venture from Capital One
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$450 Each additional card \$75/year	\$450 Each additional card \$50/year	\$550 First 3 additional cards \$175/year	\$0	\$59 Waived the first year
ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE (APR)	16.49% – 23.49%	15.99%	No traditional APR 2 months past due date, \$38 fee or 2.99% of past due amount, whichever is greater	0% for the first year, then 15.49% – 23.49%	13.49% – 23.49%
REWARDS	50,000 bonus points after spending \$4K in the first 3 months 1 point for every \$1 +2 points for every \$1 spent on travel and dining \$300 annual travel credit Points worth 50% more if you book through Chase Ultimate Rewards Transfer points 1:1 to frequent flyer and hotel loyalty partners	40,000 bonus points after spending \$4K in the first 3 months 1 point for every \$1 +1 points for every \$1 spent on dining and entertainment +2 points for every \$1 spent on airfare/hotels \$250 annual travel credit Redeem through Citi's ThankYou Rewards or transfer to partners starting at 1,000 points	60,000 bonus points after spending \$5K in the first 3 months 1 point for every \$1 +4 points for every \$1 spent on airfare/hotels \$200 annual airline fee credit \$200 annual Uber credits (\$15/month and \$35 in Dec.) and VIP status Points for shopping, travel, and gift cards through AmEX Membership rewards, or on Amazon.com	20,000 bonus points after spending \$1K in the first 3 months 1.5 points for every \$1 +1.5 points for every \$1 spent in the Travel Center +10% Customer Points Bonus on every purchase (if you have a checking, savings or IRA with Bank of America Points for a statement credit to cover travel-related purchases, or cash back starting at 2,500 points	40,000 bonus miles after spending \$3K in the first 3 months 2 miles for every \$1 Redeem miles (100 miles = \$1) for statement credit to cover travel-related purchases, to book new travel online, or as cash back or gift cards
OTHER TRAVEL PERKS	\$100 application credit for Global Entry/TSA PreCheck No foreign transaction fees Access to over 900 VIP airport lounges worldwide Special benefits during a stay at Chase's Luxury Hotel & Resort Collection	\$100 application credit for Global Entry/TSA PreCheck No foreign transaction fees Access to hundreds of Priority Pass lounges Complimentary 4th night hotel stay when you book 4 consecutive nights at any hotel booked by Citi Prestige Concierge 15% discount on Mastercard Airport Concierge services	\$100 application credit for Global Entry/TSA PreCheck No foreign transaction fees Access to over 1,000 airport lounges worldwide (including Priority Pass) Stay a min. of 2 consecutive nights at the Hotel Collection and receive a room upgrade and a \$75 hotel credit Special benefits during a stay at a Fine Hotels & Resorts location	No foreign transaction fees	No foreign transaction fees

SOURCES: JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, American Express, Bank of America, Capital One

BUSINESS INSIDER

Skye Gould/Business Insider

TRAVEL REWARDS CREDIT CARDS STUDY

Disclaimer: This content is not provided or commissioned by the credit card issuer. Opinions expressed here are author's alone, not those of the credit card issuer, and have not been reviewed, approved or otherwise endorsed by the credit card issuer. This content was accurate at the time of this post, but card terms and conditions may change at any time. This site may be compensated through the credit card issuer Affiliate Program.

This piece is a direct quote from the original Lendingtree.com article.

People are Stockpiling Miles with this Clever Shortcut

By Jarret DiToro

Updated: January 12th, 2016

Best-in-class rewards program or no annual fee. When picking a travel rewards card, you've always had to choose.

At the high end of the rewards spectrum, you have cards like the [Capital One Venture](#) or [Chase Sapphire Preferred](#). Both cards offer a generous 2 miles per dollar rewards program, but also charge annual fees between \$50 and \$95/year. If you wanted to avoid paying a fee, you had to settle for only 1.25 miles with cards such as the [Capital One Venture Rewards](#).



When the [Discover it® Miles](#) card launched claiming to break the mold by offering both best-in-class rewards and **no annual fee**, we were eager to sit down and review it.

In the end, we were impressed enough that the [Discover it® Miles](#) became our new **Editor's Choice** in the Travel Rewards Category.

TRAVEL REWARDS CREDIT CARDS STUDY



Discover it[®] Miles

Incredible 3 Miles Per Dollar Reward Rate During First Year

What We Liked

No Annual Fee + 3x Miles Rewards + No Category Restrictions You'll earn an unlimited 1.5 miles on every dollar of purchases you make with the **Discover it[®] Miles**. Even better, at the end of the first year, you'll receive an additional 100% bonus on every mile earned. So, during the entire first year, you'll be earning an **unlimited 3X** miles on every dollar you spend, in every category.

Beyond the incredibly high reward rate for a no-fee card, we liked the card's simplicity. You don't have to remember to activate any bonus categories, and the card has no rewards limits or restrictions. You simply use the card normally, and Discover automatically pays 1.5 miles with the same 100% year-end bonus.

Like any good travel card, you'll be able to travel with peace of mind; the Discover it Miles charges no foreign transaction fees. So: no annual fee, and **no foreign transaction fee**.

Additional benefits include a **0% APR** introductory interest rate during the first 14 months you have the card, and a **free FICO Credit Score** that you can access either on your monthly statement or by logging in to your account online.

Less Appropriate For: Those who spend more than \$4,000 per month on their cards. At that spend rate, it makes sense to pay an annual fee. Big spenders should look into the big bonus and high annual rewards rate of the **Capital One Venture Rewards card**.

Most Appropriate For: Anyone looking for a simple, no-fee way to stockpile miles for an entire year.

TRAVEL REWARDS CREDIT CARDS STUDY

ARTICLE CONCLUSION AND AUTHOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

There are a total of eight travel rewards credit cards mentioned in six source articles chosen without prejudice by the author that comprise this study. Each card has different features, benefits as well as pros and cons.

In many cases, a card can tailor fit a person's lifestyle, their ability to pay an annual fee, credit card charging habits and flyer frequency desires. Card companies compete fiercely for your business so research carefully to get the best deals. You can also have more than one card. But keep in mind that punctual payment is essential to reap the benefits of travel rewards cards.

Two cards are recommended four times, the most in this comparison:

- BankAmericard Travel Rewards® Credit Card
- Capital One® Venture® Rewards Credit Card

These cards are recommended twice:

- Capital One® Venture One® Rewards Credit Card
- Discover It® Miles

The remaining four cards are recommended here once each:

- Chase Sapphire Preferred
- Chase Sapphire Reserve
- Citi Privilege Card
- Platinum Card from American Express

Things to keep in mind when comparing and choosing a travel rewards card or cards:

- Do you have an account with the issuer's bank? Is that beneficial?
- Is there a yearly fee? If so, is it waived for the first year or not at all?
- How many promotional travel points can you get if you spend a given amount of money using this card within a set amount of time?
- What amount do you have to spend to get these bonus points?
- What is the ratio of points to dollars accumulated and redeemed?
- Are there any other perks with this card?
- Are there other perks?
- What are the comparative pros and cons?

TRAVEL REWARDS CREDIT CARDS STUDY

SOURCES & RESOURCES

[**Best Hassle Free Travel Card Also Has The Highest Rewards**](#)

from Greg Go, co-founder of WiseBread.com

[**Top 5 Travel Reward Credit Cards**](#) by [Jason Steele](#) for WiseBread.com

[**Capital One® Venture® Credit Card**](#) from Lendingtree.com

[**4 Ultra-High Paying Miles Rewards Cards**](#) from Lendingtree.com

[**How 5 of the most powerful travel rewards credit cards stack up**](#)

[Tanza Loudenback](#) and [Skye Gould](#), from [Business Insider](#)

[**People Are Stockpiling Miles With This Clever Shortcut**](#) from Lendingtree.com