

ARTHUR FROMMER'S

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5,000 miles for signing up for direct deposit, 2,000 miles for using electronic bill pay 12 months in a row, and 100 miles per month for every \$1,000 you keep in your checking account.
Continental: 2,000 miles for opening an account with online investment service ShareBuilder, plus 175 miles per month if you subscribe to one of the site's investment programs.
Delta: 5,000 miles for depositing \$2,500 in a new Fidelity Investments account, with incremental increases of up to 25,000 miles for a \$50,000 deposit.

Spend Time, Not Money



Earning miles usually involves buying something, but not in these cases. Answering surveys through e-miles.com and other online polling outfits, for example, can earn you 10 to 1,000 miles apiece with either AirTran, Continental, Delta, or Frontier Airlines.

Delta: 3,000 miles for attending a consultation with Ameriprise Financial.
United: 1,500 miles for receiving a no-obligation quote on auto or home-owner's insurance from Sentry Insurance.

Now, Make Those Miles Count

- 1. MONITOR THE DEALS.** Subscribe to airline e-newsletters so you'll know when the mileage needed for certain flights is lowered; a trip that normally requires 60,000 miles may suddenly be available for 40,000 miles.
- 2. BOOK IN ADVANCE.** Many airlines charge you extra if you reserve a reward ticket at the last minute. Continental, for example, charges \$75 if you're booking within 21 days of departure. You're more likely to find better availability ahead of time too.
- 3. USE YAPTA'S AWARD-SEAT TRACKER.** The website alerts you when a reward seat opens up on flights you've selected.
- 4. TRADE MILES FOR OTHER STUFF.** Miles can be exchanged for magazine subscriptions, golf clubs, electronics, and more, so take what you can get before yours expire.

Travel (Duh!)



Some of the oldest airline partners are other travel

companies, including cruise, hotel, and car-rental players.
WORD TO THE WISE To get airline miles from a cruise line, you have to book through the airline's reservations system—meaning you may pay more. Confirm that you're getting a good price at cruisecompete.com, where you pick a cruise and then agents e-mail you their best offers.

Continental: 1,500 miles for cruises lasting one to five days; up to 10,000 miles for cruises of 13 days or more. Valid with 16 different lines, including Carnival, Disney, and Royal Caribbean.
Continental: 50 miles per day with car-rental agencies Avis, Hertz, National, and Thrifty.
Delta: 250 miles for staying at a Best Western or Choice Hotels property; one mile per \$1 spent at Doubletree and Hilton hotels; two miles at Element properties.
Southwest: Half a credit per car rental at Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Hertz, and Thrifty. (But to get Southwest credits with Avis or Budget, you have to fly within 24 hours of your rental; local rentals don't count.)

TIPS ADVENTURES IN FAMILY TRAVEL

John and September Higham took their two kids on a 52-week round-the-world trip. John's memoir, *360 Degrees Longitude*, tells the story; we've got his hardest-won wisdom.

Ease kids into travel. Start with an English-speaking country and slowly introduce your kids to different cultures. Our big trip started in Europe, and then we went to Turkey and Africa.

Let the kids help set the agenda.

Katrina, who was 11 when we set off, chose the Serengeti. Jordan, who was 8, picked the Great Wall of China. The are-we-there-yets disappeared because the kids had become part of the team. Now we always take turns deciding where to spend vacations.

Pack with your kids' interests in mind, but don't

bring anything you can't tolerate losing. Jordan loves reading comic books. We brought paper and pencils so he could create his own. Katrina wanted to show the world to her stuffed animal, Tiger. Unfortunately, Tiger got lost somewhere in China.

Plan one big thing per day. Cultivate serendipity.

Kids don't care if they see every museum or church. We found it best to have one set destination and leave the rest of the day free. That's when you make the best discoveries. While hiking in Zermatt, Switzerland, we stumbled upon a playground above the tree line.

Have a policy for souvenirs. For every continent, our kids could use their normal allowance to buy one thing, which we shipped home. In each country, they also could keep one of every coin.

Don't forget about your spouse. Staying in tents and in small hotel rooms with your kids does pose a challenge for consenting adults. My wife and I had to be creative. —Interview by Thomas Berger



SLIDE SHOW
Check out more pics of the Highams at BudgetTravel.com.

