

	TD CIBC American Express	Avg. value of 1 point: \$0.0120
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Value of an Aeroplan Mile

Aeroplan ClassicFlight rewards charge you a fixed mileage level based on the region you're flying to:

- Canada & Continental US Short-haul: 15,000
- Caribbean & Central America: 40,000
- Hawaii: 45,000
- Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific: 80,000

These mileage levels remain the same throughout the year and are not tied to the actual price of a flight. But these flights are only offered with limited availability, making it harder to get a flight if you don't book far in advance. For example, a flight to New York is always 15,000 miles, even though a flight to New York in July can be \$280 while a flight at Christmas can be over \$400. Your Aeroplan miles are worth more if you fly to New York over Christmas. Another aspect that needs to be considered is that airline taxes, fees and surcharges are not included in the mileage totals and have to be paid in addition to using your miles.

Here is the methodology we used to value Aeroplan miles:

1. Look up the price of a flight online NOT on Aeroplan's website (we used www.kayak.com to find flights)
2. Find an Aeroplan flight on the same day and check the taxes, fees and surcharges for the flight
3. Take the price of the flight found online and subtract the taxes that Aeroplan would charge for a comparable flight, to find your net gain
4. Divide your net gain by the total miles required to find the value of one mile

Example: Flying Toronto to New York (JFK) in July 2014 (15,000 miles on Aeroplan)

Price of a flight found on Kayak = \$277.05

Taxes, fees and surcharges charged by Aeroplan for a flight to New York in July = \$179.41

Net Gain by redeeming your miles with Aeroplan: $\$277.05 - \$179.41 = \$97.64$ (as taxes have to be paid by cash in addition to the mileage totals, this is the dollar amount that you receive for 15,000 miles)

Value of an Aeroplan mile: $\$97.64 / 15,000 = \0.007

If you fly to New York in July, you only receive \$0.007/mile. The reason this figure is so low is that you are charged the airline taxes which negate most the value you receive by redeeming your miles for a relatively cheap flight. As you'll see in the example below, your miles are worth a lot more if you fly to New York during a busy travel time.

Example: Flying Toronto to New York (JFK) in late December 2014 (15,000 miles on Aeroplan)

Price of a flight found on Kayak = \$441.00

Taxes, fees and surcharges charged by Aeroplan for a flight to New York in late December = \$179.41

Net Gain by redeeming your miles with Aeroplan: $\$441.00 - \$179.41 = \$261.59$

Value of an Aeroplan mile: $\$261.59 / 15,000 = \0.017

In this example you receive \$0.017/mile compared to only \$0.007/mile in the example above.

Average Value of an Aeroplane Mile for each Flight Region

To provide the average value of an Aeroplane mile when flying to different destinations, we looked at each flight region and used the same method shown above. To find these results we used www.kayak.com to find flights and to factor in peak and low travel seasons we used flights from three different times in a year. Additionally, three destinations were used from each flight region to determine an average value.

As shown in the above example the value of an Aeroplane mile is dependent on flight price but we also learned that certain flight regions offer more value than others and are worth saving your miles for in some cases.

Flight Region	Miles Required	Average Value of a Mile	
Canada & Continental USA Short-haul	15,000	\$ 0.0070	Bad
Canada & Continental USA Long-haul	25,000	\$ 0.0198	Good
Mexico	40,000	\$ 0.0110	Medium
Caribbean & Central America	40,000	\$ 0.0123	Medium
Hawaii	45,000	\$ 0.0160	Good
Northern South America	50,000	\$ 0.0142	Good
Southern South America	60,000	\$ 0.0132	Good
Europe 1	60,000	\$ 0.0061	Bad
Europe 2	75,000	\$ 0.0077	Bad
Asia 1	75,000	\$ 0.0119	Medium
Middle East & North Africa	80,000	\$ 0.0090	Bad
Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific	80,000	\$ 0.0242	Good
Asia 2	90,000	\$ 0.0102	Medium
Indian Subcontinent	100,000	\$ 0.0093	Bad
East, West & South Africa	100,000	\$ 0.0088	Bad
Total Average		\$ 0.0120	

On average you receive the most value for your Aeroplane miles by flying to the Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific region. Canada & Continental USA Long-haul (Vancouver, LA, Las Vegas) and flights to Hawaii also offer great value for your miles.

Next time you are thinking of booking a flight with Aeroplane miles, follow these steps and check how much value you are receiving for your miles. If the value is low, it could be worth it to pay for that flight and save your miles for another time.