

MEN'S JOURNAL

TRAVEL

Frequent Flier Rewards Have Changed, Here's How to Maximize Your Miles

By A.C. Shilton

For years, frequent fliers have been hacking loyalty programs with one smart move: The mileage run. When a mistake fare — say a \$350 ticket to Hong Kong — popped up, mileage hoarders would hop on it, often arriving at their destination only to turn around and catch a plane back. The hours in the air paid off: When they got home they'd have enough miles to get an award ticket somewhere they really wanted to go.

But, the mileage run is no more. Most of the major American carriers have moved from "butt-in-seat" miles to five miles awarded per dollar spent. On August 1, 2016, American — the last holdout — will transition its program to this same system. "It rewards those flying in business or first class. For the low-spend traveler, it's definitely a disadvantage," says Eric Grayson, the founder of [Discover 7 Travel](#), a concierge travel service.