Southwest airlines destination finder Video Transcript

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By Ana Marie

Hi, my name is Ana, and this is a quick tutorial on how to use the Southwest Airlines destination finder. We use South West Airlines frequently for domestic travel, but what most may not consider is that they are also a good gateway airline for international travel. For example, a flight from the east cost to Europe may be considerably less departing from the west coast, so you would use Southwest Airlines to get there.

This tool is useful when I have a certain number of points in my bucket and I want to know where I can fly to with the number of points I have. Sometimes we want to be spontaneous and fly out next month for a quick family trip. Since we stack up my points monthly, I can use whatever I have in my bucket. Obviously, I want to stretch my points as far as I can. So, let’s get started.

First type in Southwest Destination Finder in your internet browser. Always pick the one that starts with Southwest.com, because there may be other similar links that take you somewhere else. I am going to click on the first one.

This tool is more for people who have flexibility in their travel. The tool will show you all the destinations you can travel for a specific number of points, but you cannot pick a specific date of return or return date. For specific travel, I would suggest strategizing your points with a travel plan. My course offers step by step guidance on how to create a travel plan. See the link at the bottom of the video to take the course.

Let’s say I just want to go somewhere. I don’t know where yet. All I know is that I have 20, 000 points for two people. Departing from Los Angeles, I move the cursor over and decrease it to 10,000 per person for a total of 20,00 points. I leave the destination empty. The system tells me I can travel to the Bay Area and Salt Lake City for 10,000 points or less roundtrip per person. Remember that that taxes are separate, which is about $6 per person each way at this time.

So, you can travel from Los Angeles to San Francisco for 6, 408 points estimated pers person roundtrip, plus taxes, about $11.20 in taxes round trip per person. Not bad! Let’s click on San Francisco, and check dates. It will bring up a calendar that may show you the same point redemptions on different dates. Such as the 9th, the 10th, or 11th, and even the 12th. This tool is very helpful when Southwest Airlines has a sale. I have seen some incredible deals where flying from San Francisco to San Diego was less than 1,000 points per person each way with some weekend availability.

Let’s say we have more points to work with. We have 40,000 points to use for two people, which is 20,000 points per person. Departing from Los Angeles, we have more options. All the red dots on the map are available in our point range. The tool will let you go up to 113,000 points per person.

So, now you get the jest of how this tool works. Well, that’s it for this video. I hope you enjoyed the video and the tool. My course is self-paced course teaches you how to plan your first trip on credit card points within 12 months or less.

We always try to earn Southwest points for the companion pass benefit which is if you earn 110,000 points in one year, you earn a buy one get one free companion pass for any travel within that year with them. You just pay taxes. This strategy works well with families with kids, where the kids can get their tickets free. Also, the free bags are very helpful with budget travel, and they fly to some great destinations such as Cancun and Cuba. Check out my blog in the notes below how you can use Southwest to get these great destinations as well.

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