

UNDERSTANDING

AVIOS

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE
AVIOS TRAVEL LOYALTY PROGRAM



— 100%

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

IN THIS GUIDE YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

Introduction — What Is Avios?

Chapter 1: The Avios Ecosystem

Chapter 2: How to Earn Avios

Chapter 3: Earning With Credit Cards

Chapter 4: How to Redeem Avios

Chapter 5: Flight Redemption Sweet Spots

Chapter 6: Avios Transfer Partners

Chapter 7: Tips to Maximize Avios

Where to Begin — Action Plan

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Summary & Conclusion

About Le Travelogist

FAQ

Next Steps With Le Travelogist



INTRODUCTION

01

WHAT IS AVIOS?

Avios is one of the world's most versatile travel currencies, shared across the **oneworld alliance** and used by British Airways, Iberia, Aer Lingus, Qatar Airways, and others.

Unlike a single-airline program, Avios is a unified points currency — earn in one program, spend in another. This flexibility makes it particularly powerful for travelers who mix multiple carriers or routes.

Key Avios fundamentals:

- Earn Avios on flights, credit card spending, hotel stays, and shopping
- Transfer between British Airways Executive Club, Iberia Plus, Qatar Privilege Club, and more
- Redeem on 14+ airline partners across oneworld and beyond
- No blackout dates on British Airways partner availability
- Points don't expire with regular account activity

"Avios rewards the traveler who thinks in routes, not airlines."

Whether you're flying London to New York, or hopping between cities in Europe, Avios offers some of the best short-haul and long-haul redemption values available today.



CHAPTER 1

02

THE AVIOS ECOSYSTEM

Avios connects you to the **oneworld alliance** and a growing set of transfer and airline partners — 14+ carriers serving thousands of destinations worldwide.

STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES	BEST USE CASES
oneworld access: BA, Iberia, Qatar, Cathay, Qantas, American, Finnair	Short-haul Europe: BA/Iberia domestic and intra-Europe flights
Unified currency — transfer freely between Avios programs	Long-haul Business Class on Qatar Airways and Cathay Pacific
Strong short-haul sweet spots (distance-based pricing)	US domestic flights via American Airlines AAdvantage (1:1 Avios)
Credit card transfers from Amex MR, Chase, and RBC Avion	Complex itineraries mixing BA short-haul + partner long-haul

The Avios Family of Programs

- **British Airways Executive Club** — flagship Avios program
- **Iberia Plus** — often cheaper rates to Spain and Latin America
- **Qatar Airways Privilege Club** — best for Middle East and Asia
- **Aer Lingus AerClub** — great for transatlantic routes
- **Finnair Plus** — Nordic and Asian routing

STRATEGY: IBERIA PLUS OFTEN PRICES THE SAME TRANSATLANTIC ROUTES 10,000–30,000 AVIOS CHEAPER THAN BRITISH AIRWAYS. ALWAYS COMPARE BOTH BEFORE BOOKING.



Flying on Avios Partner Airlines

Earn Avios on flights with British Airways, Iberia, Qatar Airways, Aer Lingus, Finnair, American Airlines, Cathay Pacific, and all oneworld partners. Earning is based on fare class and distance flown.

Credit Card Transfers — the strategic backbone

The fastest way to build a large Avios balance is through credit card transfers:

- **Amex Membership Rewards** → Avios at 1:1 ratio
- **Chase Ultimate Rewards** → British Airways Avios at 1:1
- **Citi ThankYou Points** → Avios at 1:1
- **RBC Avion** → British Airways Avios at competitive ratios

Hotel & Shopping Partners

- **Marriott Bonvoy** → Transfer to Avios (60,000 Bonvoy = 25,000 Avios)
- **British Airways Avios eStore** → Earn Avios on everyday shopping
- **Dining rewards**: Link credit card to earn at partner restaurants

Key Insight: Keep flexible points in Amex, Chase, or Citi. Transfer to your chosen Avios program only when you have a confirmed booking ready — transfers are one-way and irreversible.



CHAPTER 3

EARNING WITH CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are the most powerful earning tool for Avios — especially for travelers who don't fly constantly.

CARD / PROGRAM	TRANSFER RATIO	BEST EARNING
Amex Gold (US)	1:1 to BA/Iberia	4x dining & groceries
Amex Platinum (US)	1:1 to BA/Iberia	5x on flights
Chase Sapphire Preferred	1:1 to BA	3x dining, 2x travel
Chase Sapphire Reserve	1:1 to BA	10x hotels via portal
RBC Avion Visa Infinite	Competitive rate to BA	1.25x on all purchases
BA American Express	Direct Avios	3x on BA spend; 241 companion voucher

The British Airways 241 Companion Voucher

The **BA Amex Premium Plus** card offers one of travel's best perks: a **2-for-1 companion voucher** earned after spending £10,000 per year. This halves the Avios cost for two people on the same booking — potentially saving 50,000–150,000 Avios on long-haul Business Class.

WATCH FOR TRANSFER BONUSES FROM AMEX, CHASE, AND CITI — PERIODIC 20–30% BONUSES DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE THE VALUE OF YOUR FLEXIBLE POINTS.



Avios uses a **distance-based pricing model** — the shorter the flight, the fewer Avios required. This creates excellent value for short-haul routes and strong value on premium long-haul.

Avios Redemption Zones (British Airways)

DISTANCE (MILES)	ECONOMY	BUSINESS CLASS
0–650	4,500	9,000
651–1,151	7,500	15,000
1,152–2,000	10,000	20,000
2,001–3,000	13,000	26,000
3,001–4,000	20,000	40,000
4,001–5,500	30,000	60,000
5,501–6,500	40,000	80,000
6,501+	50,000	100,000

Important: British Airways charges carrier surcharges (YQ fees) on its own flights, which can be significant on transatlantic routes. Consider booking partner airlines through BA to avoid surcharges.

SWEET SPOT: FLIGHTS UNDER 650 MILES IN BUSINESS CLASS FOR JUST 9,000 AVIOS.
PERFECT FOR LONDON–PARIS, MADRID–LONDON, OR INTRA-EUROPE PREMIUM TRAVEL.



Best Avios Redemption Routes

ROUTE	PROGRAM TO USE	AVIOS COST	WHY IT'S GREAT
Intra-Europe Business	BA Executive Club	9,000–15,000	Short distance = low Avios
London–New York Business	Iberia Plus	~34,000	Cheaper than BA for same route
Transatlantic Business 241	BA Amex 241 Voucher	50% off	Splits cost with companion
Middle East / Asia Business	Qatar Privilege Club	Competitive	Qatar QSuites are world-class
US Domestic via AA	BA Executive Club	7,500–15,000	No fuel surcharges on AA
South America Business	Iberia Plus	~34,000	Best rates to Latin America

Avoiding Fuel Surcharges

- Book **American Airlines** flights through BA — no carrier surcharges
- Book **Iberia flights** through Iberia Plus — lower fees
- Avoid booking BA-operated transatlantic flights through BA when surcharges are high



One of Avios's most powerful features is the ability to **transfer freely between programs** in the Avios family — giving you flexibility to use whichever program has the lowest cost for your route.

Avios Family Transfer Partners (1:1)

- **British Airways Executive Club ↔ Iberia Plus**
- **British Airways ↔ Qatar Airways Privilege Club**
- **British Airways ↔ Aer Lingus AerClub**
- **British Airways ↔ Finnair Plus**

Credit Card Transfer Partners to Avios

FLEXIBLE CURRENCY	TRANSFERS TO	RATIO
Amex Membership Rewards	BA / Iberia	1:1
Chase Ultimate Rewards	BA Executive Club	1:1
Citi ThankYou Points	Avios (via BA/Iberia)	1:1
RBC Avion	British Airways	Competitive
Marriott Bonvoy	Avios (various)	3:1 (+ 5k bonus at 60k)

Key Insight: Check pricing in all Avios partner programs before booking. The same route can cost very different amounts depending on which program you book through.



CHAPTER 7

08

TIPS TO MAXIMIZE AVIOS

- Always compare pricing across BA, Iberia, Qatar, and Aer Lingus before booking
- Use Iberia Plus for transatlantic Business Class — consistently cheaper
- Book American Airlines through BA Executive Club to avoid fuel surcharges
- Target the 241 companion voucher for two-person premium cabin travel
- Keep flexible points in Amex/Chase/Citi — transfer only when booking is confirmed
- Watch for transfer bonuses: 20–30% extra during promotional periods
- Pool Avios with household members (British Airways allows up to 6 members)

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **Booking BA transatlantic without checking surcharges** — carrier fees can exceed £500
- **Ignoring Iberia Plus pricing** — often 30–40% cheaper for the same route
- **Transferring without a confirmed booking** — transfers are irreversible
- **Missing 241 companion voucher expiry** — vouchers expire after 12 months
- **Redeeming for low-value options** — always prioritize premium cabin flights

YOUR AVIOS ACTION PLAN: SET UP ACCOUNTS IN BOTH BA EXECUTIVE CLUB AND IBERIA PLUS. ALWAYS CHECK BOTH BEFORE BOOKING ANY REDEMPTION.



WHERE TO BEGIN

09

QUICK START ACTION PLAN

Start your Avios journey today:

- ✓ Create a free British Airways Executive Club account
- ✓ Create a free Iberia Plus account (same Avios, different pricing)
- ✓ Link your Avios number to every flight booking
- ✓ Get an Amex, Chase, or Citi card to build flexible points
- ✓ Set a redemption goal — pick a dream route and reverse-engineer how to get there
- ✓ Book a free strategy call with Le Travelogist for a personalized Avios roadmap

Summary

Avios is one of the most versatile and valuable currencies in travel loyalty — especially for European short-haul and transatlantic premium cabin redemptions. The key is understanding which program to book through and keeping your flexible points ready until the right opportunity appears.

Ready to Build Your Avios Strategy?

Visit letravelogist.com or book a discovery call — and let's make your Avios miles work harder for you.

Book a Free Discovery Call → letravelogist.com

FAQ & NEXT STEPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. Are Avios free to collect?

Yes. All Avios programs are free to join. Start earning immediately from your first flight or credit card transfer.

Q2. Do Avios expire?

Avios expire after 36 months of account inactivity in British Airways Executive Club. Any earning or redemption resets the clock.

Q3. Can I combine Avios from different programs?

Yes! You can transfer freely between BA Executive Club, Iberia Plus, Qatar Privilege Club, Aer Lingus AerClub, and Finnair Plus at a 1:1 ratio.

Q4. What's the best use of Avios?

Intra-Europe Business Class for short-haul, and transatlantic Business Class through Iberia Plus for long-haul — consistently the best value redemptions.

Q5. Are there fuel surcharges?

Yes, on BA-operated flights. Avoid them by booking American Airlines flights through BA, or Iberia flights through Iberia Plus.

Next Steps With Le Travelogist

Let's make your next trip your most rewarding one yet!

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