

What to check before you book through a portal

Travel portals can offer convenience, flexibility, and strong value—but not every portal booking is the best booking. Before checking out, compare your options to ensure you're deploying your points intentionally.

- **Did you compare portal pricing to booking direct?**
- **Did you compare portal pricing to transfer-partner pricing?**
- **Did you compare portal pricing to other portals?** Each portal sets their own rates, has their own earning structure for portal bookings and some offer boosted redemption rates on some bookings.
- **Are you earning enough value to justify using the portal?** Include any credits gained and points earning for the booking to gain full picture of value.
- **Do you understand who will handle changes or cancellations?** It's usually the portal, not the airline or hotel.
- **Have you reviewed cancellation policies?**
- **Have you checked whether hotel elite benefits apply?** Often, they don't.
- **Have you checked whether airline status benefits apply?** Unlike hotel bookings, many air reservations are treated as cash tickets, which means you typically earn redeemable miles and elite qualifying credit

Remember: Convenience and value
aren't always the same thing.