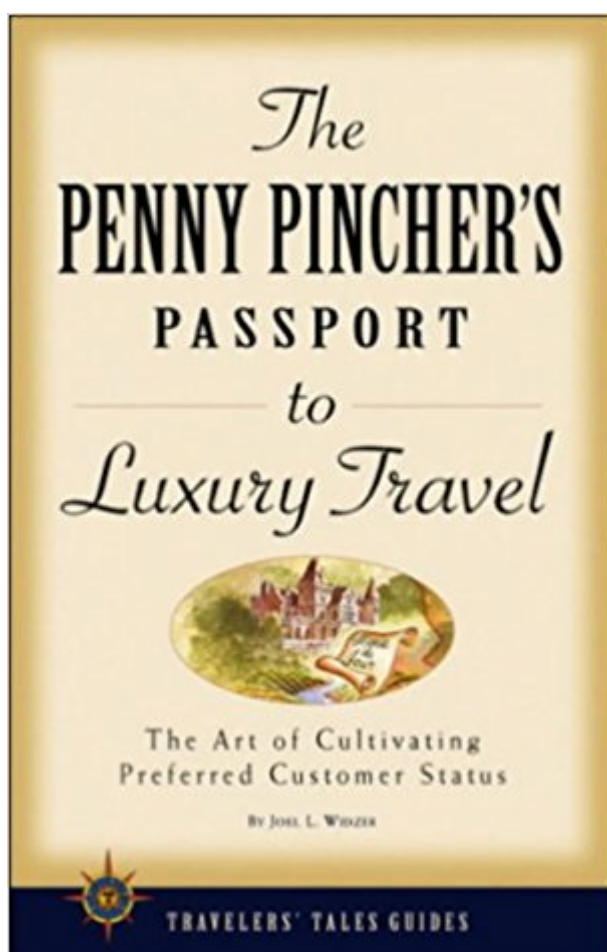


The book was found

The Penny Pincher's Passport To Luxury Travel (Travelers' Tales Guides)



Synopsis

Become a luxury traveler at a fraction of the usual cost. Discover, step by step, how to travel first-class while paying discount prices, obtain luxury service, travel to the most desirable destinations, use frequent-flyer programs to open the door to luxury travel, and cut through the confusing array of rate structures, restrictions, booking options and more.

Book Information

Series: Travelers' Tales Guides

Paperback: 242 pages

Publisher: Travelers' Tales Guides (February 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1885211317

ISBN-13: 978-1885211316

Product Dimensions: 8 x 5.1 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 61 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,809,645 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in [Books > Travel > Reference > Tips](#) #3673 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Geography > Regional](#) #12296 in [Books > Travel > Reference > General](#)

Customer Reviews

Who says loyalty isn't appreciated? Follow the advice laid out in *The Penny Pincher's Passport to Luxury Travel* and you may find yourself wallowing in the pleasures of luxury without breaking the bank--especially if you travel often and stick like glue to one company. Grateful airlines and hotels often respond to such brand loyalty with free seat or room upgrades, the first steps towards living the life of Riley at the same cost as those Joes cramped behind in coach. Widzer--with a business degree from Pepperdine, a career in marketing, and a million-mile award from his chosen airline--knows all the ropes when it comes to the business side of traveling in comfort, and explains how to ask the appropriate questions to get the desired results. If you're paying full price because you booked last minute, for example, asking for perks often gets you luxury extras. Widzer shares strategies for saving money depending on if the dollar is strong or weak; regularly obtaining airline seat, hotel room, and car rental upgrades; effectively voicing (and being compensated for) complaints, as well as knowing whom to tip when. With an appendix of travel resources, this is the book for those willing to do their homework to win the prize. --Stephanie Gold

Widzer believes in traveling in style but without paying luxury rates. He manages to achieve this using his travel experience (he flies at least 100,000 air miles each year) and his knowledge of the travel industry. By carefully maintaining customer loyalty and by knowing exactly who, how, and when to ask, Widzer manages to get much more than he pays for. Here he explains how. Arranged topically in ten chapters, clear explanations with examples detail how to leverage customer loyalty and travel mishaps. Examples and strategies attempt to cover all types of travelers, from very frequent to infrequent, but are more effective for frequent travelers. Customer service providers may find this interesting as an analysis of what quality really means to a customer. Purchase for larger public libraries. AALison Hopkins, Queens Borough P.L., Briarwood, NYC Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Instead of any "secrets" to luxury travel the author simply repeats the same common sense "if you just spend enormous amounts of money with travel providers and are nice to them, they'll be nice back" Well Duh. Of course they're nice to someone who's flown 3 Million miles with them. What about the rest of us? Further, the author shamelessly shills for all the major airlines and outright bashes Southwest and other discounters. His plugs for Delta should win him free tickets for life. Save your money. This is a page of common sense jammed into 300 page plus tome that's not worth your time.

I have been a frequent flyer with a major airline for many years and found Joel's advice and strategies to be uncommonly simple and effective. With his advice and recommended websites, I accelerated my airline elite status qualification this year and feel confident that I am paying the right fare to increase my chances of being upgraded to first class while saving time and money. In addition, I feel empowered by understanding how the travel industry operates, what their true business needs are and how to meet those needs through sincere and loyal business relationships. In addition, I wrote to Joel regarding advice for best holiday travel bargains and he replied the same day with a detailed response. I find that amazing given his demanding travel and work schedule. This book is perfect for individuals who find the travel industry frustrating and are looking to forge a new and sincere business relationship with their travel partners to reap the just rewards of high customer loyalty. The bedrock of this relationship is discipline and a long-term approach. I gave this book as a gift to friends, business executives and entrepreneurs, who travel extensively and they were delighted to receive it.

This book would be great if you are a business traveler and are allowed to keep frequent flyer miles. However, if you work for a company or public service agency that books your trips and keeps any perks for the company, this was not a helpful book. If you don't travel for business you are out of luck because the book does nothing for the average vacation traveler. It was a disappointment

Good book but took one theme and expanded on it. Not sure I could do what author suggests.

This spring, my mom gave me Dr. Widzer's book, before my first international trip to study abroad in Paris. At first, I found the information a little overwhelming, since I am new to travel. Quickly however, I began to learn about how to maximize my travel experience. I think this is in large part due to the organization of the book, the detail given, and the inclusion of fun and interesting stories about people's travel choices and experiences. Although my Paris trip was school supervised, and part of my expenses covered by a scholarship, we still had free time, our own money to spend, and were challenged to "soak in" as much of the experience as possible. Being with a group did not totally remove my trepidation about traveling without my family; and yet, I did not want to let this, or my lack of knowledge about travel, keep me from having an amazing experience. Being a student, I think reading "real" books still remains one of the best ways to learn information; and therefore reading this book, helped me understand how to manage my experience with regard to exchange rates, credit cards, cash, car rentals, communication, and tipping--just to name a few things! Because Dr. Widzer seemed to cover so many possible scenarios, his book helped give me a real sense of controlling my travel experience, rather than it controlling me. Consequently, I felt and still feel excitement about getting the most out of my travel experiences. Since reading this book, and traveling to Paris, I have already signed up for another class next summer, in Ireland. I also have a trip planned before Christmas to NYC, to spend some time with my grandmother. This gives me other opportunities to work toward my own "preferred customer status." Being on a student's budget, but still having a desire to broaden my knowledge and experience of the world, I know it is important for me to continue to use the tools outlined in this book, if I want to get my "Penny Pincher's Passport to Luxury Travel!" I found Dr. Widzer's book a great tool, insightful, fun to read, and recommend it to anyone interested in mastering his or her own travel experience!

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