Orbitz Rewards: Complete 2026 Guide

Orbitz Rewards skips the confusing points-and-miles math that most travel loyalty programs run on.

Instead, it uses a currency called Orbucks, and the exchange rate is about as simple as loyalty programs get:

1 Orbuck equals $1 off a future hotel stay booked through Orbitz. No point-value charts, no guessing what your balance is actually worth.

Here's exactly how the program works, what you'll earn, and whether it's worth signing up for.

Orbitz Rewards is owned and operated by Orbitz, a subsidiary of Expedia Group.

If you're unfamiliar with the company itself, what is Orbitz covers the basics of how the platform operates before you dive into the rewards program specifically.

The Short Version

- **It's free to join**, and you're instantly enrolled at Silver status the moment you sign up.
- **You earn Orbucks on hotels, flights, activities, and vacation packages**, with hotels and activities earning the most.
- **Booking through the Orbitz app earns more than booking on desktop**, often close to double the rate.
- **Orbucks can only be redeemed on future Orbitz hotel bookings**, not flights, cars, or other travel brands.
- **Orbucks expire, generally within about a year of being earned**, so they're not a long-term savings account.
- **Three tiers exist: Silver, Gold, and Platinum**, based on how many hotel nights you book through Orbitz each year.

How You Earn Orbucks

Orbucks post to your account automatically after an eligible booking, and the rate you earn depends on both what you're booking and how you book it.

Based on current program terms and 2026 tracking from NerdWallet and other sources, the typical structure looks like this:

Booking Type	Orbitz.com (desktop)	Orbitz App

Hotels	~3% back in Orbucks	~4% back in Orbucks
Activities (tours, museum tickets, and similar)	~3% back	~4% back
Flights	~1% back	~1-2% back
Vacation packages	~1% back	~1-2% back

Hotels and activities consistently earn the highest rate, while flights and packages earn a smaller percentage.

The app-versus-desktop gap is intentional: Orbitz consistently offers a higher earning rate for app bookings, which is a common tactic among travel and retail apps to encourage habitual app use.

A detail worth knowing if you fly often: as of mid-2026, Orbitz's Orbucks program still pays out on standalone flight bookings, while Expedia's competing.

One Key program stopped paying rewards on standalone flights starting in late July 2026, according to current tracking of Expedia Group's loyalty programs.

If flights are a meaningful part of your travel spending and you want at least some loyalty returned on them, that's a real point in Orbitz Rewards' favor right now.

How to Redeem Orbucks

This is where Orbitz Rewards is both simpler and more limited than some competing programs.

Every Orbuck you earn is worth exactly $1 toward a future hotel booking made through Orbitz, with no blackout dates on eligible bookings, according to NerdWallet's 2026 review of the program.

There's no point-value fluctuation to track and no need to calculate whether a redemption is a "good deal," the way you might with airline miles or hotel points.

The tradeoff is redemption flexibility. Unlike Expedia's broader One Key program, which lets you apply rewards toward hotels, flights, car rentals, and activities, Orbucks are hotel-only.

You can earn Orbucks on a flight or activity booking, but you can only spend them on a hotel stay.

If your travel spending is heavily weighted toward flights or car rentals rather than hotels, Orbucks will accumulate slower in usable value than a more flexible program might.

Orbitz Rewards Tiers: Silver, Gold, and Platinum

Orbitz Rewards runs three membership tiers, and unlike programs that require a minimum spend or a credit card relationship, tier status is based specifically on how many hotel nights you book through Orbitz in a year.

Silver (instant, no requirements)

Everyone starts here the moment they create a free account. Silver status includes:

- Access to "Insider Prices," member-only discounted rates not shown to non-members
- Orbucks earning on all eligible bookings
- A dedicated Orbitz Rewards customer service line, separate from general support

Gold (after 4 hotel nights in a calendar year)

Gold unlocks a meaningful step up in hotel-specific perks at participating VIP Access properties, including:

- Free Wi-Fi at eligible hotels
- Complimentary breakfast at participating properties
- Priority access to customer service
- All Silver-level benefits carried forward

Platinum (after 12 hotel nights in a calendar year)

Platinum is aimed at frequent hotel bookers and adds:

- Up to $50 a year in Orbucks reimbursement for travel expenses like seat upgrades or bag fees, according to multiple 2026 program summaries
- A credit covering the TSA PreCheck application fee (currently $85)
- Free room upgrades and early check-in where available at VIP Access properties
- All Silver and Gold benefits carried forward

Because tier status is based purely on hotel nights, someone who books a lot of flights through Orbitz but few hotel stays will stay at Silver status indefinitely, even with a healthy flight-booking history. The tiers are, in practice, a hotel loyalty structure layered onto a broader travel booking site.

Orbucks Expire, So Don't Treat Them Like Savings

This is one of the more important practical details about the program. Orbucks generally expire around one year after they're earned, and unused balances don't roll over or extend just because you keep earning more.

Rewards programs can change their expiration rules, earning rates, and redemption limits over time.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's guidance on frequent-flyer programs recommends reviewing program terms carefully, including deadlines for using accumulated rewards and any limitations on how those rewards can be redeemed.

If you're not booking hotels through Orbitz with some regularity, it's easy to lose a meaningful Orbucks balance simply by letting it sit too long.

The practical takeaway: check your Orbitz Rewards account periodically if you've been earning Orbucks, and try to redeem before older Orbucks age out, rather than letting a balance accumulate indefinitely, the way you might with a points program that has a longer or non-expiring shelf life.

Does Orbitz Rewards Affect Hotel Loyalty Points?

Worth knowing if you're also collecting points with a specific hotel chain: booking through Orbitz (or any third-party travel site) generally means you won't earn that hotel's own loyalty points or elite-night credit for the stay, since third-party bookings usually fall outside a hotel chain's direct loyalty program terms.

Before relying on rewards from a booking, it is worth reviewing the specific loyalty program's rules and limitations.

The CFPB report on consumer rewards programs highlights issues consumers can encounter with rewards, including changes in reward value, redemption limitations, and unclear program terms.

If maintaining status with a specific hotel brand matters more to you than earning Orbucks, booking directly with the hotel may be the better move for that particular trip, even if Orbitz shows a slightly lower price.

Also Read: Orbitz Rewards and Orbucks Loyalty Program Guide

Is Orbitz Rewards Worth Joining?

Since membership is free with no fees or minimum spending requirement, there's essentially no downside to signing up, even if you only book through Orbitz occasionally.

The real question is whether the program fits your travel pattern:

It's a strong fit if:

- You book hotels more often than flights or car rentals

- You want a simple, easy-to-track rewards currency without a conversion chart
- You don't mind Orbucks being hotel-only in exchange for the straightforward 1-to-1 value

It's a weaker fit if:

- Your travel spending leans heavily toward flights and car rentals rather than hotels
- You're already chasing elite status with a specific hotel chain and want to keep earning those points directly
- You want a single rewards balance that works across every kind of travel booking, which is closer to what Expedia's One Key program offers

Before you book, it's also worth checking for a current $25 off Orbitz promo code, since a direct discount can sometimes beat the value of accumulating and later redeeming Orbucks, particularly if you don't book with Orbitz often enough to reach Gold or Platinum status.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is Orbitz Rewards free to join?

Yes, membership is completely free with no fees or spending requirement, and you're automatically enrolled at Silver status as soon as you create an account.

What can I do with Orbucks?

Orbucks can only be redeemed toward future hotel bookings made through Orbitz, with no blackout dates on eligible stays. They can't be applied to flights, car rentals, or bookings on other Expedia Group sites.

Do Orbucks expire?

Yes, generally around one year after they're earned. Check your account periodically and redeem before older Orbucks age out if you're building a balance.

How do I reach Gold or Platinum status?

Status is based on hotel nights booked through Orbitz in a calendar year: 4 nights for Gold, 12 nights for Platinum. Flights, activities, and packages don't count toward tier status, even though they earn Orbucks.

Is Orbitz Rewards the same as Expedia's One Key program?

No. As of mid-2026, Orbitz Rewards remains a separate program from Expedia's One Key, even though Orbitz and Expedia are both owned by Expedia Group. Orbucks and OneKeyCash aren't interchangeable.

Does Orbitz Rewards pay out on flight bookings?

Yes, at a smaller rate than hotels, generally around 1% back in Orbucks. This is notable because Expedia's One Key program stopped paying rewards on standalone flights starting in late July 2026, making Orbitz's flight earn a real point of difference right now.

The Bottom Line

Orbitz Rewards trades flexibility for simplicity: a clean 1-Orbuck-equals-$1 exchange rate, free membership, and a straightforward three-tier structure, in exchange for redemptions that only apply to future Orbitz hotel bookings.

If your travel is hotel-heavy and you'd rather not decode a complicated points chart, it's a genuinely easy program to use well.

If you book more flights and car rentals than hotels, or you're chasing status with a specific hotel chain, you may get more value from a broader program or booking certain trips directly instead.