

ITandT Business Travel Solutions

Travel News Alert

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BRIEFING/AMERICA

Airline Fees For Reservations, Priority Seating, Food & Drinks

Last Updated: February 23, 2009

Today, picking the right airfare may not be the overall cheapest airfare. Many factors go into your total airline ticket these days, thanks to new fees being implemented by the major airlines for everything ranging from baggage to alcohol on board. These fees can add up quickly.

We have collected data on just a few of many fees the airlines have unveiled since February 2008. It's always best to contact your airline or check the contract of carriage on their website for any last-minute changes.

Please note that fees and policies are subject to change at any time.

Airline	Reservation by Phone (per person)	Priority Seat Selection	Meals	Beverages / Snacks	Alcohol
American	\$20	None	\$3-\$10	Free/None	\$6
Air Tran	\$10	\$6-\$20	None	Free	\$6
Alaska	\$15	None	\$5	Free	\$5
Continental	\$15	None	Free (flights 2+ hours)	Free	\$5
Delta	\$25	None	\$3-\$8	Free	\$7
Frontier	\$25	None	\$3-\$7	Free	\$6
Hawaiian Air	\$10-\$20	None	Free	Free	n/a
JetBlue	\$15	\$10-\$30	None	Free	\$5
Midwest	\$25	\$25-\$75	\$6-\$11	\$0-\$4	\$5
Northwest	\$20	\$5-\$35	\$7-\$10	\$0-\$5	n/a
Southwest	Free	\$10-\$30 (Business Select)	None	\$0-\$3	\$4
Spirit	\$20	\$5-\$35	None	\$2-\$4	\$6
United	\$25	\$14-\$109	\$6-\$9	Free	\$6
US Airways	\$25-\$35	\$5-\$30	\$5-\$7	Free/ \$5-\$7 Snacks	\$7
Virgin America	\$10	\$15-\$50	\$6-\$8	Free (beverages only)	\$5-\$6

Airline Checked Baggage Fee Chart

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One of the biggest fees is for oversized checked luggage. This can be up to \$175, even if your bag has only 25 pounds of clothing.

The current baggage fees apply only for travel within the contiguous 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Travelers flying to other international destinations can still check two bags for free.

As of July 1, 2008, Southwest Airlines is the only major U.S. airline that will let passengers check two bags (50 lbs or less) for free for travel within the contiguous 48 states. Alaska Airlines began charging \$25 for a second checked bag starting on this date.

Passengers who purchase full fare unrestricted coach, business class or first class tickets can also check two bags for free. Military passengers flying on active duty orders may also still check two bags for free.

If you are an elite member of a frequent flyer program on one of the major airlines, you can still check two bags for free on that carrier. Some airlines also allow passengers who are listed under the same reservation as an elite member to check up to two bags for free. Be sure to check the contract of carriage for your airline for their policies.

Continental Airlines is the only major U.S. airline that lets their One Pass Elite members (and military travelers flying on active duty orders) flying in economy class to check two bags weighing 70 lbs each for free. All other airlines charge extra for bags weighing over 50 lbs. Continental's business class and first class passengers may check up to three bags weighing up to 70 lbs for free.

Virgin America is only U.S. airline that permits your first bag for free that weighs up to 70 lbs. For all other airlines, the cutoff point is 50 lbs for the first bag.

Also note on curbside check-in, many airlines have a \$2 per bag check-in fee. Delta has a \$3 per bag fee. American Airlines dropped their \$2 curbside fee on June 15, 2008, but will start charging \$15 for the first checked bag. If you are planning to check two bags and pay the \$25 second bag fee, United and US Airways are requiring customers to bring the second bag inside to be checked. You can still check the first bag at curbside and pay a \$2 curbside check-in fee.

These are just a few of many fees the airlines have unveiled since February 2008. It's always best to contact your airline or check the contract of carriage on their website for any last-minute changes.

Airline	1st Checked Bag	2nd Checked Bag	3rd-5th Checked Bag	Curbside Check-In
American	\$15	\$25	\$100	Free
Air Canada	\$0	\$0	\$100	n/a
Air Tran	\$15	\$25	\$50	Free
Alaska	\$0	\$25	\$125	Varies
Continental	\$15	\$25	\$100	Free
Delta	\$15	\$25	\$125 3rd / \$200 4th & 5th	Free
Frontier	\$15	\$25	\$50	n/a
Hawaiian Air	\$15	\$25	\$100	n/a
JetBlue	\$0	\$20	\$75	\$2
Midwest	\$15	\$25	\$100	Free
Northwest	\$15	\$25	\$100	Varies
Southwest	\$0	\$0	\$25 / 3rd-5th \$50	Free
Spirit	\$15 online / \$25 at airport	\$25	\$100	\$2
United	\$15	\$25	\$125	\$2
US Airways	\$15	\$25	\$100	\$2
Virgin America	\$0	\$25	\$50-\$100	n/a

Airline	Overweight Bag Fee (50-70 lbs)	Overweight Bag Fee (71-99 lbs)	Oversized Bag Fee (62-80")
American	\$50	\$100	\$150
Air Canada	\$75	\$75	\$75
Air Tran	\$39	\$79	\$39-\$79
Alaska	\$50	\$50	\$50
Continental	\$50	n/a	\$100
Delta	\$90	\$175	\$175
Frontier	\$75	\$75	\$75
Hawaiian Air	\$25	n/a	\$100
JetBlue	\$50	\$100	\$75
Midwest	\$50	\$65	\$80
Northwest	\$50	n/a	\$100
Southwest	\$25	\$50	\$50
Spirit	\$50	\$100	\$100
United	\$125	\$125	\$175
US Airways	\$65-\$150	\$115-\$200	\$100
Virgin America	\$50	\$100	\$50

Airline Fees For Changes, Kids Flying Solo and Pets

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One of the biggest fees for making changes to your airline reservation is on United, US Airways, Continental, Northwest and American Airlines. The change fees on domestic tickets is \$150 per ticket. Southwest Airlines currently has no change fee.

If you purchase a ticket at, let's say, \$150 roundtrip and you are traveling with a family of four and need to make a change to your reservation, you would be out the entire \$150 per ticket or \$600 big bucks.

If you had bought your tickets on another carrier, such as Southwest, you would still receive your full 100% of your ticket value back to be used in airline credits that you can use towards another airline ticket.

If you are flying on an airline that has high change fees, a travel smart move to protect your travel dollars is with trip insurance. This usually costs about \$6 to \$8 per \$100 of your airfare, and you should protect everyone traveling on the same policy. This umbrella gives the entire group protection.

If you have to cancel your trip due to an illness or family emergency, you can receive up to \$500 back to cover your change fee. You must insure the entire amount of the airfare or vacation package or cruise.

For example, let's say you buy four airline tickets that cost a total of \$1,000 on a major airline that charges \$100 to \$150 to make a change. You would pay approximately \$60 to \$80 for the travel insurance. If you cancel your trip, the airline is going to deduct \$400 to \$600 to change your tickets. The remaining balance can be used towards a future ticket on the same airline. Your travel insurance is going to reimburse you between \$400 and \$500 as part of your coverage for your \$60 to \$80 investment.

Another benefit under the same policy can be flight delay compensation, lost or misplaced baggage insurance and compensation for hotels and meals if you must stay overnight due to flight delays.

ITandT Business Travel Solutions uses AIG insurance. They have been around for years and have really taken good care of our business clients over the years.

Airline	Change Fees	Kids Flying Solo (age 5-7)	Kids Flying Solo (age 8-11)	Kids Flying Solo (age 12-14)	Kids Flying Solo (age 15-17)	Pets Flying In Cabin
Air Tran	\$75	\$39 (nonstop or direct)	\$39 (nonstop) or \$59 (connecting)	\$39-\$59 (optional)	Call airline for options	\$69
Air Canada	\$50	n/a	\$100	\$100	\$100	n/a
Alaska	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75 (optional)	\$100
American	\$150	\$100 (nonstop or direct)	\$100 (nonstop or connecting)	\$100 (nonstop or connecting)	\$100 (optional)	\$100
Continental	\$150	\$75 (nonstop only)	\$75 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$75 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$75-\$100 (optional)	\$125
Delta	\$150	\$100 (nonstop or direct)	\$100 (nonstop or connecting)	\$100 (nonstop or connecting)	\$100 (optional)	\$150
Frontier	\$150	\$50 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$50 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$50 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$50-\$100 (optional)	n/a
Hawaiian Air	\$150	\$75 (non stop or direct) \$100 connecting	\$75 (non stop or direct) \$100 connecting	\$75 (non stop or direct) \$100 connecting	\$75 (non stop or direct) \$100 connecting (optional)	n/a
JetBlue	\$100	\$75 (nonstop or direct)	\$75 (nonstop or direct)	\$75 (nonstop or direct)	Call airline for options	\$100
Northwest	\$150	\$75 (nonstop or direct)	\$75 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$75 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$75-\$100 (optional)	\$150
Southwest	\$0	Free (nonstop or direct)	Free (nonstop or direct)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Spirit	\$90	\$100 (nonstop or direct)	\$100 (nonstop or direct)	\$100 (nonstop or direct)	\$100 (optional)	\$100
United	\$150	\$150 (nonstop or direct)	\$150 (nonstop or direct)	\$150 (optional)	\$150 (optional)	\$175
US Airways	\$150	\$100 (nonstop only)	\$100 (nonstop only)	\$100 (nonstop only)	\$100 (optional)	\$100
Virgin America	\$75	\$75 (nonstop only)	\$75 (nonstop only)	\$75 (nonstop only)	\$75 (optional)	\$100 (max 20 lbs including kennel)

American Airlines Becomes The First Major Domestic Airline to Launch Internet Service

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The world of travel has changed today as American Airlines introduces air travelers in America the first onboard internet service. Currently, American Airlines will serve the new Broad Band -Wi Fi internet on their 767-200 series aircraft between New York City and San Francisco and also between Los Angeles and Miami.

The service, called GoGo provided by Aircell, will be made available to customers as a fee based service in all cabins. Aircell will charge \$12.95 on flights more than three hours. Each paid session includes full internet service access. Cell phone and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) service are not available.

Once the plane reaches 10,000 feet, users can simply turn on their Wi Fi enable devices such as lap tops, Smart Phones and PDA's

Frequent Flyer Tickets Aren't So Free On Some Major Airlines

Last Updated: February 18, 2009

The days of earning air miles so you can earn those free tickets maybe a thing of the past similar to checking bags for free. It is amazing how the airlines hold out the carrot for free travel but then up the ante on the amount of miles needed for a free ticket or give the airlines double the amount of miles when there seem to be plenty of seats available.

But today some major airlines want you to pay processing fees for a free ticket besides the normal taxes and fuel surcharges that were all ready being imposed. Don't even think about calling the airlines to redeem your miles for a frequent flyer ticket, you will pay up front \$10-\$40 to cash in miles for an almost free ticket.

Below are some fees being charged by the major carriers:

Airlines	Award Ticketing Fee	Over the Phone Fee	Rush Fee for Awards Issued 21 Days Before Departure	Awards Ticket Change Fee	Ticket Cancellation / Mileage Redeposit Fee
Airtran	\$0 + Taxes	\$10	\$0	\$75	\$75
Alaska	\$0 + Taxes	\$15	\$0	\$100	\$100
American	\$5 + Taxes	\$20	\$50- \$100	\$150	\$150
Continental	\$0 + Taxes	\$15	\$25-\$100	\$150	\$150
Delta	\$0	\$25	\$75-\$150	\$100	\$100
Frontier	\$25	\$25	\$75	\$75	\$75
Hawaiian	\$0 + Taxes	\$10-\$20	\$0	\$30-\$50	\$30-\$150
Jetblue	\$0 + Taxes	\$15	\$0	\$100	Lost Value
Midwest	\$0 + Taxes	\$25	\$50	\$50	\$50
Northwest	\$0	\$25	\$0	\$50	\$50

Southwest	\$0 + Taxes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Spirit	\$0 + Taxes	\$0	\$0	\$70	\$70
United	\$0 + Taxes	\$25	\$75-\$100	\$150	\$150
US Airways	\$25-\$50	\$30-\$40	\$50-\$75	\$150-\$250	\$150-\$250

Car-Rental Savings Tips

Last Updated: March 2, 2009

Even though current demand is down, rates are up because rental companies have downsized considerably. Fewer people are flying, and with lower used-car prices, companies make less on vehicle resales, an important revenue source. On the other hand there are a lot fewer cars, with estimates citing industry fleet reductions of 20% just this past year. This imbalance drives up rates, which recently have run about \$12 more per day than they were a year earlier. To get a grip on your rental budget, try these strategies:

1. **Leave the airport** – Rental cars at airports, which typically have higher rates and a host of fees and taxes and a host of fees and taxes that aren't charged elsewhere, can cost three times as much as off-airport rentals.
2. **Avoid the extra** – Waivers and insurance to cover collision damage, liability and loss of personal effects can total \$25 or more per day. Yet, in many cases this coverage is already provided by your auto, homeowner's or renter's policies. A few premium credit cards might offer coverage as well.
3. **Shop around** – Rates vary among companies and outlets. Make sure to be open to alternate options, alternate vendors when renting a vehicle. Make sure you are seeing the full price, including taxes and fees, which can add 30% or more to your costs at airport locations.
4. **Look in your wallet** – Members of AARP, AAA, and Costco, as well as some credit card holders, may be entitled to discounts of 5% or more.
5. **Follow the rules** – Return your car on time or you might get hit with late fees. Don't count on a grace period. With inventory levels tight, station managers are much more keeping to the letter of the law.
6. **Fill it up** – Note the prices and locations of gas stations near your rental site so you can return your car with a full tank of gas. Otherwise, you might get stuck paying a per-gallon mark-up for refueling, and sometimes a service fee.

US Airways Backpedals On Charges For Soft Drinks

Last Updated: February 24, 2009

US Airways said that it will no longer charge \$2 for sodas, juices, bottled water and coffee. Effective on March 1, the carrier again is offering complimentary nonalcoholic beverages. US Airways become the first and only major carrier last June to charge for soft drinks to help offset soaring fuel costs.

US Airways Plans International Service From Philadelphia to Tel Aviv

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US Airways has announced that beginning July 2, 2009, they will begin new nonstop service from Philadelphia to Tel Aviv. This new service must still be approved by U.S. Department of Transportation and Israeli government. Currently, only Delta Airlines and Continental Airlines offers nonstop service from the USA to Tel Aviv.

The flight distance from Philadelphia to Tel Aviv is just over 5,700 one-way air miles. This will be US Airways longest nonstop route in their system. US Airways will use the new longer-range Air Bus A330-200 aircraft to and from Tel Aviv. From Philadelphia, US Airways will offer service to 21 transatlantic destinations.

US Airways Adds Two New Routes To Europe From Philadelphia in May 2009

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US Airways adds two new routes to Europe from Philadelphia in May 2009. Beginning May 12, 2009. US Airways will add new seasonal nonstop 757 ETOPS aircraft service from Philadelphia to Birmingham, England. This will be US Airways fourth destination to the United Kingdom.

The other tree are London Heathrow, London Gatwick and Manchester, England.

On May 21, 2009, US Airways will add new seasonal nonstop 757 ETOPS aircraft service from Philadelphia to Oslo, Norway. US Airways also serves Stockholm, Sweden. The 757 ETOPS aircraft will be configured with 12 envoy business class seats and 164 seats in the back of the bus.

New Passport Rules For Many Trips

Last Updated: March 1, 2009

Starting June 1, 2009 Americans will need to show a passport, a passport card, or other special documentation to return to the United States by land or sea from Mexico and Canada.

What You Need – Generally you need a passport to enter the United States by air from any foreign country. If you enter by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda, you may not need a passport, but you do need at least a birth certificate or other proof of citizenship, plus a government issued photo ID, such as a driver's license. Children under 18 or younger need only a birth certificate for land and sea entry from these areas.

What You Need Starting June 1 – The same rules apply for air travel – passport required. If you are arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda by land or sea, you will generally have several choices; a passport; a passport card – a new type of ID that the U.S. government began issuing last year; an enhanced driver’s license – a new, high-tech version offered by a few states; or a “Trusted Traveler” card such as SENTRI and NEXUS for frequent border crossers.

There will be exception for land and sea crossing from destinations. U.S. and Canadian children younger than 16, for example, will require only proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate. Passengers on cruise ships that sail round-trip from a U.S. port may need only a birth certificate and a government issued photo ID. You will find a summary of the current and new rules at a web site maintained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection: www.getyouhome.org