

2026 Official Update ↗ United Airlines Baggage Fees Guide - Complete Information on Checked Bag Costs and Policies

Understanding United Airlines baggage fees helps you budget accurately for your trip and avoid unexpected costs at the airport. ☎ +1/844/213/7319 United's baggage policy varies based on your destination, ticket type, and frequent flyer status. ☎ +1/844/213/7319

Knowing the rules before you pack can save you money and prevent stress during check-in.

☎ +1/844/213/7319 This comprehensive guide covers everything you need to know about United's baggage fees and policies. ☎ +1/844/213/7319

Standard Checked Baggage Fees

☎ +1/844/213/7319 For domestic flights within the United States, United charges specific fees for checked baggage depending on when and how you pay. ☎ +1/844/213/7319 The first checked bag typically costs between 30 to 35 dollars when paid online during booking or check-in. ☎ +1/844/213/7319 Paying at the airport counter usually results in higher fees, so advance payment through the United app or website saves money. ☎ +1/844/213/7319 The second checked bag costs more, usually around 40 to 45 dollars for domestic travel.

☎ +1/844/213/7319 Additional bags beyond the second one incur progressively higher charges. ☎ +1/844/213/7319

International Baggage Allowances

☎ +1/844/213/7319 International flight baggage policies differ based on your destination region and fare class. Flights to Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America often include at least one free checked bag. ☎ +1/844/213/7319 Premium cabin passengers such as United One or First Class typically receive two free checked bags with higher weight limits.

☎ +1/844/213/7319 Transatlantic and transpacific routes generally offer more generous baggage allowances than shorter international flights. ☎ +1/844/213/7319 Always verify your specific route's baggage policy during booking to understand what is included.

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Weight and Size Restrictions

☎ +1/844/213/7319 Standard checked bags must not exceed 50 pounds in weight and 62 linear inches in total dimensions. Linear inches are calculated by adding length, width, and height together. ☎ +1/844/213/7319 Bags weighing between 51 and 70 pounds incur overweight fees ranging from 100 to 200 dollars depending on your route.

☎ +1/844/213/7319 Bags exceeding 70 pounds or 80 linear inches may be refused or charged significantly higher fees. ☎ +1/844/213/7319 Weighing your luggage at home before heading to the airport prevents costly surprises. ☎ +1/844/213/7319

Free Baggage for Elite Members

📞 +1/844/213/7319 United MileagePlus Medallion members enjoy complimentary checked baggage as part of their elite status benefits. Silver Medallion members receive one free checked bag on domestic flights. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Gold, Platinum, and Diamond Medallion members receive two free checked bags with higher weight allowances.

📞 +1/844/213/7319 This benefit alone can save frequent travelers hundreds of dollars annually. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Elite status benefits apply to the member and up to eight companions on the same reservation. 📞 +1/844/213/7319

Credit Card Baggage Benefits

📞 +1/844/213/7319 Certain United co-branded credit cards provide free checked bag benefits for cardholders and companions traveling on the same reservation.

📞 +1/844/213/7319 This perk applies to the primary cardmember and up to eight additional passengers on the booking. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 The annual savings from free checked bags often exceed the credit card annual fee for families or frequent travelers. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 You must purchase your ticket with the eligible credit card to receive the free baggage benefit. 📞 +1/844/213/7319

Carry-On Baggage Rules

📞 +1/844/213/7319 United allows all passengers one free carry-on bag and one personal item regardless of ticket type. Your carry-on must fit in the overhead bin and not exceed 22 by 14 by 9 inches. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Personal items include purses, laptop bags, or small backpacks that fit under the seat in front of you. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Basic Economy passengers have the same carry-on allowance as other economy passengers on United.

📞 +1/844/213/7319 Properly sizing your carry-on luggage ensures smooth boarding without gate-check fees. 📞 +1/844/213/7319

Special Item Fees

📞 +1/844/213/7319 Sports equipment, musical instruments, and other special items have specific fees and handling requirements. Golf bags, skis, and surfboards may be checked for standard baggage fees if they meet size requirements. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Oversized sports equipment exceeding standard dimensions incurs additional charges. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Musical instruments can be brought as carry-on items if they fit in overhead bins, or you can purchase a seat for larger instruments. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Pet carriers count as either carry-on items or checked baggage depending on size and destination. 📞 +1/844/213/7319

Military and Active Duty Exemptions

📞 +1/844/213/7319 Active U.S. military personnel traveling on orders receive generous baggage allowances including up to five free checked bags. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Military dependents traveling on the same orders also qualify for additional free baggage.

📞 +1/844/213/7319 Proper military identification and documentation must be presented at check-in to receive these benefits. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 This exemption recognizes the service and sacrifice of military families. 📞 +1/844/213/7319

How to Pay Baggage Fees

📞 +1/844/213/7319 Paying baggage fees online during booking or through the United app typically offers the lowest rates. Airport counter and kiosk payments may cost more than advance online payment. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 United accepts credit cards, debit cards, and digital payment methods for baggage fees. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Prepaying for bags when you book your flight guarantees the lower online rate and speeds up airport check-in. 📞 +1/844/213/7319

Baggage Fee Waivers and Exceptions

📞 +1/844/213/7319 Certain circumstances allow for baggage fee waivers beyond standard elite status and credit card benefits. Passengers requiring medical equipment or assistive devices can check these items free of charge. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Infants traveling with adults do not receive a separate baggage allowance but can check strollers and car seats free. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Some promotional fares or special booking codes may include complimentary checked baggage. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Always review your specific ticket's terms and conditions for included baggage allowances. 📞 +1/844/213/7319

Conclusion on United Baggage Fees

📞 +1/844/213/7319 Understanding United's baggage fee structure helps you plan and budget effectively for your travel. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Whether you pay standard fees, earn exemptions through elite status, or utilize credit card benefits, knowing your options saves money. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 Always weigh and measure your bags before arriving at the airport to avoid unexpected overweight charges. 📞 +1/844/213/7319 For the most current baggage fees and policies, visit the official United Airlines website or contact customer service for assistance.