

**The World's Worst Airline Fees**

**Worst Fees Ever**

Axis Travel staff are updated on these fees, many applied in Australia, but many more are applicable overseas when it might be too late for you to negotiate or argue with if you do not use our Agency booking services. Since 1978, We have built our reputation on reading the huge volume of conditions (and their changes!) and translating complex Airline (and Hotel/Cruise/Tour/Carhire etc) conditions and "offers" into palatable and easy to understand logic for our valued clients. **Qantas, Virgin, Emirates, Etihad, Singapore, Qatar, Cathay Pacific, United, American, Jetstar and others** are the latest in introducing new fees and conditions that most travellers are not aware of or being alerted to properly. **Below are the most hated airline fees.**

**EXAMPLES: Airlines ex Australia and internally:** On Economy fares, if you buy the lowest fares you can get the inability to change flights, upgrade or earn Frequent Flyer points or request seating, plus add Credit card surcharges and very onerous change fees (if ticket allows this ) then add long wait times on their phone systems , and extra fees if chatting with an Airline booking agent. You get the picture! Even Premium Economy, Business and First Class fares are now based on conditions . Logically, wasting time on one Airline website or phonecall **will get you just that- a one Airline cost on fares, routes and schedules , whereas booking** with Axis Travel will give you the entire available Airline choice of fares, routes, schedules, conditions, special offers without the waiting time . Why bother with a suppliers only solo product and bias when Axis Travel can deliver simple transparency of conditions noting items to be aware of, secured with the unique "BOOKSAFE©™ " moneta protection scheme that protects your monies should an Airline or any Supplier booked via Axis Travel Centre goes bust , which the Airlines and other suppliers do not and cannot offer clients. BOOKSAFE©™ is FREE to our clients for all suppliers we book.

**1. Basic Economy Fares**

United Airlines recently announced it would start selling these ultra-low fares. But it took this to its basest level by making it the most restrictive in the industry. Those buying these fares can't choose a seat in advance and -- the kicker -- can only bring one carry-on item that fit underneath the seat in front of them and they **can't** use the overhead bins. Budget carriers like Ryanair and EasyJet have built their businesses on a basic economy fare platform charging for almost everything once travelers buy their fares.

**2. Checked Luggage Fee** Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based ultra-low-cost carrier Spirit Airlines decided to start charging passengers to check their bags in 2007. At the time, it was considered heresy, but once their competitors saw how much money the carrier was raking in, others followed suit. Fees range from \$15 to \$45 for first bags, depending on the airline. International carriers including Air Canada, WestJet, Ryanair and Norwegian also charge for bags at fees ranging from \$35 to more than \$100, depending on when they are booked. Southwest Airlines is now the only domestic U.S. carrier to allow travelers to bring two checked bags for free.

**3. Carry-on Bag Fee** In 2010, Spirit Airlines again shocked the industry by charging passengers to bring on a larger carry-on bag that fits into an overhead bin. The carrier charges \$35 when booking a flight online, but that fee jumps to \$100 if you pay the fee at the gate. Iceland-based Wow Air charges \$40.99 for a larger carry on when booking a flight or \$99.99 at the gate.

**4. Choosing Seats** Many airlines still allow you to choose your seat, but if you want to guarantee a better seat (like in exit rows, bulkheads or "more room" products), you're going to have to pay. Prices are based on the length of the flight, but can range from \$25 to \$200. International budget carriers like Malaysia's Air Asia, Spain's Vueling and Brazil's Azul also charge for seat selection. Dubai-based Emirates began charging for seat selection in October 2016.

**5. Priority Boarding** You may not be able to afford to sit in business or first class, but the airlines will let you board your flight with that elite group -- for a fee. Those who pay get on before the rest of the economy class passengers, with the chance to snag precious overhead bin space and the ability to be among the first off the plane. Rates depend on the length of the flight, but range from \$30 to more than \$100.

**6. Ticket Changes** Gone are the days when if you needed to change a date or cancel a ticket, it could be done for free. Now, most airlines charge a fee that ranges from \$50 to \$150 -- and possibly the fare difference -- for changes and/or cancellations. And some -- like Spirit and Ireland's Ryanair -- do not offer refunds in any circumstances.

**7. Food and Snacks** As part of the cuts, carriers began dropping the traditional free meals and snacks served in coach class. In 2003, Atlanta-based carrier Delta Air Lines became the first carrier to actually charge passengers for snack boxes. Other carriers followed suit, creating buy-onboard snack boxes and bistro-styled meals at prices ranging from \$2.99 to more than \$10. The practice has spread to the rest of the world, with British Airways announcing it w



removing free food and snacks on its shorter flights to match what's being sold onboard by competitors EasyJet and FlyBe.

**8. Pillows and Blankets** In 2004, Delta Air Lines announced that it was removing these staple items from its flights as part of continued cost-cutting efforts. Again most airlines followed suit on domestic flights. JetBlue is the only U.S. airline that sells them, charging \$6 for a Claritin pillow and \$5 for an Arm & Hammer blanket that travelers can keep

### 9. Speaking to Customer Service Via Phone

Before the internet, most travelers booked their flights either via a travel agency or by calling an airline directly. A helpful agent would ask questions and present options. They would also make changes if requested. But the internet allowed everyone to book their own flights and make their own changes. Airlines saw that and realized they could cut the number of agents they needed. They also realized they could make people pay if they really wanted to speak to someone over the phone, charging anywhere from \$15 to \$25 USD and more for the privilege.

## 1. American Airlines

### Ticketing Fees

- Non-refundable ticket change fee: \$200
- Same-day change fee: \$75
- Reservation by phone fee: \$25 domestic, \$35 international
- Reservation (ticket issue) at airport or city ticket offices, including. Admirals Club: \$35 domestic, \$45 international
- Unaccompanied minor fee: \$150+ tax each way (up to 14 years old)

### Baggage Fees

- First checked bag fee: \$25 (free to most international destinations)
- Second checked bag fee: \$35
- Additional bags fee: \$150 each
- Overweight bags: \$100 for 51-70 lbs; \$200 for 71-100 lbs
- Oversize bags: \$200
- Pet Fees: In-cabin: \$125, Checked: \$200

### Frequent Flier/AAdvantage Fees

- AAdvantage award processing: \$75 if booked 20 or fewer days before departure
- Date/itinerary change: \$75-\$150 (waived for Executive Platinum)
- Redeposit Miles: \$150 (all additional award tickets returning to same account at same time are \$25 each)
- Same-day change fee: \$75

### Other Fees

- Preferred Seats: \$4-\$139 per flight; "Main Cabin Extra" seats \$20-\$195 per flight.
- Priority Boarding Fee: Group 1 boarding \$15 - \$40

## 2. Delta Air Lines

### Ticketing Fees

- Non-refundable ticket change fee: \$200 (up to \$450 on some international fares)
- Same day change fee: \$50
- Reservation by phone or ticket office fee: \$25-\$35
- Unaccompanied minor fee: \$150+ ticket fare each way

### Baggage Fees

- Carry on bag: Free
- First checked bag fee: \$25 (\$0 to international destinations except Canada and Caribbean)
- Second checked bag fee: \$35 (\$40-\$100 for some international destinations)
- Additional bags fee: \$150 for third bag; \$200 each for bags 4-10
- Overweight bags: \$100 for 51-70lbs; \$200 for 71-100lbs
- Oversize bags: \$150-\$300
- Pet Fees: In-cabin: \$125 - \$200, Checked: \$200

### Frequent Flier/Sky Club Fees

- In phone/in person ticketing: \$25



- Date/itinerary change: \$150 (warning! no changes/cancellations are permitted within 72 hours of departure all miles forfeited)
- Redeposit Miles: \$150, Same day change fee: \$50

#### Other Fees

- Preferred Seats: Varies per flight.
- Priority Boarding Fee: \$15 per flight

### 3. United Airlines

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#### Ticketing Fees

- Non-refundable ticket change fee: \$200
- Same-day change fee: \$75, Reservation by phone fee: \$25
- Unaccompanied minor fee: \$150

#### Baggage Fees

- Carry on bag: Free
- First checked bag fee: \$25, Second checked bag fee: \$35, Additional bags fee: \$150 each (up to \$200 on some international routes)
- Overweight bags: \$100 51-70lbs; \$200 71-100lbs (up to \$400 on some international routes)
- Oversize bags: \$200 (up to \$200 on some international routes)
- Pet fee: \$125 in cabin; Checked pets - [check current rates here](#)

#### Frequent Flier/Mileage Plus Fees

- Last-minute ticketing: \$75 if booked within 21 days of departure (Free to \$50 for freq flyer members with status)
- In phone/in person ticketing: \$25
- Date/itinerary change: \$75 if made 21 or more days prior to travel; \$100 if made less than 21 days (lower or no fees for frequent flyer members with status)
- Redeposit Miles: Depends on number of miles - [Check this chart](#)
- Same day change fee: \$75

#### Other Fees

- Seat Selection Fee: None, unless you choose an extra-legroom seat.
- Other Fees: "Premier access" fee (priority check-in, TSA lines, and boarding) \$9 and up per flight.

A Southwest Airlines interior. Photo y Kevin Dooley, via Wikimedia Commons

### 4. Southwest Airlines

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#### Ticketing Fees

- Non-refundable ticket change fee: Free
- Same day change fee: None but any fare difference will apply
- Reservation by phone fee: Free
- Unaccompanied minor fee: \$50 each way (up to 12)

#### Baggage Fees

- Carry on bag: Free
- First checked bag: Free, Second checked bag: Free, Additional bags fee: \$50 each for 3-9 bags; \$110 each for more. Overweight bags: \$75. Oversize bags: \$75
- Pet Fees: In-cabin: \$95, Checked: not allowed

#### Frequent Flier/Rapid Rewards Fees

- In phone/in person ticketing: \$0
- Date/itinerary change: \$0 (but any fare difference will apply)
- Redeposit Miles: \$ 0. Same day change fee: Depends on type of award and possible point difference

#### Other Fees

- Seat Selection Fee: None
- Priority Boarding Fee: Early Bird check-in \$12.50 each way

### 5. JetBlue

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#### Ticketing Fees

- Non-refundable ticket change fee: \$75-\$150 depending on cost of ticket.



- Same-day change fee: \$50 for Blue, Blue Plus and Mint fares
- Reservation by phone fee: \$20
- Unaccompanied minor fee: \$100

**Baggage Fees**

- Checked bag: Free for Blue Plus, Blue Flex and Mint fares; for Blue fares, \$20 when purchased during web check-in or at a kiosk, or \$25 at the check-in counter.
- First checked bag: Free, Second checked bag: \$50 ,Additional bags fee: \$100 each
- Overweight bags: \$100 for 51-99lbs, Oversize bags: \$100
- Pet flight fee: \$100

**Frequent Flier/True Blue Fees**

- In phone/in person ticketing: \$25
- Redeposit Miles: \$50-\$100
- Same day change fee: \$50

**Other Fees**

- Seat Selection Fee: "Even More Space" seats with extra legroom: \$10-\$90 per flight.
- Even More Speed expedited security screening (at available airports) \$10-\$14 for Blue and Blue Plus fares.

**6. Alaska Airlines**

**Ticketing Fees**

- Preferred Plus seats, \$15-\$50
- Call center ticketing fee, \$15
- Paper itinerary mailing fee, \$5
- Partner award booking fee, \$12.50
- Same-day confirmed changes, \$25
- Change/cancellation fee for changes made less than 60 days prior to ticketed flight departure, \$125
- Ticket receipt research fee, \$20
- Unaccompanied minor service fee, \$25-\$50
- Pet travel fee, \$100
- Left on board item return fee, \$20

**Baggage Fees**

- First bag, \$25 for bags that weigh up to 50 lbs and have a maximum dimension of 62" (linear). Second bag, \$25., Third bag, \$75. Bags that weigh 51-100 lbs , \$75.
- Bags with linear dimension of 63-115" (linear), \$75.

**7. Spirit Airlines**

- Boarding pass printed by Airport Kiosk \$2 per boarding pass printed
- Boarding pass printed at Airport Agent \$10 per boarding pass printed
- Unaccompanied Minors (Price includes snack and beverage) \$100 per customer, each way
- Pet Transportation (Limit 4 pets total in cabin) \$110 per pet container, each way
- Reservation Center Booking (including packages) \$35 per booking
- Group Booking \$5 per booking
- Spirit Assigned Seating at Check In, Free
- Customer-Requested Seat Assignments / Regular Seats \$1 to \$50
- Big Front Seats (in advance) \$12 to \$199
- Big Front Seats (onboard upgrades—depending on flight length) \$25 to \$75



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