

United Airlines Flight Change Fee — Complete Policy Guide

What Does It Cost to Change a United Flight? Fees by Fare Type, Same-Day Policy & When It's Always Free

For flight change fee questions, call United Airlines:

■ United Flight Change Fee Help — 24/7:
+1-844-213-7319 ■ United MileagePlus & Medallion
Priority: +1-844-213-7319 ■ International Callers:
+1-844-569-1450

Understanding United's flight change fee policy can save you hundreds of dollars. Since United permanently eliminated most change fees in 2020, the rules have fundamentally changed — but there are still important nuances around fare differences, same-day changes, and Basic Economy restrictions. This guide answers every question about what it costs to change a United flight in 2024–2025. For immediate help, call **+1-844-213-7319** available 24/7.

Does United Charge a Flight Change Fee?

No. United Airlines eliminated flight change fees permanently in October 2020 for Main Cabin and above tickets originating in the US, Canada, and Caribbean. You will not pay a change penalty. If your new flight costs more, you pay only the fare difference. Call +1-844-213-7319 to confirm your ticket's change eligibility.

United's removal of change fees was one of the most significant airline policy changes in decades. Previously, changing a United ticket cost \$200–\$500 in fees alone. Today, there is zero change penalty for qualifying fare types. The only cost is the fare difference — the price gap between your original ticket and the new flight you want.

What Is the United Flight Change Fee for Basic Economy? United Basic

Economy tickets cannot be changed under standard policy — there is no change option, not just a fee waiver. Within 24 hours of booking, you can cancel for a full refund. During active travel waivers (weather events), Basic Economy may become changeable. Call +1-844-213-7319 to ask about current waivers.

Basic Economy is United's most affordable and most restrictive fare. The trade-off for the lower price is

zero flexibility after the 24-hour free cancellation window. The only exceptions are: (1) active travel waivers for weather or operational disruptions, and (2) compassionate exceptions handled case-by-case by supervisors at +1-844-213-7319.

What Is a Fare Difference and How Is It Calculated?

A fare difference is the price gap between your original ticket and the new flight you want. If the new flight costs more, you pay the difference. If it costs less, you receive a United eCredit. There is no additional fee on top of this. Call +1-844-213-7319 for an exact fare difference quote before confirming any change.

- **New flight costs \$80 more:** You pay exactly \$80. No other fees.
- **New flight costs \$60 less:** You receive a \$60 United eCredit to your MileagePlus account.
- **New flight costs the same:** Change is completely free — no payment required.
- **Upgrading cabin class:** You pay the full fare difference between your current cabin and the new one.
- Always ask the agent at +1-844-213-7319 to compare nearby dates — a shift of 1–2 days often eliminates the fare difference entirely.

What Is the Same-Day Flight Change Fee on United?

The Same-Day Confirmed Change fee is \$75 per person for domestic flights. Platinum and Diamond Medallion members get Same-Day Confirmed Changes free. Same-Day Standby is always free for all eligible passengers. Request via the Fly United app or call +1-844-213-7319.

Step 1. Call **+1-844-213-7319** or open the Fly United app starting the evening before your departure.

Step 2. Tell the agent (or select in-app): **Same-Day Confirmed Change** to guarantee a seat on a different same-day flight. Fee: \$75 (waived for Platinum/Diamond Medallion).

Step 3. Or select **Same-Day Standby (free)** — you are added to the waitlist for an earlier flight. No charge; your original flight remains as backup.

Step 4. Confirm your choice. For Same-Day Confirmed, your new boarding pass is issued immediately.

Step 5. If requesting at the airport, go directly to the United gate agent or ticket counter before boarding begins.

Is the United Change Fee Waived for Weather or Emergencies? Yes. United

issues travel waivers during weather events allowing free changes for all fare types — including Basic Economy. Medical and bereavement exceptions are handled case-by-case by supervisors. Check [United.com/travelalerts](https://www.united.com/travelalerts) or call +1-844-213-7319 to apply an active waiver.

When a major storm threatens an airport or region, United publishes a waiver at [United.com/travelalerts](https://www.united.com/travelalerts) that allows one free rebooking within a 14-day window — waiving both the change fee (already \$0) and the fare difference. For medical or personal emergencies, call +1-844-213-7319 and ask for a supervisor who can evaluate your situation.

■ Check for Active Travel Waivers — Call Now: +1-844-213-7319

How Much Does It Cost to Change a United Flight Last Minute? Changing a United flight last minute incurs no additional penalty beyond the standard fare difference. Same-Day Confirmed Changes cost \$75 for most passengers. For flights already departed, no changes are possible. Call +1-844-213-7319 immediately for last-minute help.

Last-minute changes follow the same no-fee structure. The practical challenge is that flights near departure often have very limited seat availability priced at premium fares — making fare differences potentially larger. The most cost-effective last-minute option is Same-Day Standby (free) if you need an earlier flight.

Does United Charge a Change Fee for International Flights? No. United's no-change-fee policy applies to international tickets in Main Cabin and above originating from the US. Fare differences may still apply based on international pricing. For international changes involving partner airlines, call +1-844-213-7319 or +1-844-569-1450 for international callers.

International fare differences can be significant due to complex pricing structures. Tickets involving partner airlines (Air France, KLM, Virgin Atlantic) may require coordination between carriers. Always request a full fare quote before confirming any international change.

Is It Free to Change a United Flight Within 24 Hours of Booking? Yes.

Under the DOT 24-hour rule, you can cancel any United ticket within 24 hours of booking for a full cash refund — free of any fee — as long as the flight departs at least 7 days after purchase. Cancel, then rebook with correct details. Call +1-844-213-7319.

The 24-hour rule is the most powerful passenger protection available. Rather than changing directly, cancel for a full refund and immediately rebook with your preferred dates or corrected passenger name. The window is exactly 24 hours from payment confirmation — not 24 hours before the flight. Act quickly at +1-844-213-7319 if you need to use this rule.

How Does the United Change Fee Compare to Other Airlines? United has one of the best change fee policies in the industry — \$0 for most tickets. American and United have

similar no-fee policies. Southwest has no change fees on any fare. Spirit and Frontier still charge fees up to \$119. United's \$75 same-day change fee is standard among major carriers.

- **United Airlines:** \$0 change fee (Main Cabin+). \$75 same-day confirmed. Call +1-844-213-7319.
- **American Airlines:** \$0 change fee (Main Cabin+). \$75 same-day confirmed.
- **United Airlines:** \$0 change fee (Economy+). \$75 same-day confirmed.
- **Southwest Airlines:** \$0 always — no change fees on any fare class.
- **Spirit Airlines:** Up to \$119 change fee depending on timing.
- **Frontier Airlines:** Up to \$79 change fee. Free if cancelled 60+ days before.

What Happens to My eCredit When I Change to a Cheaper Flight? When you change to a cheaper United flight, the fare difference is issued as a United eCredit to your MileagePlus account automatically. eCredits issued after May 2022 do not expire. Apply eCredits to any future United booking at United.com or by calling +1-844-213-7319.

United eCredits equal the exact fare difference between your original ticket and the new one. To use your eCredit: log in at United.com, search for a flight, and on the payment screen click 'Apply a Travel Credit or Certificate.' Your eCredit balance appears automatically. If you have trouble finding or applying your eCredit, call +1-844-213-7319 and an agent can apply it manually.

Can Medallion Members Change United Flights for Free? Yes. All MileagePlus Medallion members change flights with no penalty fee. Platinum and Diamond Medallion members also get Same-Day Confirmed Changes free (normally \$75). Call the MileagePlus priority line at +1-844-213-7319 for priority service.

Medallion status provides priority phone routing and enhanced change flexibility. Platinum and Diamond members have the greatest flexibility — zero fees on all changes including same-day confirmed. Always call +1-844-213-7319 rather than the general line for faster service and to ensure your status benefits are applied correctly.

■ Medallion Members — Priority Change Line: +1-844-213-7319

Are There Any Hidden Fees When Changing a United Flight? No hidden fees apply. The only potential costs are: (1) the fare difference if the new flight costs more, and (2) the \$75 same-day confirmed change fee if applicable. United does not charge reissuance, processing, or service fees. Call +1-844-213-7319 to confirm.

United's change policy is transparent. The fare difference is shown clearly before you confirm any change online or over the phone. If an agent ever mentions fees beyond the fare difference or the \$75 same-day fee, ask them to clarify and escalate to a supervisor if the fee seems incorrect.

What Should I Ask Before Confirming a United Flight Change?

Before confirming, ask your United agent: (1) What is the exact fare difference? (2) Is there an active travel waiver covering my booking? (3) Is the fare the same if I shift by 1–2 days? (4) Will my eCredit be issued immediately? Call +1-844-213-7319 and ask these four questions.

These questions can save you significant money. Agents at +1-844-213-7319 run fare comparisons across multiple dates in real time. Sometimes a shift of one day eliminates the entire fare difference. Always confirm your eCredit amount before ending the call if changing to a cheaper flight.

Can I Avoid a Fare Difference When Changing My United Flight? Yes — by choosing a new flight priced the same or lower than your original ticket. Use United's Flexible Dates calendar on United.com to compare prices across the month. Flying Tuesday or Wednesday typically offers the lowest fares. Call +1-844-213-7319 for help finding a zero-difference alternative.

The Flexible Dates tool at United.com shows the lowest available fare for every day of the month at a glance. Shifting your trip by 1–3 days to a lower-demand day can eliminate the fare difference entirely. Mid-week departures (Tuesday/Wednesday) are consistently 20–30% lower than peak days (Friday/Sunday).

Who Do I Call to Change My United Flight?

Call United Airlines at +1-844-213-7319 — available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For MileagePlus award ticket changes, call +1-844-213-7319. International callers use +1-844-569-1450. Changes can also be made online at United.com or via the Fly United app.

The fastest way to reach a live agent is to call +1-844-213-7319 and say 'Agent' when the automated system answers. Early morning calls (before 8 AM Eastern) have the shortest hold times. Medallion members calling +1-844-213-7319 are routed to a priority queue with shorter waits and greater authority to handle complex requests.

United Flight Change Fee — Complete Reference Table

Main Cabin / Comfort+ / First / United MileagePlus	\$0	Fare difference if higher	+1-844-213-7319
Basic Economy (standard)	Not changeable	N/A	+1-844-213-7319
Basic Economy (with travel waiver)	\$0 (waiver)	None	+1-844-213-7319
Same-Day Confirmed (general)	\$75	None	+1-844-213-7319
Same-Day Confirmed (Platinum/Diamond)	\$0 (status)	None	+1-844-213-7319

Same-Day Standby (all eligible)	\$0	None	+1-844-213-7319
Award ticket (MileagePlus)	\$0	Miles difference if higher	+1-844-213-7319
Within 24 hrs of book (cancel+rebo	\$0 (full refund)	None	+1-844-213-7319

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the United flight change fee in 2024?

A: United's flight change fee is \$0 for Main Cabin and above tickets. There is no penalty fee — only a fare difference if your new flight costs more. Basic Economy cannot be changed under standard policy. Call +1-844-213-7319 to verify your specific ticket.

Q: Does United waive change fees for medical emergencies?

A: United handles medical requests case-by-case. Supervisors at +1-844-213-7319 can waive fare differences for documented medical situations. Have your documentation ready when calling.

Q: Can I change a United flight within 24 hours for free?

A: Within 24 hours of purchase (flight must be 7+ days away), cancel for a full cash refund and rebook at no fee. For same-day travel, the \$75 Same-Day Confirmed Change or free Same-Day Standby applies.

Q: How do I avoid the same-day change fee on United?

A: Use Same-Day Standby instead of Same-Day Confirmed Change. Standby is always free — you board if a seat opens. Alternatively, reach Platinum or Diamond Medallion status for free confirmed same-day changes.

Q: Is the United change fee the same for round trips?

A: Round trips are treated as two separate segments. Changing one direction does not affect the other. Each changed segment is evaluated for fare difference independently. Call +1-844-213-7319 for round-trip change pricing.

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This article is for informational purposes only. United Air Lines policies are subject to change. Always verify the latest information at [United.com](https://www.united.com) or by calling +1-844-213-7319.