

What Happens If I Miss My United Airlines Flight?

United Missed Flight Guide — What to Do Immediately, Same-Day Rebooking, Flat Tire Rule, Fees and Next Steps

If you missed your United flight, call immediately:

**■ United Airlines Missed Flight — Call 24/7:
+1-844-213-7319 ■ United MileagePlus and Medallion
Members: +1-844-213-7319 ■ International Callers —
United: +1-844-569-1450**

Missing a United Airlines flight is a stressful experience — but it is more manageable than most passengers expect. United has a structured process for missed flights that includes same-day standby, rebooking options, and in some cases no additional fees. Whether you missed due to traffic, a late connecting flight, a TSA delay, or oversleeping, this guide tells you exactly what to do in the next 30 minutes. The most important first step: call **+1-844-213-7319** or go directly to the United gate or ticket counter right now.

Does United Have a Policy for Passengers Who Miss Their Flight? United applies an informal 'flat tire rule' for missed flights — agents can rebook you on the next available flight, often at no extra charge, if you act quickly and have a reasonable explanation. This is not a published guarantee but is widely applied. Call +1-844-213-7319 or go to the ticket counter immediately.

United's approach to missed flights is more flexible than many passengers realize. The flat tire rule means agents often rebook passengers who missed due to traffic, delays, or other reasonable circumstances without charging a fee. This is standard practice for agents who have discretionary authority. The key: act before your plane departs and be at the airport rather than on the phone.

What Should I Do Immediately If I Miss My United Flight? If you miss your United flight, act within the next 5-10 minutes: call +1-844-213-7319 or go directly to the United ticket counter or gate. Tell the agent you missed your flight and want to rebook. Do not leave the airport — speed matters.

Step 1. If still at airport: Go directly to the United ticket counter or gate agent **RIGHT NOW** — before the plane departs if possible.

Step 2. If not at airport yet: Call **+1-844-213-7319** immediately. Tell the agent your flight number, that you will miss your departure, and ask about next available options.

Step 3. At the counter: say **'I missed flight DL [XXX] to [destination]. I need to rebook on the next available flight.'**

Step 4. The agent will check whether your original flight has departed, next available flights, and your fare type for rebooking rules.

Step 5. If the flat tire rule is applied (agent discretion), you may be rebooked at no charge. Ask: 'Is there any charge to rebook?'

Step 6. Accept Same-Day Standby (free) or Same-Day Confirmed Change (\$75) for same-day options.

Step 7. If the gate is still open and the plane has not pushed back: go to the gate — agents can sometimes get you on the flight.

■ Call United Right Now — Missed Flight Help: +1-844-213-7319

Will United Rebook Me for Free If I Miss My Flight?

United may rebook you for free under the informal flat tire rule if you act quickly, have a reasonable explanation, and the missed flight was not a complete no-show. Rebooking is more likely to be free when you are at the airport and speak to an agent in person. Call +1-844-213-7319 or go to the ticket counter immediately.

The flat tire rule is discretionary — applied by agents for passengers who: (a) arrive within about 2 hours of their scheduled departure, (b) have a plausible reason such as traffic or TSA delays, and (c) ask politely and specifically. For passengers who did not check in at all (a complete no-show), the ticket value is forfeited and a new ticket must be purchased — the flat tire rule typically does not apply to full no-shows.

What Is United's Flat Tire Rule?

United's flat tire rule is an informal policy where gate or ticket counter agents rebook passengers who miss a flight due to unforeseen circumstances at no extra charge. It is not published policy but is standard industry practice. Act fast, be at the airport, and call +1-844-213-7319.

The flat tire rule works best when: (1) you arrive at the airport within 2 hours of your scheduled departure, (2) you speak to an agent in person rather than by phone, (3) you are respectful and explain your situation clearly, and (4) your fare type is Main Cabin or above. Basic Economy passengers have less flexibility and the rule is less consistently applied. There is no guarantee — agents use judgment.

Can I Get on a Later United Flight the Same Day If I Miss Mine?

Yes. United's Same-Day Standby allows you to join the standby list for a later same-day flight to the

same destination at no charge. You board if a seat opens. Or pay \$75 for Same-Day Confirmed Change to guarantee a seat. Call +1-844-213-7319 or use the Fly United app.

Same-Day Standby is free — you are waitlisted and board only if space opens. Same-Day Confirmed Change costs \$75 but guarantees a seat on a specific later flight. Platinum and Diamond Medallion members get Same-Day Confirmed Changes free. Request via the Fly United app, at the airport ticket counter, or by calling +1-844-213-7319.

What Happens to My Connecting Flights If I Miss One Segment? If you

miss a connecting flight as part of a United itinerary, United will rebook you on the next available connection at no charge IF United's delay caused the miss. If you missed through your own fault, call +1-844-213-7319 immediately — agents often apply the flat tire rule for reasonable circumstances.

Two key scenarios: (1) **United caused the missed connection** (first flight was delayed) — United is obligated to rebook you at no charge. Go to the connecting gate or a United service desk immediately. (2) **You caused the missed connection** — call +1-844-213-7319 and explain what happened. Agents often apply the flat tire rule for plausible circumstances.

■ Missed Connection — Call United Now: +1-844-213-7319

Will I Lose the Rest of My Itinerary If I Miss One United Flight? Yes — if you are a no-show and do not contact United, the airline automatically cancels all remaining segments of your booking. To protect the rest of your trip, call +1-844-213-7319 BEFORE your missed flight's departure time if possible.

Airlines automatically cancel onward segments when a passenger is a no-show on the first segment. This is the most damaging consequence of missing a flight — not just the flight you missed, but every subsequent flight on the booking. The fix: call +1-844-213-7319 and say 'I will miss flight DL [XXX] — please protect my remaining itinerary while I rebook the missed segment.' Agents can hold your booking to prevent automatic cancellation.

Does Missing a United Flight Affect My MileagePlus?

Missing a United flight does not affect your existing MileagePlus balance. Miles are only credited when you fly — the missed segment earns nothing. If you rebook on a longer routing, you may earn more miles. For MileagePlus questions, call +1-844-213-7319.

Your MileagePlus balance is safe regardless of a missed flight. Medallion Qualifying Miles and Medallion Qualifying Dollars are only earned for completed segments. If you rebook on a different route, miles earned may increase or decrease based on the new segment distance.

Can I Get a Refund If I Miss My United Flight?

For non-refundable tickets: no cash refund, but a United eCredit for the unused value is available if you cancel before the flight departs. After departure (no-show): zero value. For refundable tickets: a full cash refund anytime before departure. Call +1-844-213-7319 or +1-844-213-7319 before your flight departs.

The critical window: if you know you will miss your flight and it has not yet departed, call +1-844-213-7319 and cancel immediately. For non-refundable tickets, cancelling before departure preserves the full ticket value as an eCredit. After the plane departs and you are marked as a no-show, your ticket has zero residual value.

What Happens If I Miss an International United Flight?

Missing an international United flight follows the same general rules, but consequences are greater — next available international flights may be hours or days away, and fare differences for rebooking can be substantial. Call +1-844-213-7319 or +1-844-569-1450 (international) immediately.

For missed international flights, call +1-844-569-1450 the moment you realize you will miss the flight. Ask the agent to: (1) protect your remaining itinerary segments, (2) check the next available flight to your destination, and (3) confirm whether any fare difference applies. International seat availability is more limited — acting fast is especially critical for international misses.

How Do I Avoid a Fee When Rebooking After Missing a United Flight?

To avoid fees after missing: (1) get to the ticket counter before the flight departs, (2) explain your situation clearly and invoke the flat tire rule if needed, (3) use Same-Day Standby (free) rather than paying for a new ticket. Call +1-844-213-7319 immediately.

- **Act before departure:** The sooner you engage United, the more free options exist.
- **Be at the airport in person:** Counter agents have more flexibility than phone agents.
- **Use exact language:** 'I missed my flight due to [reason] and I would like to be rebooked under the flat tire rule.'
- **Request Same-Day Standby (free):** Avoid paying \$75 for confirmed same-day if you can wait for standby.
- **Medallion members:** Call +1-844-213-7319 — priority handling and free Same-Day Confirmed Changes (Platinum/Diamond).
- **Do not buy a new ticket yet** — try all free or low-cost options first.

What Is a No-Show Policy on United Airlines?

A United no-show occurs when a passenger does not check in and does not contact the airline before their flight departs. No-show tickets are forfeited — no eCredit, no refund, and all remaining booking segments are automatically cancelled. Always call +1-844-213-7319 before your flight departs if you

know you will miss it.

The no-show policy is the harshest outcome and is entirely avoidable. Even a call to +1-844-213-7319 30 seconds before departure — saying 'I am missing this flight, please do not cancel my booking' — can preserve your ticket value as an eCredit. Always call before your scheduled departure time.

Does Travel Insurance Cover a Missed United Flight?

Many travel insurance policies cover missed flights if the cause was outside your control — accident, severe weather, documented medical emergency, or public transport failure. Check your policy for 'trip interruption' and 'missed connection' coverage. Call your insurer immediately after a missed flight.

For travel insurance claims: (1) get documentation from United about any delay or cancellation that contributed, (2) keep all receipts for additional accommodation and transport, (3) file the claim within the required window (often 24-72 hours). Travel insurance is most effective when the miss was caused by a documented external event.

Can I Call United to Rebook After Missing My Flight?

Yes. Call +1-844-213-7319 (24/7) immediately after missing your flight. Provide your PNR, flight number, and explain what happened. Ask for rebooking on the next available flight. Medallion members call +1-844-213-7319 for priority handling. International callers use +1-844-569-1450.

Phone agents at +1-844-213-7319 have access to all available United flights and can rebook you in real time. The earlier you call, the more same-day options remain available. Have your PNR ready before calling — this allows the agent to pull up your booking instantly and begin searching alternatives without delay.

Missed United Flight — Quick Action Guide

At airport, flight not departed	Go to gate or ticket counter NOW (flat tire)		
At airport, flight just departed	Ticket counter — same-day standby / \$75 confirmed		
Not at airport, will miss flight	Call United NOW before departure		+1-844-213-7319
Missed connection (United carrier)	Go to service desk at connecting airport		+1-844-213-7319
Missed connection (you fault)	Call immediately, explain situation		+1-844-213-7319
Missed international flight	Call immediately — intl options		+1-844-569-1450

MileagePlus Medallion member	Call priority line for fast rebook same-day		
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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What happens if I miss my United flight?

A: Your ticket is not automatically forfeited. Act immediately — go to the ticket counter or call +1-844-213-7319. Agents can rebook you on the next available flight, sometimes for free under the flat tire rule. Do not leave the airport.

Q: Will United rebook me if I miss my flight?

A: Yes — United agents can rebook you on the next available flight. If you act before the plane departs and have a reasonable explanation, rebooking is often free under the flat tire rule. Same-Day Standby is always free. Call +1-844-213-7319 immediately.

Q: Can I get a refund if I miss my United flight?

A: Only if you cancel BEFORE the plane departs. For non-refundable tickets, cancelling before departure gives you a full United eCredit. After the flight departs and you are a no-show, the ticket has zero value. Act before departure.

Q: What is United's flat tire rule?

A: An informal policy where United agents rebook passengers who miss a flight due to unforeseen circumstances — traffic, car trouble — at no charge, especially if you arrive within 2 hours of departure. Not a published guarantee but widely applied at the airport ticket counter.

Q: Will missing one United flight cancel all my other flights?

A: Yes — if you are a no-show, United automatically cancels all remaining segments. Call +1-844-213-7319 before your missed flight's departure and ask agents to protect your remaining itinerary to prevent this.

■ Missed United Flight — Call 24/7 Right Now:

+1-844-213-7319 ■ United MileagePlus and Medallion Priority:

+1-844-213-7319 ■ International Callers: +1-844-569-1450

This article is for informational purposes only. United Air Lines policies are subject to change. Always verify the latest information at United.com or by calling +1-844-213-7319.