



Alaska Baggage Fees Explained: Save More on Your Trip

Baggage costs can quickly increase the total price of an airline ticket, especially when travelers check multiple bags or carry oversized luggage. Understanding baggage fees alaska rules before heading to the airport can help you plan your packing and avoid unexpected expenses.

Alaska Airlines' checked-bag fees depend on factors such as the number of bags, route, travel date, fare, loyalty status, and applicable benefits. The airline also provides baggage benefits for certain First Class passengers, eligible Atmos Rewards members, credit cardholders, military travelers, and customers using specific programs.

Baggage Fees Alaska

Carry-On Baggage

One of the easiest ways to avoid checked-bag charges is to use Alaska Airlines' carry-on allowance. Alaska currently includes a carry-on bag and a personal item with its domestic travel experiences, including Saver, Main Cabin, Premium Class, and First Class.

A personal item can generally be a small bag that fits under the seat, while the carry-on should fit in the aircraft's overhead compartment. Travelers should check the airline's current size requirements before packing because aircraft and route restrictions can sometimes affect what can be brought onboard.

Packing efficiently and using your free carry-on allowance can be an effective way to reduce total baggage expenses.



Current Checked Baggage Fees

For flights on Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines in North America booked on or after April 10, 2026, Alaska announced higher standard checked-bag fees. The first checked bag is \$45, the second is \$55, and the third and additional bags are \$200 each. These amounts can vary for special routes, fare types, and qualifying customers.

Because baggage policies can change, travelers should verify the applicable fee for their exact itinerary before departure. The baggage fees alaska travelers pay may also differ when special benefits or exemptions apply.

Why Baggage Fees Vary?

There is no single baggage charge that applies to every Alaska Airlines passenger. The final cost can depend on your route, ticket type, number of bags, loyalty status, credit card benefits, military eligibility, and whether the bag exceeds standard size or weight limits.

Some international itineraries also include checked bags depending on the destination and fare. For example, Alaska's international travel information currently shows one checked bag for certain London and Rome itineraries and two checked bags for Japan and Korea itineraries under specified fare experiences.

If you are already considering a First Class upgrade, compare the total ticket price and the value of included baggage before making your decision. For travelers with several bags, included baggage benefits can make a higher fare more attractive.

An advertisement for Alaska Airlines' First Class checked baggage policy. The background shows an airport tarmac with an Alaska Airlines plane and a woman in a business suit holding a ticket. In the foreground, two suitcases are shown with labels 'BAG 1: FREE' and 'BAG 2: FREE'. A sign above the suitcases states 'Weight: 70 lbs' and '2 Bags: \$0 Fee'. A diagram on the right illustrates the value equation: Ticket Price + 2 Checked Bags = Overall Value.

Atmos Rewards and Cardholder Benefits

Frequent Alaska Airlines travelers may be able to reduce baggage expenses through loyalty benefits or an eligible Alaska Airlines credit card. Alaska states that Atmos Rewards status members and eligible cardholders continue to receive their applicable baggage benefits following the 2026 fee changes. These benefits can be particularly valuable for travelers who check bags frequently. Before booking, review your account and card benefits to determine whether your reservation qualifies for free checked baggage.

Military Baggage Benefits

Eligible U.S. military travelers can receive special baggage benefits on Alaska Airlines. Alaska has previously stated that qualifying U.S. military members can receive a free first checked bag, subject to applicable military baggage rules and documentation.

Military travelers should review the latest requirements before departure and carry the appropriate identification or documentation. Additional military baggage benefits may depend on whether the journey is official duty or personal travel.

Oversized and Overweight Bags

Packing too much into one suitcase can create additional charges. Alaska's current fee update lists an \$200 oversized bag fee. For bags that are both oversized and overweight, Alaska lists fees of \$300 for bags up to 70 pounds and \$400 for bags weighing 71–100 pounds.

To avoid these charges, weigh your luggage before leaving home and measure the bag carefully. Distributing belongings between multiple permitted bags may sometimes be more economical than paying an oversized or overweight fee.

