

# Airline Baggage Fees on the Rise: How Much Will Travelers Pay in 2024?

This month, the news that American Airlines was bumping its baggage fees was just another string of increases that North American consumers will have to endure when they start planning travel this year.

While frequent travelers tend to stick with carry-ons, a practice that might be on the way out if you believe some consumer publications, airlines are still bringing in tons via baggage fees. According to a report from IdeaWorksCompany, a consultancy for airline ancillary revenues, and car rental firm CarTrawler. That number could increase even more with just the increases announced so far.

Here's an airline-by-airline breakdown of just how much travelers might pay for checked baggage on some of the major North American carriers:



## **Alaska Airlines**

Alaska was the first of the major carriers to announce a 2024 baggage fee price hike.

Alaska now charges \$35 for the first bag and \$45 for the second bag for all standard tickets. Just like most other major carriers, Alaska allows branded credit card holders or Elite level Mileage Plan members, to have free checked bags.

## **American Airlines**

American Airlines was the second major U.S. carrier in 2024 to increase bag fees, an announcement it made at the same time that it revealed its AAdvantage preferred agency change.

For traveling within the U.S., the first checked bag is \$40 and the second is \$35. American does offer a \$5 discount on the first checked bag if paid in advance.

For travel to/from Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, and Guyana, the first checked bag is \$35 and the second is \$40.

American's other international bag fees depend on the destination. Transatlantic and transpacific flight tickets, excluding those in basic economy, get one bag for free. The second bag on those flights is \$75.

## **Delta Air Lines**

Delta Air Lines quietly bumped its checked baggage fees in March, joining other major carriers who have done the same this year.

"Beginning March 5, Delta will increase fees for first and second checked bags by \$5 for most U.S.-originating domestic and short-haul international routes," Delta said in a statement to TMR.

The first checked bag for most passengers will now be \$35, up from \$30 and the second will be \$45, up from \$40. The increase is for new tickets—anyone previously booked will pay the old prices even if their flights are scheduled for after March 5.

## **JetBlue**

How much you pay on JetBlue flights largely depends on what type of fare your ticket is on.

For JetBlue's Blue Basic, Blue, and Blue Extra, the first checked bag is \$35 if booked in advance, and \$45 if booked within 24 hours of departure. The second is \$50 or \$60 if booked within 24 hours of departure.

Blue Plus, Mint, and Mosaic ticketholders get their first bags for free. For Blue Plus, the second bag is \$50 if booked in advance or \$60

## **Southwest**

Southwest does not charge for the first or second checked bags unless the bags are overweight (51 pounds or above). If bags are above 50 pounds, Southwest charges \$100 per bag. If bags are above 70 pounds, that charge goes up to \$125.

## Baggage fees 2024 (con't.)

### Southwest

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### United Airlines

All passengers on new bookings with United will be charged an extra \$5 for their first and second checked bags—the first checked bag for United economy passengers on domestic flights will cost \$40 while the second checked bag will cost \$45 when paid in advance, and \$50 when paid at the airport.

Similar to American, certain United loyalty program or credit card members can get their first checked bag for free, including United Chase credit card holders and MileagePlus Premier members. Those with premium cabin tickets can also check a bag for free.

United has a bag fee calculator on its website for passengers to see exactly how much it would cost ahead of time.



### UPGRADE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH ROYALUP

Your clients, are about to get an upgrade with RoyalUp! In just a few simple steps, your clients could score a fantastic upgrade - from Ocean View and Balcony staterooms to the most expansive suites at sea. Just like a Royal Caribbean adventure, the possibilities are endless

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Browse the selection of stateroom and suite categories, along with their associated minimum bids.

#### STEP 2

Select the dollar amount you are willing to spend on the upgrade and put a credit card on file.

#### STEP 3

Keep an eye on your inbox — you'll be notified whether your bid was accepted at least 2 days before sailing.

#### Tips to get you started:

- Make sure you are **signed up** for our marketing emails at <https://secure.royalcaribbean.com/dealsandmore/signup/email.do>.
- Sailing leaving within 45 days and want to see if you're eligible to upgrade? Visit <https://www.royalcaribbean.com/experience/cruise-room-upgrade>.

#### More Important Notes:

- Making bids across multiple categories increases your chances — you'll only pay for the bid that is accepted on one upgrade. Bids are priced per person and based on two guests per stateroom. Only the first two guests will be charged, even if four are sailing.
- Royal Up is now additionally accessible through the "Manage my Reservations" page!
- Your travel advisor can handle the entire bidding process for you — so all you have to do is eagerly anticipate your Royal Caribbean adventure!

# GROUPS 2024 AND 2025

## **APRIL 28, 2024-GREAT TRAINS and GRAND CANYON**

Highlights: Two rail journeys, Grand Canyon, Sedona, trolley tour and the Chapel of the Holy Cross. Five nights at the Hilton Sedona, five breakfasts and three dinners, all sightseeing and round-trip air fare. Rate is \$3,399.00 per person double occupancy.

## **JUNE 9, 2024-UTAH'S MIGHTY NATIONAL PARKS**

Highlights: Arches, Capital and Canyonlands National Parks, Monument Valley, Canyonlands by night and wine tasting. Six nights hotel, six breakfasts, one lunch and three dinners, all sightseeing and round-trip air fare. Rate is \$3,625.00 per person double occupancy.

## **JUNE 9, 2024-SAIL CELEBRITY ECLIPSE TO BERMUDA**

Sail on the revolutionized Celebrity Eclipse from Cape Liberty (Bayonne) and spend three glorious days in Bermuda. Your cruise includes accommodations in a balcony cabin, all meals (except for specialty restaurants), beverage package, wi-fi, gratuities and all current port and government taxes. Rate is \$1,859.00 per person double occupancy. NO PASSPORT is required. Must book by January 19<sup>th</sup>!

## **SEPTEMBER 4, 2024-BLACK HILLS, MT. RUSHMORE, and BADLANDS**

Highlights: Mt. Rushmore by day and night, Devil's Tower, Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer State Park and Buffalo Jeep Safari. Six nights hotel, six breakfasts and four dinners, all sightseeing and round-trip air fare. Rate is \$3,395.00 per person double occupancy.

## **OCTOBER 13, 2024-NATIONAL PARKS and CANYONS of the SOUTHWEST**

Highlights: Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park Tram and Hoover Dam. Two nights in Las Vegas and three nights in Mesquite, five breakfasts, one lunch and two dinners, all sightseeing and round-trip air fare. Rate is \$3,395.00 per person double occupancy.

## **OCTOBER 20, 2024-SUNNY PORTUGAL (with optional 4-night Madeira Island extension)**

Highlights: Lisbon, Belem, Cork Factory, Evora, Winery visit, Alentejo, Lagos, Algarve, Silves, Setubal, Obidos, and Sintra. Includes eight breakfasts, three lunches and three dinners, all included sightseeing, all current air taxes and fees along with transfers t/from Newark and round-trip airfare. Bookings must be made by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Rate is \$3,999.00 per person double occupancy. PASSPORT IS REQUIRED.

## **MARCH 3, 2025-ALASKA'S NORTHERN LIGHTS**

Highlights: Anchorage, Northern Lights excursions, Winter Glacier cruise, Prince William Sound, Talkeetna, Alaska Railroad, Fairbanks, and Dog mushing. Two nights in Anchorage, one in Talkeetna and three in Fairbanks, six breakfasts, one lunch and four dinners. With just 12-24 passengers, this is a personal journey and adventure that today's cultural explorers dream of. Rate is \$4,999.00 per person double occupancy including all above and air fare to/from Newark with transfers.

## **NOVEMBER 25, 2025-ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS ABOARD AMA REINA (Nuremburg to Budapest)**

Travel back through centuries as you walk along cobblestone streets through grand cities and historic towns bedecked with twinkling Christmas trees and lined with wooden huts gleaming with handcrafted

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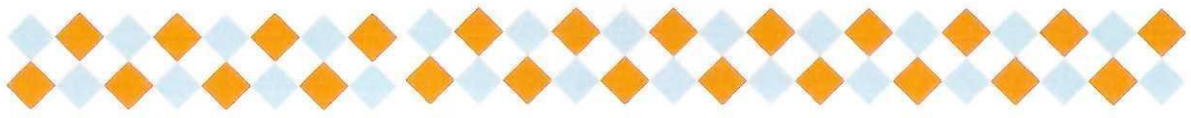
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**Please note:**  
**Brazil will require visas for North Americans, Canadians and Australians**

Starting April 10, 2024, all U.S., Canadian, and Australian citizens will need a visa to enter Brazil. The Brazilian visa will be valid for 90 days and can be requested for tourism, business, study, transit purposes, artistic or sporting activities, among other unpaid activities or for those with no intention of residing/immigrating to the country. The request can be made online or in person at a Consular Office

# Come See the Manatees!



Sea cows. Herbivores of the ocean. There are lots of ways to describe Florida manatees, but we're just happy to have them around. Manatee Appreciation Day is the last Wednesday in March, but that's not the only time for us to show you why



we're mad about manatees and how you can help us protect them.

Fun fact: Manatees are big (up to 1,000 pounds), but they don't have much blubber, which means they're not big fans of the cold. When it's warm out, they'll float around coastal Gulf waters and in the back bay. When the temperature dips below 68°F or so, they head inland to warmer rivers and canals.

Between January and March, Manatee Park in Fort Myers is one of the best places to see manatees bobbing around their natural habitat. Consistently warm water flows from nearby Florida Power and Light Power Station into the Orange River, which connects

## *Tropicana Las Vegas to Close April 2nd*



## *Making Way for a Baseball Stadium*

The Tropicana Las Vegas will cease operations on April 2, and the hotel will be demolished to make way for a 30,000-seat Major League ballpark where the Athletics (A's) would play.

An integrated resort-and-ballpark complex would rise on the southeast intersection of Tropicana Avenue and the Las Vegas Strip. The A's, which are moving to Las Vegas from Oakland, Calif., have not released updated ballpark renderings or detailed how they plan to pay for the facility, which reportedly has a price tag of \$1.5 billion.

Bally's Corp. acquired the Tropicana from real estate investment trust Gaming and Leisure Properties Inc. for \$308 million in 2021, with Bally's leasing the land underlying the hotel as part of the transaction. An agreement reached last year between Bally's, Gaming and Leisure Properties and the Oakland A's indicated the stadium would occupy about nine acres of the 35-acre site.

The Tropicana opened on April 4, 1957. Constructed for \$15 million, it was the most expensive Las Vegas resort built up to that time.



## Saucepan Chocolate Cookies

To start, you don't need any equipment other than a saucepan. Plus, these cookies are crisp around the edges, gooey on the inside,

Level: Easy  
Total: 30 min  
Active: 10 min  
Yield: 12 cookies

### Ingredients:

1/2 cup (1 stick) salted butter  
1/3 cup packed brown sugar  
1/3 cup powdered sugar  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
1 large egg  
1 cup dark chocolate chips  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 teaspoon sea salt

### Directions:

- 1 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment.
- 2 Melt the butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat until lightly bubbling. Remove from the heat. Whisk in the brown sugar and powdered sugar until combined with the butter. Whisk in the vanilla and egg. Add 2/3 cup of the chocolate chips and fold with a spatula until almost completely melted. Stir in the flour, baking soda and salt until completely combined.
- 3 Using a tablespoon scoop, place mounded balls onto the parchment-lined baking sheet. Push in the remaining 1/3 cup chocolate chips. Bake until the edges are crisp and the centers are still slightly gooey, 10 to 12 minutes. Allow them to cool slightly before enjoying.

