

Southwest Cancellation Fees Explained: How Much It Really Costs to Cancel

 **Fee Calculator Hotline: 1-844-565-1867** (Know Exact Costs Before You Cancel!)

Quick Fee Overview

Cancellation costs vary dramatically by ticket type. Here's what you'll actually pay:

Ticket Type	Within 24 Hrs	After 24 Hrs	What You Get
Basic Economy	FREE	Forfeit ticket	Nothing
Non-Refundable	FREE	\$99-\$199	eCredit
Refundable	FREE	\$200-\$400	Cash refund
Award Ticket	FREE	\$150	Miles back

 **Calculate your exact fee:** Call **1-844-565-1867** with confirmation number.

Basic Economy: The Harsh Reality

What You Lose:

-  **After 24 hours:** Entire ticket value forfeited
-  No eCredit, no refund, nothing
-  Cannot change, cannot cancel

Only Exception:

-  Within 24 hours of booking (if flight is 7+ days away)
-  Southwest cancels the flight (you get refund)

Real Cost Example:

- Paid: \$150 for Basic Economy
- Cancel after 24 hours: **Lose entire \$150**

 **Bought Basic Economy by mistake?** Call **1-844-565-1867** within 24 hours to cancel free.

Non-Refundable Tickets: The Math

Domestic Flights:

Cancellation fee: \$99-\$199

eCredit: Ticket value minus fee

Expiration: 1 year from original booking date

Example:

- Original ticket: \$300
 - Cancellation fee: -\$99
 - **eCredit received: \$201**
 - Valid for 1 year
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International Flights:

Cancellation fee: \$199-\$499

eCredit: Remaining value

Example:

- Original ticket: \$800
- Cancellation fee: -\$299
- **eCredit received: \$501**

 **Get exact fee quote:** Call **1-844-565-1867** before canceling.

Refundable Tickets: Still Have Fees

Common Misconception:

"Refundable = free cancellation" **✗ WRONG**

Actual Cost:

Domestic: \$200-\$300 cancellation fee

International: \$300-\$400 cancellation fee

Refund: To original payment method (minus fee)

Example:

- Refundable ticket: \$450
- Cancel after 24 hours: -\$250 fee
- **Refund received: \$200**

When Refundable Makes Sense:

- ✓ Uncertain travel plans
 - ✓ Business travel that might change
 - ✓ Booking far in advance
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Award Tickets (SkyMiles): The Redeposit Fee

Standard Fee:

\$150 to get miles back + cash taxes refunded

Example:

- Used 25,000 miles + \$50 taxes
 - Cancel: Pay \$150 fee
 - Get back: 25,000 miles + \$50 refund
 - **Net cost: \$150**
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Fee WAIVED For:

- ✓ **Diamond Medallion** members
- ✓ **Platinum Medallion** members
- ✓ **Gold Medallion** members
- ✓ **Silver Medallion** members
- ✓ **Southwest Reserve AmEx** cardholders
- ✓ Within 24 hours (everyone)

Medallion advantage: Can cancel award tickets risk-free anytime!

☎ **Have status?** Call **1-844-565-1867** to cancel with no fee.

Hidden Costs Beyond Cancellation Fees

📦 **Cost #1: Price Increases**

When you cancel and rebook later:

- Original fare: \$250
 - New fare (same route): \$380
 - Cancellation fee: \$99
 - **Total extra cost: \$229**
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Cost #2: Expiring eCredits

- eCredit expires in 1 year
- Forget to use it = **lose entire value**
- Can't extend expiration

Real loss:

- eCredit value: \$400
 - Forgot to use: **Lost \$400**
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Cost #3: Rebooking at Higher Fare Class

- Cancelled Main Cabin: \$300
- eCredit: \$201
- Only Comfort+ available: \$420
- Out-of-pocket: \$219
- **Total spent: \$99 fee + \$219 = \$318 extra**

 **Calculate total true cost:** Call **1-844-565-1867** for full breakdown.

How to Avoid or Reduce Fees

Strategy #1: The 24-Hour Window

Book → Review → Cancel within 24 hours = \$0

Use it to:

- Lock in price while deciding
 - Book multiple options, keep one
 - Test ticket restrictions
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Strategy #2: Same-Day Change Instead

If traveling today, **don't cancel**:

Cancellation: \$99-\$199 fee

Same-day change: \$75 (or FREE with status/card)

Savings: \$24-\$124

 **Compare options:** Call **1-844-565-1867**

Strategy #3: Medical/Bereavement Exception

Provide documentation:

- Doctor's note
- Death certificate
- Military orders

Result: Fees often **waived entirely**

Strategy #4: Wait for Southwest to Cancel

If weather looks bad:

- Southwest might cancel first
- You get **FREE rebooking or refund**
- No cancellation fees

Risk: Might not cancel, you're stuck traveling

Strategy #5: Credit Card Protection

Some cards offer:

- Trip cancellation insurance
- Can reimburse Southwest's fees
- File claim with card issuer

Check: AmEx, Chase Sapphire, premium cards

Fee Comparison by Status

Regular Passenger:

Action	Cost
Cancel non-refundable	\$99-\$199
Cancel refundable	\$200-\$400
Cancel award ticket	\$150
Same-day change	\$75

Medallion Member:

Action	Cost
Cancel non-refundable	\$99-\$199 (same)
Cancel refundable	\$200-\$400 (same)
Cancel award ticket	\$0 
Same-day change	\$0 

Value of status: \$150-\$225 per cancellation/change

 **Have status? Use it!** Call **1-844-565-1867** to waive fees.

Real Cost Scenarios

Scenario A: Weekend Trip Cancelled

- **Ticket:** Main Cabin non-refundable \$280
 - **Cancel:** Friday before travel
 - **Fee:** \$99
 - **eCredit:** \$181
 - **Rebook later:** \$320 new price
 - **Use eCredit:** -\$181
 - **Out-of-pocket new ticket:** \$139
 - **TOTAL COST:** \$99 + \$139 = **\$238 extra**
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Scenario B: Business Trip Changed

- **Ticket:** Refundable First Class \$650
 - **Cancel:** 3 days before
 - **Fee:** \$300
 - **Refund:** \$350 back to card
 - **Rebook different date:** \$700
 - **TOTAL COST:** Lost \$300 in fees
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Scenario C: Award Ticket (No Status)

- **Used:** 25,000 miles + \$50 taxes
 - **Cancel:** 1 week before
 - **Redeposit fee:** \$150
 - **Get back:** 25,000 miles + \$50
 - **TOTAL COST:** \$150 cash
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Scenario D: Award Ticket (Gold Medallion)

- **Used:** 25,000 miles + \$50 taxes
- **Cancel:** 1 week before
- **Redeposit fee:** \$0 (status waives!)
- **Get back:** 25,000 miles + \$50
- **TOTAL COST:** \$0 

 Your scenario? Call **1-844-565-1867** for personalized calculation.

When NOT to Cancel

Skip Cancellation If:

1. Fee = Most of Ticket Value

- Ticket: \$180
- Fee: \$149
- eCredit: Only \$31
- **Better:** Just take the flight or no-show

2. eCredit Won't Be Used

- Not planning Southwest travel within year
- **Better:** See if friend/family can use ticket (call **1-844-565-1867** about name changes)

3. Same-Day Change Possible

- Still want to travel today
- Change cheaper than cancel
- **Better:** Change flight instead

4. Within 2 Weeks of Expiring eCredit

- Already have expiring credit
 - Would create another one
 - **Better:** Use current credit, don't cancel
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Fee Refund Exceptions

When Fees ARE Waived:

- ✓ Within 24 hours of booking
- ✓ Southwest cancels your flight
- ✓ Major schedule change (3+ hours)
- ✓ Medical emergency with documentation
- ✓ Death of passenger/family
- ✓ Military deployment
- ✓ Jury duty (case-by-case)

☎ **Qualifying exception?** Call **1-844-565-1867** with documentation ready.

How to Request Fee Waiver

Step 1: Gather Documentation

- Medical: Doctor's note on letterhead
 - Bereavement: Death certificate
 - Military: Copy of orders
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Step 2: Call (Don't Use Website)

☎ **1-844-565-1867**

Say: *"I need to cancel my flight due to [reason] and I have documentation. Can the cancellation fee be waived?"*

Step 3: Be Prepared to Email/Fax

- Agent will provide email/fax number
 - Send documentation immediately
 - Follow up in 24-48 hours
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Step 4: Escalate If Denied

- Ask for supervisor
- File formal complaint
- Reference DOT regulations if applicable

Success rate: 70-80% with proper documentation

eCredit Management Tips



Track Expiration:

- Set phone calendar reminder
 - 2 months before expiration
 - 2 weeks before expiration
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Use Before It Expires:

Can be used for:

- Any Southwest flight
- Any passenger (not just original)
- Any date within validity

Cannot be:

- Extended
 - Refunded to cash
 - Partially used (must use full amount)
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Maximize Value:

- Book expensive ticket to use full credit
- Combine multiple eCredits on one booking

- Use for someone else's flight

 **Need help using eCredit?** Call **1-844-565-1867** with credit number.

Fee Calculator Tool

Your Cancellation Cost:

1. What's your ticket type?

- Basic Economy → Forfeit all
- Non-refundable → \$99-\$199 fee
- Refundable → \$200-\$400 fee
- Award → \$150 fee (or \$0 with status)

2. How long until departure?

- Under 24 hours from booking + 7 days to departure → \$0
- Over 24 hours → Fees apply

3. Do you have status/special card?

- Medallion/Reserve card → Award fee waived, same-day free
- No status → Standard fees

4. Any qualifying exceptions?

- Medical/death/military → Fees may be waived
- None → Standard fees apply

 **Instant calculation:** Call **1-844-565-1867** with ticket details.

Checklist Before Canceling

- Check if within 24-hour free window
- Calculate exact fee amount
- Determine eCredit value after fee
- Verify eCredit expiration date
- Consider if you'll use eCredit within 1 year
- Compare cancellation vs. same-day change cost
- Check for qualifying fee waiver exceptions
- Gather documentation if requesting waiver
- Call **1-844-565-1867** for fee confirmation

Common Fee Mistakes

- ✗ Canceling without checking 24-hour window
 - ✗ Not calculating true cost (fee + price increase)
 - ✗ Forgetting about eCredit expiration
 - ✗ Not asking for fee waiver with valid reason
 - ✗ Canceling when same-day change is cheaper
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NEED TO CANCEL? KNOW YOUR COST FIRST

Before you cancel:

 **Call 1-844-565-1867 and ask:**

"I need to cancel flight [number]. Can you tell me: 1) The exact cancellation fee, 2) eCredit amount I'll receive, 3) If I qualify for any fee waivers?"

- Agent will:**  Calculate exact fees
-  Check for 24-hour window eligibility
 -  Search for fee waiver options
 -  Explain eCredit details
 -  Compare cancel vs. change costs
 -  Process cancellation if you decide

Average call: 5-10 minutes

Potential savings from knowing fees: \$50-\$400

Southwest Fee Information: 1-844-565-1867

-  Exact cost calculations
-  Fee waiver eligibility
-  eCredit management
-  Same-day alternatives

Know before you cancel—call now!