

Airline Industry News

Southwest Airlines announced the following changes effective on May 28, 2025:

Updates to Checked Baggage Policy

- Southwest will offer two free checked bags to Rapid Rewards® A-List Preferred members and customers traveling on Business Select® fares. Southwest will also offer one free checked bag to A-List Members and other select customers. In addition, Southwest will credit one checked bag for Rapid Rewards Credit Cardmembers. All remaining customers will pay to check the first and second bags, and Southwest will continue to charge for the third and fourth checked bags. Changes will apply to flights booked on or after May 28.

Updates to Fare Bundles

- Southwest is updating the benefits of their fare bundles in phases. Whether travelers are looking for a lower price with fewer perks, or more benefits for added flexibility, options are available to pick what works best for the trip. Southwest will now offer Basic Economy fares that are non-refundable and cannot be transferred to another traveler. If budget allows, book the Anytime fare to receive a full refund if travel plans change, needing to cancel the airline ticket. Wanna Get Away Plus fares can be transferred and typically cost \$30-\$100 more than Basic Economy.
- Phase 1: Beginning this month, Southwest increased Rapid Rewards earn ratio on Business Select fares and lowered the earn ratio on Wanna Get Away® and Wanna Get Away Plus™ fares. Southwest will also begin to vary redemption rates across fare products on some high- and low-demand travel periods.
- Phase 2: Beginning May 28, Southwest will introduce a new Basic fare. This new Basic fare will be the lowest price point and will have less flexibility than other fares. Additionally, Southwest will be adding expiration dates to their flight credits, which will vary based on which fare is purchased.

Fare Product Updates as of May 28, 2025.	Business Select	Anytime	Wanna Get Away <i>plus</i>	Basic ¹
Checked bag ²	2 free	\$	\$	\$
Rapid Rewards® points ³	14X fare	10X fare	6X fare	2X fare
Flight credit expiration ⁴	12 mos	12 mos	12 mos	6 mos
Transferable Flight Credit™ ⁵	✓	✓	✓	✗
Refundable ⁶	✓	✓	✗	✗
Changes ⁷	Fare difference	Fare difference	Fare difference	✗
Cancellations ⁸	✓	✓	✓	✓
Same-day change/standby ⁹	✓	✓	✓	✗
Priority Boarding	A1-A15	EarlyBird Check-In® ¹⁰	\$	\$
Free inflight entertainment ¹¹	✓	✓	✓	✓
Priority/Express Lane ¹²	✓	✓	✗	✗
Premium drink ¹³	✓	\$	\$	\$
Inflight Internet ¹⁴	✓	\$	\$	\$

The chart to the right provides a comprehensive picture of the revised fare products as of May 28, 2025, ranging from most flexible to value-first. Southwest contracted rates will not apply to Basic airfares.

Southwest Airlines

Travelers could earn up to **30,000 Rapid Rewards bonus points** when registering, then book in *Concur* or with *your dedicated travel agency* and fly qualifying flights between **1/15 and 4/15/2025**.

Process:

- Book and fly two qualifying round trip flights (or four qualifying one-way flights): **5,000 Rapid Rewards bonus points**
- Book and fly three qualifying round trip flights (or six qualifying one-way flights): **15,000 total Rapid Rewards bonus points**

- Book and fly four qualifying round trip flights (or eight qualifying one-way flights): **30,000 total Rapid Rewards bonus points**

Register today at Southwest.com/2025CPaccelerator by logging into your Rapid Rewards account.

Lincoln Airport (LNK)

The Lincoln airport is extending an exclusive free invitation to all University faculty and staff who choose to fly local to join the member's *Frequent Flyer's Club*. University employees can become a member by flying out of Lincoln Airport a minimum of once a year. Club information and member benefits can be found [here](#).

Eppley Airfield (OMA)

The OMA Terminal is now split in the middle on both levels and operate as two separate terminals - the north terminal and south terminal. Learn more about the terminal split at [Build OMA](#).

Hospitality Industry News

Conference Rate at Hotels

To utilize a conference rate for a hotel, travelers will need to contact the event organizer/hotel to make the reservations, providing a personal credit card for payment. Upon return, travelers can submit the cost of the reservation on an expense report. Please remember University policy states a travel request needs to be submitted *and* approved before making any travel arrangements.

Hampton by Hilton Lincoln Downtown

New downtown Lincoln hotel *Hampton by Hilton*, located at 1033 'O' Street, is expected to open in April 2025 and will be available in Concur and Engine.

The Travel Office has negotiated the following rates:

- \$109/night through 12/31/2025.
- \$122/night for 2026.
- Blackout dates:
 - All home football game weekends for 2025 and 2026 season
 - 2025 AVCA First Serve Volleyball Tournament August 20th – 23rd, 2025
 - University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graduation May 16th – 17th, 2025

More details can be found [here](#).

Travel Training Schedule

The training schedule has been posted in [Bridge](#).



Cancel a Travel Request or Expense Report

If a travel request is approved but the trip is not taken, it will need to be canceled. If the travel date has already started, contact the [Travel Office](#) with the employee's name and personnel number, plus the travel report ID #.

If a trip was taken and no reimbursement is expected by the traveler, [cancel the expense report](#).

Eppley Airport Parking Discount

The parking discount with Omaha Eppley Airport has been extended through 2025 for University of Nebraska employees.

- Up to 25% off covered garages (does not include Premier Parking).
- Up to 33% off the south economy lot.

Reserve parking using discount code UN2025 here: <https://reservations.parkoma.com>. An informational flyer is available [here](#). The discount is available for business and personal travel by University [employees](#).

Note: the reservation must be made twelve hours in advance of parking, reserved using a University email address, and a personal credit card (PCards are not accepted).

Employees may sign up for the university's travel listserv to receive up-to-date travel information [here](#).
