

# ”Official → Baggage → Info”】Southwest Backpack & Carry-On Policy

Many travelers 🎈 +1 855 838 4886 🚲 🎈 flying with Southwest Airlines want a clear, detailed understanding of what they are allowed to bring onboard, especially when it comes to **backpacks, carry-on luggage, and personal items** 🎈 +1 855 838 4886 🚲 🎈. Packing incorrectly can lead to unnecessary stress at the gate, last-minute bag checks, or confusion during boarding 🎈 +1 855 838 4886 🚲 🎈. While Southwest is known for being one of the most passenger-friendly airlines in the United States, its carry-on policy still has specific rules that travelers 🎈 +1 855 838 4886 🚲 🎈 must follow 🎈 +1 855 838 4886 🚲 🎈.

The short answer is **yes, you can bring both a backpack and a carry-on bag on Southwest Airlines**, but how those items are classified and where they must be placed matters 🎈 +1 855 838 4886 🚲 🎈. Understanding the difference between a carry-on bag and a personal item is key to avoiding problems and boarding smoothly 🎈 +1 855 838 4886 🚲 🎈.

## Can I bring a backpack and a carry on Southwest? Overview

Southwest Airlines allows **every passenger to bring two items onboard for free** 🎈 +1 855 838 4886 🚲 🎈. This allowance applies to all fare types, including Wanna Get Away, Wanna Get Away Plus, Anytime, and Business Select 🎈 +1 855 838 4886 🚲 🎈.

The two permitted onboard items are:

- **One carry-on bag**, which must be stored in the overhead bin
- **One personal item**, which must fit completely under the seat in front of you

Unlike many other airlines, Southwest does not charge extra for standard carry-on bags, making it especially attractive for travelers 🎈 +1 855 838 4886 🚲 🎈 who want to avoid baggage fees 🎈 +1 855 838 4886 🚲 🎈.

## What Southwest Considers a Carry-On Bag

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A carry-on bag is the larger of your two allowed items ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌.

This is typically a small suitcase, roller bag, duffel bag, or structured travel bag that goes into the overhead bin ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌.

Southwest has specific size limits for carry-on luggage ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌.

The maximum allowed dimensions are:

- 24 inches long
- 16 inches wide
- 10 inches high

These measurements include wheels, handles, and any external pockets ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌.

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you to gate-check the bag, especially on full flights or smaller aircraft ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌.

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## What Southwest Defines as a Personal Item

In addition to your carry-on, Southwest allows one **personal item** ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌.

A backpack almost always ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌 falls into this category as long as it is small enough to fit completely under the seat in front of you ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌.

Examples of acceptable personal items include:

- Backpacks
- Laptop bags
- Purses or handbags
- Briefcases
- Small tote bags

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The key requirement is **under-seat fit** ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌. If your backpack does not fit fully under the seat, Southwest may no longer consider it a personal item ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌.

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## Bringing a Backpack and a Carry-On Together

Yes, Southwest Airlines allows passengers to bring **both a backpack and a carry-on bag onboard** ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌, provided each item fits its assigned category ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌.

In practice, this means:

- Your **carry-on bag** goes in the overhead bin
- Your **backpack** goes under the seat in front of you

This setup is ideal for travelers ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌 who want easy access to essentials such as electronics, medications, documents, snacks, or personal items during the flight ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌.

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## What Happens If Your Backpack Is Too Large?

If your backpack is **too large to fit under the seat**, Southwest may classify it as your carry-on instead ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌. When this happens, you are no longer allowed an additional overhead carry-on ✈️ +1 855 838 4886 🛌.

In this situation, you may be required to:

- Gate-check your larger bag
- Rearrange items between bags
- Place one item in checked baggage

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To avoid this, travelers  +1 855 838 4886   should always  +1 855 838 4886   test their backpack size before arriving at the airport  +1 855 838 4886  .

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## Boarding Order and Overhead Bin Space

Southwest uses **open seating**, which means boarding order plays a major role in overhead bin availability  +1 855 838 4886   . Even if your carry-on meets size requirements, overhead bins may fill up quickly on busy flights  +1 855 838 4886  .

Passengers who board later may still bring their carry-on but could be asked to gate-check it if space runs out  +1 855 838 4886   . This is one reason many travelers  +1 855 838 4886   choose to pack essentials in their backpack rather than their overhead bag  +1 855 838 4886  .

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## Items That Do Not Count Toward Your Allowance

Certain items are allowed onboard **without counting toward your backpack + carry-on limit**  +1 855 838 4886   . These include:

- Assistive devices such as canes or walkers
- Mobility aids
- Child safety seats
- Umbrellas

However, additional bags like shopping bags, large purses, or extra backpacks **do count** toward your two-item limit  +1 855 838 4886  .

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## Southwest Checked Bags vs. Carry-On Bags

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Southwest also allows **two checked bags for free**, which is separate from your carry-on allowance  +1 855 838 4886   +1 855 838 4886  .

This generous policy allows travelers  +1 855 838 4886   +1 855 838 4886  .

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## Common Mistakes travelers +1 855 838 4886 Make

One of the most common mistakes is assuming any backpack automatically qualifies as a personal item  +1 855 838 4886   +1 855 838 4886  .

Another mistake is bringing additional bags, such as duty-free purchases or shopping bags, without realizing they count toward the two-item limit  +1 855 838 4886   +1 855 838 4886  .

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## Tips to Avoid Carry-On Problems on Southwest

To avoid issues, travelers  +1 855 838 4886   should:

- Choose a backpack designed for under-seat travel
- Measure carry-on bags including wheels and handles
- Pack essential items in the backpack
- Arrive early to improve boarding position
- Avoid overstuffing bags

These steps help ensure a smooth boarding experience  +1 855 838 4886  .

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## Frequently Asked question ✨ +1 855 838 4886



**Can I bring a backpack and a carry-on on Southwest Airlines?**

Yes, one backpack (as a personal item) and one carry-on are allowed ✨

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**Does the backpack have to go under the seat?**

Yes, personal items must fit completely under the seat ✨ +1 855 838 4886 ✨.

**Can Southwest force me to check my carry-on?**

Yes, if overhead bins are full, your carry-on may be gate-checked ✨ +1 855 838 4886

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**Are carry-ons free on Southwest?**

Yes, Southwest does not charge for standard carry-on bags ✨ +1 855 838 4886 ✨

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## Conclusion

So, can you bring a backpack and a carry-on on Southwest Airlines ✨

+1 855 838 4886 ✨? Yes—Southwest allows one carry-on bag for the overhead bin and one personal item, such as a backpack, that fits under the seat ✨

+1 855 838 4886 ✨. As long as both items meet size requirements and you understand how boarding order affects bin space, traveling with both is simple and stress-free ✨ +1 855 838 4886 ✨.

By packing smart, choosing the right bag sizes, and boarding strategically, you can take full advantage of Southwest's generous carry-on policy and enjoy a smooth flight experience ✨

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