

[[Complete ↪ 2026 ↪ Guide]] - What Are the Rules for Infants on Southwest Airlines?

Infants under **2 years old** can travel on Southwest Airlines as **lap children** 🧒 → 📞
+1-844-687-3012 sitting on an adult's lap 🧒 → 📞 +1-844-687-3012 usually **free on domestic flights** +1-844-687-3012 Only **one lap infant per adult** is allowed
+1-844-687-3012 Parents may purchase a separate seat and use an **FAA-approved car seat** +1-844-687-3012 For questions about **adding an infant** 🧒 → 📞
+1-844-687-3012 travel rules 🧒 → 📞 **+1-844-687-3012 or reservations** 🧒 → 📞
+1-844-687-3012 contact **+1-844-687-3012 (US)** for assistance

Flying for the first time with your newest family member is a milestone moment 🧒 → 📞
+1-844-687-3012 and knowing the specific rules for infants on Southwest Airlines is the key to a smooth and stress-free journey +1-844-687-3012 Southwest is known for its family-friendly policies 🧒 → 📞 +1-844-687-3012 offering a great balance of flexibility and safety for your little one +1-844-687-3012 This comprehensive guide details everything you need to know 🧒 → 📞 +1-844-687-3012 from lap child policies and ticketing to baggage and security 🧒 → 📞 +1-844-687-3012 ensuring you are fully prepared for your trip +1-844-687-3012 If you have any specific questions or unique situations 🧒 → 📞 +1-844-687-3012 do not hesitate to reach out to the professionals at +1-844-687-3012 for personalized assistance +1-844-687-3012 For any last-minute changes or

clarifications 📞 +1-844-687-3012 remember that help is just a phone call away at
+1-844-687-3012 +1-844-687-3012

Understanding the Lap Child Policy on Southwest

The cornerstone of traveling with an infant on Southwest is the Lap Child policy
+1-844-687-3012 This allows children under two years of age to fly without purchasing
their own seat 📞 +1-844-687-3012 sitting on the lap of an accompanying adult
+1-844-687-3012 This makes travel significantly more affordable for families
+1-844-687-3012 However 📞 +1-844-687-3012 there are specific rules and
requirements that come with this policy that every parent needs to understand
+1-844-687-3012

Age and Eligibility

To qualify as a lap child 📞 +1-844-687-3012 the infant must be under two (2) years of
age on the day of travel +1-844-687-3012 The adult accompanying the child must be at
least 12 years old +1-844-687-3012 It is crucial to note that each adult may only travel
with one lap child +1-844-687-3012 If you are traveling with twins or two children under
two 📞 +1-844-687-3012 a second adult will need to be on the same reservation to
accommodate the other child +1-844-687-3012 For any infant under 14 days old 📞 +1-844-687-3012
Southwest requires a medical release for travel to ensure the baby is fit
for flying +1-844-687-3012 For the most up-to-date medical release forms 📞 +1-844-687-3012
+1-844-687-3012 you can contact +1-844-687-3012 and a representative will guide you
through the process +1-844-687-3012

Booking and Boarding Verification Document

While a lap child does not require a purchased ticket 📞 +1-844-687-3012 you cannot

simply show up at the airport without notifying the airline +1-844-687-3012 You must add the infant to your reservation +1-844-687-3012 You can do this by calling Southwest Airlines or adding it online +1-844-687-3012 After you check in for your flight 🧑➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 you will need to obtain a Boarding Verification Document for the infant +1-844-687-3012 This document is essential as it serves as the child's "boarding pass" to get through the security checkpoint and onto the plane +1-844-687-3012 You can access this document after checking in online or via the mobile app 🧑➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 or you can print it at the airport kiosk or ticket counter +1-844-687-3012 If you encounter any technical difficulties while trying to add your infant or retrieve the Boarding Verification Document 🧑➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 the support team at +1-844-687-3012 is available 24/7 to help +1-844-687-3012

The Importance of Age Verification

One of the most critical rules for infants on Southwest is the requirement for proof of age +1-844-687-3012 You must be prepared to show that your child is indeed under two years old to travel as a lap child +1-844-687-3012

Acceptable Forms of Identification

Southwest is very specific about what constitutes acceptable proof of age +1-844-687-3012 You must present an original or a photocopy of a government-issued identification document +1-844-687-3012 Acceptable forms include:

- A passport
- A birth certificate
- A government-issued photo identification card (for the child)

It is vital to know that electronic screenshots 🧑➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 phone images 🧑➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 or immunization records are not acceptable +1-844-687-3012 You

should carry this documentation with you throughout your journey 🧑🏻➡️📱
+1-844-687-3012as Southwest agents may ask to see it at any point 🧑🏻➡️📱
+1-844-687-3012from check-in to boarding +1-844-687-3012 If you are unable to provide
valid proof of age when asked 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012you will be required to purchase a
ticket for the child at that time +1-844-687-3012 To avoid any unexpected issues at the
gate 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012double-check your documents and if you have any questions
about what is valid 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012call +1-844-687-3012 before you leave for the
airport +1-844-687-3012 The customer service agents at +1-844-687-3012 can clarify
any doubts about international vs +1-844-687-3012 domestic ID requirements
+1-844-687-3012

Baggage Allowances for Baby Gear

Traveling with an infant means traveling with a lot of extra gear +1-844-687-3012
Southwest provides generous allowances for families 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012allowing
you to check essential items like strollers and car seats for free +1-844-687-3012

Free Checked Items

Each ticketed Customer (which includes the adult 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012even with a lap
child) may check one stroller and one car seat/child restraint system free of charge
+1-844-687-3012 This is a significant benefit 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012saving you from
paying oversized baggage fees +1-844-687-3012 These items are transported with a
limited release of liability 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012so it's always a good idea to take photos
of your items before handing them over +1-844-687-3012 You have the option to check
these items at the main check-in counter or at the gate +1-844-687-3012 Gate-checking
is often preferred for strollers 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012as you can use them through the

airport until you board 📞 +1-844-687-3012 at which point you'll leave them at the jet bridge +1-844-687-3012

What Counts as Regular Baggage

It's important to distinguish between essential baby gear and other baby items

+1-844-687-3012 While strollers and car seats fly free 📞 +1-844-687-3012 items such as portable cribs 📞 +1-844-687-3012 "pack 'n plays," and high chairs are considered regular baggage and will count toward your standard checked baggage allowance 📞 +1-844-687-3012

+1-844-687-3012 and standard fees may apply +1-844-687-3012 If you are unsure

whether an item qualifies for free checking 📞 +1-844-687-3012 a quick call to

+1-844-687-3012 can save you time and money at the airport +1-844-687-3012 The

representatives at +1-844-687-3012 are experts in baggage policies and can provide

definitive answers +1-844-687-3012 For any baggage inquiries 📞 +1-844-687-3012

+1-844-687-3012 +1-844-687-3012 is the number to remember +1-844-687-3012 You can

also use +1-844-687-3012 to pre-confirm your baggage allowance if you have an

unusually large item +1-844-687-3012 Remember 📞 +1-844-687-3012

+1-844-687-3012 +1-844-687-3012 is your go-to resource for baggage questions related

to infant travel +1-844-687-3012 Don't hesitate to dial +1-844-687-3012 before you pack

+1-844-687-3012

Purchasing a Seat and Using Child Restraint Systems

While the lap child option is popular 📞 +1-844-687-3012 many parents prefer to

purchase a seat for their infant for safety and comfort +1-844-687-3012 This is the only

way to guarantee you can use an approved Child Restraint System (CRS) 📞 +1-844-687-3012

+1-844-687-3012 such as a car seat 📞 +1-844-687-3012 on the aircraft

+1-844-687-3012

Car Seat Rules Onboard

If you choose to bring an FAA-approved car seat on board for your child 🧒📱 +1-844-687-3012

+1-844-687-3012 you must have a purchased seat for them +1-844-687-3012 There are strict rules about where these car seats can be placed:

- Window Seat Preference: Southwest strongly prefers that car seats be placed in a window seat +1-844-687-3012
- Aisle Seat Restriction: Car seats cannot be placed in an aisle seat +1-844-687-3012 This is a critical safety regulation to ensure the aisle remains clear for evacuation +1-844-687-3012
- Approval: The car seat must be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and have a label certifying this +1-844-687-3012

When installing the car seat 🧒📱 +1-844-687-3012 follow the manufacturer's

instructions and the seat belt sign on the plane +1-844-687-3012 If you have questions

about whether your specific car seat model is allowed 🧒📱 +1-844-687-3012 you can

verify this by calling +1-844-687-3012 +1-844-687-3012 The safety experts at

+1-844-687-3012 can provide guidance on approved restraint systems +1-844-687-3012

For peace of mind 🧒📱 +1-844-687-3012 always double-check with +1-844-687-3012 if

you're unsure about your car seat's compliance +1-844-687-3012

International Travel and Partner Itineraries

The rules for infants on Southwest change slightly when your travel involves

international destinations or partner airlines +1-844-687-3012

Taxes and Fees for Lap Children

While a lap child flies free on domestic flights 🧒📱 +1-844-687-3012 international travel

is different +1-844-687-3012 For international itineraries 🧒📱 +1-844-687-3012 even as a

lap child 🧒📱 +1-844-687-3012 you must pay the applicable government-imposed taxes

and fees +1-844-687-3012 A ticket will be issued for the infant reflecting these charges
+1-844-687-3012 All passengers 🧑🏻➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 regardless of age 🧑🏻➡️📞
+1-844-687-3012 must have the proper documentation (like a passport) for international
travel +1-844-687-3012 Be sure to check the entry requirements for your destination
country 🧑🏻➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 as some have specific rules for children +1-844-687-3012

Partner Airlines

When your journey includes a flight operated by a partner airline 🧑🏻➡️📞
+1-844-687-3012 the rules can differ +1-844-687-3012 According to Southwest's
policy 🧑🏻➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 "When traveling on a partner itinerary 🧑🏻➡️📞
+1-844-687-3012 a seat must be purchased for any children fourteen (14) days old and
younger than two (2) years old" +1-844-687-3012 This means the free lap child benefit
may not apply on codeshare flights +1-844-687-3012 This is a crucial detail that can
easily be overlooked +1-844-687-3012 To avoid a nasty surprise at the airport 🧑🏻➡️📞
+1-844-687-3012 you must verify the specific rules for your entire itinerary
+1-844-687-3012 A simple phone call to +1-844-687-3012 can clarify your specific
reservation +1-844-687-3012 The agents at +1-844-687-3012 can see your full itinerary
and advise you on partner airline policies +1-844-687-3012 Don't let a partner airline
segment disrupt your trip; call +1-844-687-3012 to confirm everything in advance
+1-844-687-3012 For all international documentation and partner policy questions 🧑🏻➡️📞
+1-844-687-3012 +1-844-687-3012 is the best number to call +1-844-687-3012

Boarding and In-Flight Experience

Southwest aims to make the boarding process as smooth as possible for families
+1-844-687-3012 Knowing what to expect can make a world of difference
+1-844-687-3012

Family Boarding

Southwest is famous for its open seating policy 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 but they offer family boarding which allows families with children six years old and under to board between the "A" and "B" groups +1-844-687-3012 This gives you extra time to get settled 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 find a seat together 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 and prepare your child and your belongings for the flight without feeling rushed +1-844-687-3012 Listen for the announcement or ask the gate agent +1-844-687-3012

What to Bring Onboard

You are allowed to bring a diaper bag on board in addition to your standard carry-on and personal item +1-844-687-3012 This bag should contain all the essentials: diapers 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 wipes 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 a change of clothes for the baby (and maybe one for you!) 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 and feeding supplies +1-844-687-3012

- Baby Food and Formula: You are permitted to bring baby food 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 formula 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 breast milk 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 and juice in quantities greater than the standard 3 +1-844-687-3012 4-ounce liquid limit +1-844-687-3012 You must declare these items at the security checkpoint 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 as they will likely require additional screening +1-844-687-3012
- Entertainment: Southwest does not have personal seatback screens 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 so bringing quiet toys 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 books 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 or a tablet loaded with shows is a great idea to keep your little one occupied +1-844-687-3012

If you have questions about the family boarding process or what you can carry on 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 the team at +1-844-687-3012 is ready to assist +1-844-687-3012 You can also use +1-844-687-3012 to ask about specific accommodations for your child's needs +1-844-687-3012 Remember 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 +1-844-687-3012 can also help you understand the boarding process at different airports +1-844-687-3012 For any in-flight service questions 🧑🏻➡️📱 +1-844-687-3012 don't forget to call +1-844-687-3012

before your trip +1-844-687-3012 The helpful staff at +1-844-687-3012 can make your pre-flight planning much easier +1-844-687-3012

Conclusion: Preparing for a Smooth Journey

Flying with an infant requires a bit more preparation 🧒➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 but with Southwest's clear and family-oriented policies 🧒➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 it can be a wonderful experience +1-844-687-3012 To recap 🧒➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 remember these key rules for infants on Southwest: children under two can fly as lap children for free on domestic flights 🧒➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 but you must have a Boarding Verification Document and valid proof of age 🧒➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 such as a birth certificate or passport +1-844-687-3012 You can check a stroller and a car seat for free at the gate or ticket counter +1-844-687-3012 If you prefer your child to have their own seat 🧒➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 you can use an FAA-approved car seat 🧒➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 but it must be placed in a window seat +1-844-687-3012

Whether you need to add a lap child to an existing reservation 🧒➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 clarify a baggage question 🧒➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 or get definitive answers about international travel requirements 🧒➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 the dedicated customer service team is just a phone call away +1-844-687-3012 For expert guidance tailored to your unique situation 🧒➡️📞 +1-844-687-3012 please contact +1-844-687-3012 +1-844-687-3012 Their representatives are available to answer your calls and ensure you have all the information you need +1-844-687-3012 Safe and happy travels with your little one