

JetBlue Baggage Fees Rise as Fuel Costs Hit 2026 Travel - Intermediate - EN

Travel

English

Article

JetBlue has raised checked baggage fees after a sharp rise in fuel prices connected to conflict in the Middle East. The article says fuel prices have climbed nearly 80% since February 2026, pushing airlines to recover costs wherever they can. For many U.S. travelers, that means higher baggage fees, more surcharges, and the possibility of more expensive trips overall.

Starting March 31, 2026, JetBlue charges \$39 for a first checked bag during off-peak periods and \$49 during busy travel seasons. A second bag now costs \$59 off-peak and \$69 during peak travel times such as spring break and summer holidays. The airline is using these higher fees to help cover fuel costs, which can make up about 25% to 30% of operating expenses.

JetBlue is not alone. Airlines such as Lufthansa, British Airways, and Cathay Pacific have also raised fuel surcharges or adjusted ticket prices. Industrywide, this could lead to fewer flights on some routes, higher prices for premium services, and longer waits for travelers. As aviation becomes more expensive, other parts of travel may feel the strain too.

Hotels, resorts, and tourism businesses may see a slowdown, especially in long-haul destinations such as Southeast Asia and the Caribbean. Some travelers may choose shorter trips or cancel expensive vacations. The article notes that luxury hotels may be especially vulnerable because rising flight prices can make high-end travel harder to afford.

To manage these changes, travelers are advised to book early, compare nearby airports, pack light, and check for extra surcharges before paying. JetBlue still plans to serve the Caribbean, Latin America, and Europe, but passengers may also face fewer direct flights, more delays, and stricter baggage rules. In 2026, careful planning could make a real difference.

Vocabulary Words List

raised — made higher checked baggage fees — charges for bags placed under the plane fuel prices — the cost of jet fuel conflict — serious fighting or disagreement Middle East — a region including countries in western Asia climbed — went up recover costs — get money back to cover expenses surcharges — extra charges Starting March 31, 2026 — beginning on that date off-peak periods — less busy travel times busy travel seasons — times when many people travel second bag — an additional checked bag peak travel times — the busiest travel periods spring break — a school holiday in spring summer holidays — popular vacation weeks in summer cover fuel costs — pay for the expense of fuel operating expenses — the costs of running a business Lufthansa — a major airline from Germany British Airways — a major airline from the United Kingdom Cathay Pacific — a major airline from Hong Kong adjusted ticket prices — changed the cost of tickets Industrywide — across the whole industry premium services — more expensive travel options Hotels — places where travelers stay long-haul destinations — places reached by long flights Southeast Asia — a region in Asia the Caribbean — islands and nearby countries in that region luxury hotels — high-end hotels pack light — travel with fewer bags stricter baggage rules — tighter limits for bags first checked bag — the first bag checked under the plane shorter trips — travel plans with fewer days away book early — to buy travel plans ahead of time nearby airports — airports close to your main city or destination

Fill In The Blanks Listening Practice

JetBlue has raised _____ after a sharp rise in _____ connected to conflict in the Middle East. The article says fuel prices have climbed nearly 80% since February 2026, pushing airlines to _____ wherever they can. For many U.S. travelers, that means higher baggage fees, more _____, and the possibility of more expensive trips overall.

Starting March 31, 2026, JetBlue charges \$39 for a _____ during off-peak periods and \$49 during busy travel seasons. A _____ now costs \$59 off-peak and \$69 during _____ such as spring break and summer holidays. The airline is using these higher fees to help cover fuel costs, which can make up about 25% to 30% of _____.

JetBlue is not alone. Airlines such as _____, _____, and _____ have also raised fuel surcharges or adjusted ticket prices. Industrywide, this could lead to fewer flights on some routes, higher prices for _____, and longer waits for travelers. As aviation becomes more expensive, other parts of travel may feel the strain too.

Hotels, resorts, and tourism businesses may see a slowdown, especially in _____ such as Southeast Asia and _____. Some travelers may choose _____ or cancel expensive vacations. The article notes that _____ may be especially vulnerable because rising flight prices can make high-end travel harder to afford.

To manage these changes, travelers are advised to _____, compare _____, _____, and check for extra surcharges before paying. JetBlue still plans to serve the Caribbean, Latin America, and Europe, but passengers may also face fewer direct flights, more delays, and _____. In 2026, careful planning could make a real difference.

Vocabulary Retention Quiz

1. Why did JetBlue increase its baggage fees in 2026?
2. What are the new prices for first and second checked bags during off-peak times?
3. Which international airlines are mentioned as making similar pricing changes?
4. How could higher flight costs affect hotels and resorts?
5. What steps does the article suggest travelers take before booking?

Discussion Questions

How do rising fuel costs change the way people plan vacations?

Do you think baggage fees are a fair way for airlines to recover costs? Why or why not?

Would higher prices make you choose a closer destination instead of a long trip?

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