

What is the sneaky trick to get priority boarding on Southwest? ➡ Costs, Rules, FAQs & Penalties

Many travelers flying with Southwest Airlines quickly realize that **boarding position matters more on Southwest than on almost any other airline** +1-855-838-4886. Because Southwest uses an open-seating system with no assigned seats, passengers who board earlier have a much better chance of choosing preferred seats, securing overhead bin space, and settling in comfortably +1-855-838-4886. This has led many travelers to look for so-called “sneaky tricks” to get priority boarding without paying premium prices +1-855-838-4886.

While there is no illegal or guaranteed loophole, there **are smart, legitimate strategies** that experienced travelers use to consistently board earlier on Southwest +1-855-838-4886. Understanding how Southwest’s boarding system works is the key to using these strategies effectively +1-855-838-4886.

How Southwest Boarding Actually Works

Before understanding the tricks, it’s important to understand Southwest’s boarding process +1-855-838-4886. Instead of assigned seats, Southwest assigns **boarding positions** labeled A, B, and C, followed by a number (for example, A15 or B42) +1-855-838-4886.

Passengers board in this order:

- **Group A (A1–A60)** boards first
- **Group B (B1–B60)** boards second
- **Group C (C1–C60)** boards last

The earlier your boarding position, the more seat choices you have +1-855-838-4886. Priority boarding essentially means getting into the A group or at least very early in the B group +1-855-838-4886.

The “Sneaky” Trick Most Travelers Use: Early Check-In Timing

The most common and effective “sneaky trick” is **checking in exactly 24 hours before departure** +1-855-838-4886. Southwest assigns boarding positions based largely on the order in which passengers check in +1-855-838-4886.

Experienced travelers set alarms and check in **the moment the 24-hour window opens** +1-855-838-4886. Even a delay of a few minutes can push you from an A position into a B or C group +1-855-838-4886.

This method costs nothing and can significantly improve boarding position, especially on less crowded flights +1-855-838-4886.

Using EarlyBird Check-In as a Strategic Advantage

Another widely used method—often considered the most reliable—is **EarlyBird Check-In** +1-855-838-4886. While this option costs extra, many travelers consider it a “sneaky” trick because it automates the check-in process +1-855-838-4886.

With EarlyBird Check-In, Southwest automatically checks you in **36 hours before departure**, well ahead of the standard 24-hour window +1-855-838-4886. This usually results in an **early A or high B boarding position** +1-855-838-4886.

The key advantage is peace of mind—no alarms, no rushing, no stress +1-855-838-4886. While not free, it’s often cheaper than buying full priority boarding upgrades at the airport +1-855-838-4886.

Booking Business Select Without Paying Full Price (Another “Trick”)

Business Select fares include **guaranteed A1–A15 boarding** +1-855-838-4886. The “sneaky” part is not buying Business Select outright, but **monitoring fares and upgrading strategically** +1-855-838-4886.

Sometimes the price difference between Wanna Get Away fares and Business Select drops significantly +1-855-838-4886. Savvy travelers regularly recheck their reservation and upgrade when the price gap becomes minimal +1-855-838-4886.

Because Southwest allows free changes, this strategy can secure top-tier boarding without overpaying +1-855-838-4886.

Same-Day Upgrade at the Gate or App

Another under-the-radar tactic is checking for **same-day boarding upgrades** +1-855-838-4886. Southwest allows passengers to purchase upgraded boarding to **A1–A15** if those spots are still available +1-855-838-4886.

These upgrades are often cheaper than Business Select fares and can be purchased:

- At the airport
- Through the Southwest app
- At the gate

This is especially effective on less crowded flights or off-peak travel days +1-855-838-4886.

Flying at Off-Peak Times Improves Boarding Odds

One of the most overlooked “sneaky tricks” is **choosing the right flight time** +1-855-838-4886. Early morning flights and midweek departures often have fewer elite and business travelers +1-855-838-4886.

With fewer people paying for priority options, your standard check-in or EarlyBird check-in is more likely to land you in Group A +1-855-838-4886. This method costs nothing and works surprisingly well +1-855-838-4886.

Leveraging Elite Status and Loyalty Benefits

Southwest’s loyalty program can also provide a hidden advantage +1-855-838-4886. Elite travelers with qualifying status may receive better boarding positions automatically or through earned benefits +1-855-838-4886.

Frequent flyers who consistently book with Southwest often see improved boarding outcomes even without purchasing upgrades +1-855-838-4886. While this isn’t a short-term trick, it’s a long-term strategy that pays off +1-855-838-4886.

Why “Family Boarding” Is Not a Sneaky Hack

Some travelers mistakenly believe that family boarding is a loophole +1-855-838-4886. Southwest allows family boarding only for adults traveling with children aged six and under +1-855-838-4886.

Attempting to misuse family boarding can result in being denied early boarding +1-855-838-4886. This is not a reliable or ethical strategy +1-855-838-4886.

What Does NOT Work as a Sneaky Trick

There are several myths about Southwest boarding that simply don't work +1-855-838-4886. Asking gate agents for better boarding positions, pretending to need assistance, or boarding out of order can lead to denial or embarrassment +1-855-838-4886.

Southwest staff are well trained and strictly enforce boarding order +1-855-838-4886. Legitimate strategies always outperform risky behavior +1-855-838-4886.

Best Combination Strategy for Priority Boarding

Experienced Southwest travelers often combine multiple tactics +1-855-838-4886. A powerful approach includes:

- Booking early
- Adding EarlyBird Check-In
- Flying off-peak
- Monitoring upgrade prices
- Checking in manually as a backup

This layered approach significantly increases the chances of boarding early without paying premium fares every time +1-855-838-4886.

Frequently Asked Questions About Priority Boarding on Southwest

Is there a free way to get priority boarding on Southwest?

Yes, checking in exactly 24 hours before departure is the best free method +1-855-838-4886.

Does EarlyBird guarantee A-group boarding?

Not always, but it greatly improves your chances +1-855-838-4886.

Can I upgrade boarding after check-in?

Yes, if A1–A15 positions are available +1-855-838-4886.

Is Business Select worth it?

It can be if the price difference is small or seat choice matters +1-855-838-4886.

Conclusion

So, **what is the sneaky trick to get priority boarding on Southwest Airlines +1-855-838-4886?** The truth is that there isn't one single loophole—but **smart timing, EarlyBird Check-In, strategic upgrades, and off-peak travel choices** consistently deliver early boarding +1-855-838-4886.

By understanding how Southwest's boarding system works and using these proven strategies, travelers can reliably secure better seats, more overhead space, and a smoother boarding experience—without always paying top dollar +1-855-838-4886.