

Can I Take 3 Checked Bags On Delta Air Lines?

Direct answer: Yes. Delta Air Lines accepts a third checked bag on most routes — but it is priced as **excess baggage**, and the cost is steep. Following Delta's fee increase effective **8 April 2026**, the third checked bag costs **\$200** on domestic itineraries, up from \$150. The first bag rose to \$45 and the second to \$55. Some travellers avoid all of it: **Platinum and Diamond Medallion members receive three free checked bags** at up to 70 lb each, as do passengers in premium cabins on many routes. Delta permits up to ten checked bags on mainline flights, though only four on Delta Connection services. To price a third bag on a specific route, call **1-888-374-4490 [US] (OTA)**.

The important thing to understand is that the third bag is not simply a third instance of the same charge. It sits in a separate excess-baggage tier priced to discourage use, and Delta increased that tier by \$50 while raising the first two bags by only \$10 each.

The current fee structure

Delta raised domestic checked bag fees for tickets purchased from 8 April 2026, citing fuel costs.

Bag	Before April 2026	Current domestic fee
First checked bag	\$35	\$45
Second checked bag	\$45	\$55
Third checked bag	\$150	\$200
Fourth and beyond	\$200	\$200 each
Overweight 51–70 lb	\$100	\$100
Overweight 71–100 lb	\$200	\$200
Oversize 63–80 linear inches	\$200	\$200
100 lb or over / 80+ inches	Not accepted	Not accepted

Fees are **per passenger, per direction**. Three bags each way is six charges. A domestic round trip checking three bags, with no status and no qualifying card, comes to \$600 in baggage fees alone — frequently more than the airfare.

On international itineraries the structure differs. Main Cabin fares on many long-haul routes include the first two bags free, with \$200 for each additional bag.

Who gets three checked bags free

By SkyMiles Medallion status, on Delta-operated flights:

Status	Free checked bags	Weight allowance
Silver Medallion	1	Up to 70 lb
Gold Medallion	2	Up to 70 lb
Platinum Medallion	3	Up to 70 lb
Diamond Medallion	3	Up to 70 lb

Note that Medallion status raises the weight limit to 70 lb as well as the piece count, which is a substantial benefit in its own right — it removes the \$100 overweight charge on anything between 51 and 70 lb.

By cabin. First Class, Delta One and Business receive two free checked bags on most routes, with the third charged. Premium cabin allowances vary by market.

By credit card. Eligible Delta SkyMiles American Express cards include a free first checked bag for the cardholder and companions on the same domestic reservation. That does not reach three, but it removes one charge from the stack — and at the new \$45 rate, a couple flying round trip saves \$180 a year on a single bag each.

Cabin and status benefits do not stack additively. You receive the better of the two, not the sum.

Size and weight limits

Every bag, including the third, must meet the same standards.

- **Maximum linear dimensions:** 62 inches (158 cm), length plus width plus height
- **Maximum weight, standard:** 50 lb (23 kg)
- **Maximum weight, premium cabins and Medallion members:** 70 lb (32 kg)
- **Refused entirely:** bags at or over 100 lb, or over 80 linear inches

Exceed the limits and overweight or oversize charges apply **on top of** the excess bag fee. A third bag that also weighs 60 lb attracts \$200 plus \$100 — \$300 for one piece of luggage, each way.

The practical fix is free: **redistribute weight before you reach the counter.** Three bags at 48 lb each cost less than two at 50 lb and one at 62 lb. Carry a luggage scale.

What three bags actually costs — worked example

A domestic round trip, Main Cabin, no status, no co-branded card, at current rates:

- First bag: \$45 each way → \$90
- Second bag: \$55 each way → \$110
- **Third bag: \$200 each way → \$400**
- **Total: \$600**

The third bag alone is two-thirds of the total. That is the number to weigh against the alternatives below.

Cheaper alternatives

Ship it. Ground shipping routinely moves a 40 lb box across the United States for far less than \$200 each way, with tracking and door-to-door delivery. Send it a week ahead. For anyone relocating, moving a student into a dorm, or travelling with equipment, shipping usually wins outright.

Upgrade the cabin. Compare the third-bag cost against the fare difference to First or Delta One. A \$400 round-trip saving on bags can fund a meaningful part of an upgrade that also brings a better seat and a 70 lb weight limit.

Repack into two. Two bags at 50 lb hold more than people assume. If the third bag exists because of loose packing rather than genuine volume, consolidating costs nothing.

Split across travellers. Each passenger has an independent allowance. A family of three checking two bags each pays first and second bag rates six times — around \$300 each way — rather than pushing one person into third and fourth bag territory.

Use a SkyMiles Amex. Removes one bag charge per traveller on domestic itineraries.

Travel carry-on only where possible. Delta includes a full-size carry-on and a personal item on every fare class, including Basic Economy — unlike United. On a trip under five days, a well-packed 22 x 14 x 9 inch carry-on eliminates the question entirely.

Route and aircraft variations to check

Delta Connection aircraft cap checked bags at **four** per passenger, against ten on mainline Delta and Delta Shuttle flights. The smallest regional jets, 50 seats and under, also restrict cabin bags to a single under-seat item — worth knowing if you were planning to carry rather than check.

International Main Cabin fares on many long-haul routes include two free bags, with \$200 for the third.

Codeshare and SkyTeam partner segments can apply the operating carrier's baggage rules rather than Delta's. On a multi-carrier itinerary, the "most significant carrier" rules determine whose policy governs, and the answer is not always the airline whose name is on the ticket. Confirm before departure rather than at a transfer desk.

Special baggage categories worth knowing

Not everything counts against the three-bag question in the way you would expect.

Sports equipment. Golf bags, skis and snowboards are generally treated as a standard checked bag on Delta and count toward your allowance rather than attracting a separate surcharge, provided they stay within weight limits. Bicycles, surfboards and larger items have their own handling and may carry additional charges. If you are travelling with equipment, the question is often not "can I take

three bags" but "does my equipment count as one of the two I already get."

Mobility devices and assistive equipment. Wheelchairs, walkers, canes and other assistive devices travel free and do not count against any baggage allowance. Neither does a service dog's kennel. These are protected under U.S. accessibility rules, not airline discretion.

Infant equipment. A car seat and a stroller travel free for a ticketed infant or child and do not count as checked bags. Families frequently pay for a third bag they did not need because they assumed the stroller counted.

Musical instruments. Small instruments can travel in the cabin if they fit in an approved space. Larger instruments may require a purchased seat or travel as checked baggage with the standard fee structure applying.

Military travel. Active-duty U.S. military personnel receive expanded free baggage allowances on Delta, both on orders and for personal travel, with dependents on orders receiving comparable benefits. Identify yourself at the counter — it is not applied automatically from a fare code.

Before paying \$200 for a third bag, confirm that what is in it actually needs to be counted as a bag at all.

Timing: when the fee is set

Baggage fees are governed by the rules in effect when the **ticket was purchased**, not when you check in. That matters after a fee increase. A ticket bought before 8 April 2026 carries the old \$35 / \$45 / \$150 structure even if the flight departs months later.

If you booked well in advance and the counter quotes you the new rates, it is worth politely raising the purchase date. The system usually applies this correctly, but not always, and the difference on three bags is \$50 each way.

The same principle applies in reverse: rebooking or reissuing a ticket can reset it to current fee rules. If you voluntarily change a flight on an old ticket, do not assume the old bag rates survive the reissue.

Prepay where you can

Paying bag fees during online check-in is faster at the counter and locks the charge in. Prepaid fees attach to the reservation — if the itinerary changes substantially, confirm they carried across.

Prepaid fees are generally refundable if you do not travel or the flight is cancelled, but you must request it. It is not automatic.

Packing to avoid the third bag entirely

The cheapest third bag is the one you do not check. A few tactics reliably work.

Weigh at home. A luggage scale costs less than a single overweight charge. The gap between 50 and 51 pounds is \$100 on Delta, which makes it one of the most expensive single pounds in travel.

Weigh each bag before leaving and redistribute.

Redistribute rather than add. If three bags are each two-thirds full, two well-packed bags usually hold the same contents. Compression bags help considerably with clothing volume.

Wear the heavy items. Coats, boots and jackets worn through the airport do not count toward anything. This looks slightly ridiculous and works perfectly.

Ship ahead for long stays. For relocations, extended stays or anything where the contents are not needed immediately, ground shipping is frequently cheaper than a \$200 third bag and considerably less stressful. It also removes the risk of the bag not arriving with you.

Buy at destination. For consumables and bulky low-value items, buying on arrival often costs less than flying them there.

Use the personal item properly. Delta's Basic Economy includes a full-size carry-on plus a personal item, which is more generous than some competitors. A well-used carry-on and personal item can absorb a surprising amount that would otherwise go in a third checked bag.

If a bag is delayed or damaged

Paying \$200 for a third bag makes its safe arrival more than an abstract concern.

Report before leaving the airport. File a report at the Delta baggage service office in the arrivals area before you exit. Reporting later is substantially harder.

Keep the tag and receipts. The bag tag receipt and your fee receipt are the evidence for any claim.

Track through the Fly Delta app. Delta provides bag tracking, and it usually shows the bag's location before an agent can.

Interim expenses. Where a bag is delayed, reasonable essential purchases are typically reimbursable. Keep receipts and submit them with the claim.

Fee refunds. If a checked bag is significantly delayed, the fee paid for that bag may be refundable. This is not applied automatically — you have to ask.

Damage claims should be filed at the airport where possible. Wheels, handles and minor scuffs are commonly excluded as normal wear, but structural damage is generally covered.

Where to get help

Contact	Number	Best for
Travel reservations and baggage pricing	1-888-374-4490 [US] (OTA)	Pricing a third bag on a specific route and cabin, checking allowances on partner segments, comparing upgrade costs against excess fees

Contact	Number	Best for
Delta Reservations	Published on delta.com	Direct booking servicing and Medallion allowances
Delta Baggage Service	At the airport	Delayed, damaged or missing bags
Airport counter	In person	Day-of-travel payment and weighing

Frequently asked questions

How much is a third checked bag on Delta? \$200 domestically for tickets purchased from 8 April 2026, up from \$150.

How many bags can I check on Delta in total? Up to ten on mainline Delta and Delta Shuttle flights; four on Delta Connection services.

Do Medallion members get three free bags? Platinum and Diamond Medallion members receive three free checked bags at up to 70 lb each on Delta-operated flights.

Is the third bag free in First Class? No. First Class and Delta One include two free bags on most routes; the third is charged.

What is Delta's overweight bag fee? \$100 for 51–70 lb and \$200 for 71–100 lb, on top of the applicable bag fee. Bags of 100 lb or more are refused.

Does Basic Economy include a checked bag? No, but it does include a full-size carry-on and a personal item, which not every airline's basic fare offers.

Can I pay for bags in advance? Yes, during online check-in.

Are bag fees refundable? Generally yes if the flight is cancelled or you do not travel, but you must request the refund.

The takeaway

Three checked bags on Delta is permitted on most routes and expensive nearly everywhere. Unless you hold Platinum or Diamond Medallion status, the third bag costs \$200 each way and will often exceed the price of the seat.

Before paying, check three things: whether shipping the contents costs less, whether a cabin upgrade costs less than the combined excess fees, and whether the bags repack into two within 50 lb. One of those three almost always wins.

For a firm price on a third bag for your route, cabin and travel date — including partner-operated segments where the allowance may differ — **1-888-374-4490 [US] (OTA)** can confirm it before you reach the counter.