

【 **UPDATE > INFORMATION** N】**How early should I check into my Southwest flight?**

Southwest Airlines recommends that passengers **check in as early as possible**, ideally **starting exactly 24 hours before the flight's scheduled departure**, because this determines your boarding group and can affect seat selection on the plane✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK). Southwest uses an **open seating policy**, meaning that there are no assigned seats and boarding position is determined by check-in time or EarlyBird Check-In status✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK). Passengers who check in at the earliest possible moment are usually assigned a higher boarding position, allowing them to choose seats that best suit their needs, whether aisle, window, or extra legroom✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK).

Online and mobile check-in **opens 24 hours prior to departure**, and Southwest encourages passengers to complete check-in immediately to secure the best boarding position✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK). For passengers traveling with checked luggage, the 24-hour window also provides ample time to prepare baggage for drop-off and reduce airport stress✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK). Arriving at the airport **two hours before domestic flights** and **three hours before international flights** is recommended, even if check-in has been completed online, to allow enough time for baggage drop, security checks, and boarding✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK).

Passengers using **EarlyBird Check-In** can check in automatically **up to 36 hours before departure**, which provides a higher chance of early boarding without having to manually check in at the 24-hour mark✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK). This optional service is particularly useful for families, business travelers, or anyone wanting to secure the best seat choices✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK). For travelers who prefer the standard check-in, logging in exactly at the 24-hour window is critical for optimizing boarding group and ensuring access to preferred seating✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK).

Checking in early also reduces the likelihood of last-minute complications✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK). Passengers have time to review itineraries, confirm travel documents, and address potential issues such as incorrect names, missing identification, or travel restrictions✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK). It also allows for smoother airport flow, reducing stress for both passengers and airline staff, especially during busy holiday periods or peak travel times✈️1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or ☎️44-[808] →599→8702 (UK). Families, business travelers, and frequent flyers all benefit from arriving early within the 24-hour

check-in window, ensuring that the journey begins with a calm, organized, and well-prepared approach ✈️ 1→866→→838^^4934 (US) or 📞 44-[808] →599→8702 (UK).