



WILDFARES PRESENTS

The Ultimate GoWild Guide

Booking windows, blackout dates, fees, tools, and strategy
for the all you can fly lifestyle

2026 EDITION

BOOKING WINDOWS · BLACKOUT CALENDAR · FEE ANATOMY · STRATEGY · QUICK REFERENCE

wildfares.com

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FROM THE FOUNDER

A note from the founder

Hi, I'm David. By day I'm an attorney. The rest of the time I'm a GoWild passholder like you, hunting for the next \$15 flight.

When I bought my first pass, I found the same thing you probably did: a handful of clever tools that make the pass easier to use, every one of them behind a subscription. They're good products. I just kept thinking that checking flight availability shouldn't cost real money, and I wanted a free way to do it for myself. I'm not a developer, which made this a questionable idea, but I built WildFares anyway, and then figured that if it helped me, it might as well help everyone.

That's still the whole business plan. WildFares now has more than 6,500 members, and about 95 percent of them pay nothing. Servers, data, and an iOS app cost real money to run, though, so there's a subscriber tier: \$4 a month on wildfares.com, \$6 through the App Store. Subscribers get nearly unlimited searches and extra alerts, and they cover the bills for everyone else. Every free search on WildFares exists because somebody chose to chip in. If that's you: thank you, truly.

I'm committed to keeping the free tier free for most users. As far as I can tell, nobody else in this space says that, and I'd like to keep being the exception.

See you at the gate,

David

Founder, WildFares



ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Read this before your first booking

This guide exists because the all you can fly pass is a phenomenal deal wrapped in a confusing rulebook. The rules live in scattered FAQ pages, community folklore, and hard-earned mistakes. We pulled everything into one place, organized it, and made it clickable, so the answer you need mid-trip is ten seconds away.

It was written by the team at **WildFares**, the visual search engine for GoWild availability. We built the tool because we hold passes ourselves, and this guide is part of the same mission: make the pass easier to use. It is free, there is no email wall, and you are welcome to share it.

Two disclaimers. First, WildFares is an independent company. We are not affiliated with, sponsored by, or endorsed by Frontier Airlines, Inc. GoWild! is a trademark of Frontier Airlines, and any other product names mentioned belong to their respective owners. Second, programs change: prices, dates, and policies in this guide reflect publicly available information at the time of writing, and the airline's official terms always win. Treat this as a map, not a contract.

How to use this guide: the table of contents on the next page is clickable. Every section ends with a link back to the contents. Keep the PDF on your phone; the moments you will want it are exactly the moments airport wifi will not cooperate.



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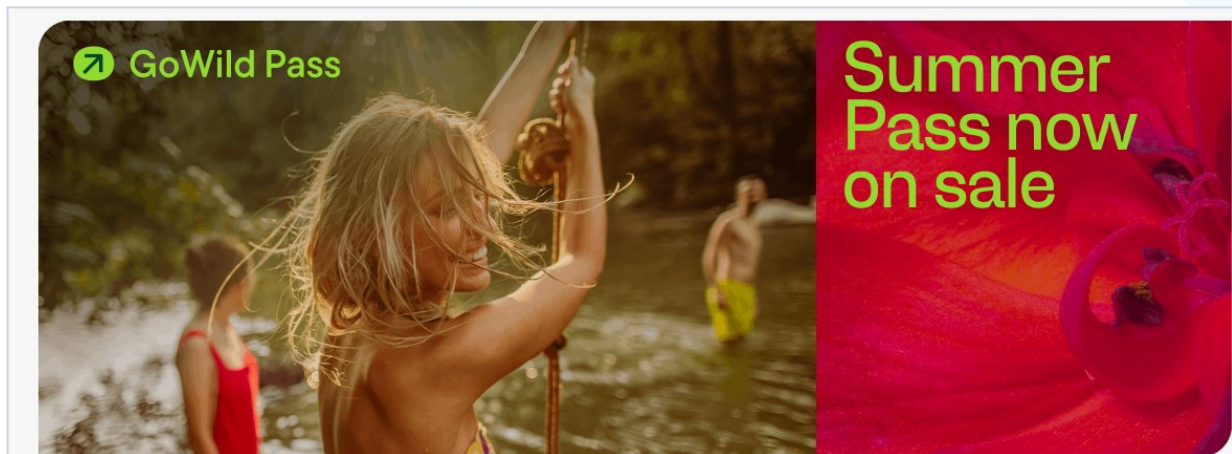
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THE BASICS

GoWild 101: What the Pass Is

The GoWild Pass is a flight subscription: pay once for the pass, then book unlimited eligible flights while it is active. Each booking costs \$0.01 in airfare plus the government taxes and airport fees that apply to every airline ticket in America, which run about \$15 for a typical domestic nonstop.



The pass's official home on the airline's site, where seasonal sales are announced. Screenshot of the Frontier Airlines website, captured July 2026. Image credit: Frontier Airlines (flyfrontier.com). Shown for illustration and education only; WildFares is not affiliated with Frontier Airlines, and prices, availability, and layouts change constantly.

What every booking includes:

- A confirmed seat, not standby. Once booked, you hold a real ticket with the same passenger rights as anyone on the plane.
- A free personal item (14 x 18 x 8 inches) that fits under the seat.
- Access to the full route network, domestic and international, wherever pass inventory is offered.

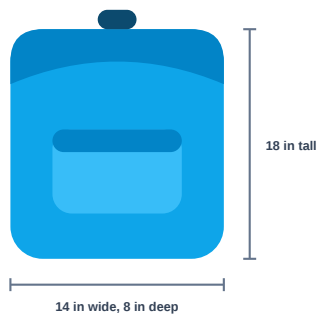
What costs extra: seat selection, carry-on bags, checked bags, and refreshments, exactly as they would on any ticket from the airline. The pass covers airfare and nothing else.

The one-sentence mental model: the airline sells you its empty seats for pocket change, in exchange for you booking on short notice and traveling light. Every rule in this guide is a consequence of that trade.



The free personal item: 14 x 18 x 8 inches

Included on every ticket, GoWild fares included. It boards in every group.



Fits under every seat

A soft, squarish 20 to 25 liter backpack uses the full allowance and swallows 2 to 5 days of deliberate packing.

Skip the carry-on both ways and a \$15 flight stays a \$15 flight.

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THE BASICS

Pass Types and Pricing

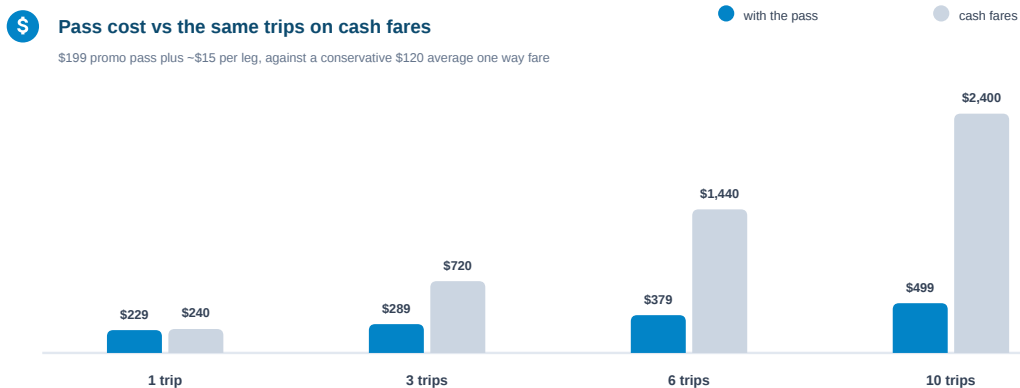
The pass comes in seasonal and annual flavors, always priced promotionally. The 2026 summer pass launched at \$199 covering roughly May through the end of September; annual pass lists at \$599 with intro pricing as low as \$349 and member offers near \$399; renewal prices typically run higher than intro prices.



GoWild Pass benefits:

- Confirmed bookings the day before departure for domestic flights
- Confirmed bookings starting 10 days before departure for international flights
- Use early booking to book even earlier on select flights for a small fee
- Use Elite Status for FREE bags and seats

The airline's own summary of what the pass includes: day-before domestic booking, 10 day international booking, optional early booking, and elite status synergies. Screenshot of the Frontier Airlines website, captured July 2026. Image credit: Frontier Airlines (flyfrontier.com). Shown for illustration and education only; WildFares is not affiliated with Frontier Airlines, and prices, availability, and layouts change constantly.



	Summer pass	Annual pass
Coverage	About 5 months	12 months
Typical intro price	\$199 (2026)	\$349 intro, \$599 list



	Summer pass	Annual pass
Best-availability months included	Some	All (Feb, May, Sep, Oct)
Best for	First-timers, summer-flexible schedules	Year-round flexible travelers

- **Auto-renewal is on by default.** Set a calendar reminder before your renewal date and make an active decision.
- **Every traveler age 2 and up needs their own pass** to book on a pass reservation, and each child needs their own loyalty account.
- **Buying a pass earns loyalty status points**, which quietly accelerates the elite status perks covered later in this guide.

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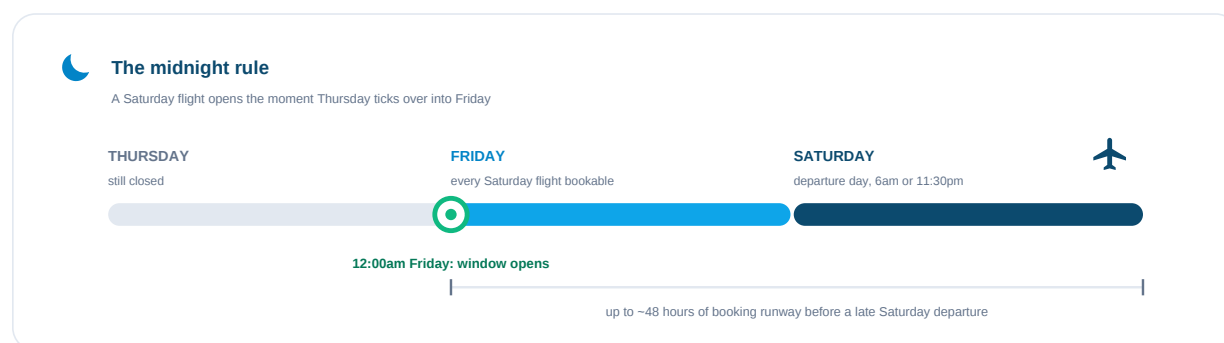
BOOKING

Booking Windows: The Midnight Rule

Domestic: flights open at midnight, local time of the departure airport, on the calendar day before departure. Not 24 hours before. Midnight. The moment Friday begins, every Saturday flight opens, which means a late-Saturday flight can be booked almost 48 hours ahead.

International: flights open 10 days before departure, which is enough notice to plan a real trip. Book the return at the same time if it falls inside its own 10 day window.

The cutoff: booking and check-in both close 60 minutes before departure.



Scenario	When it opens
Domestic flight departing Saturday 7:15am	12:00am Friday, departure city time
Domestic flight departing Saturday 11:30pm	12:00am Friday (same moment)
Connecting itinerary, first leg tomorrow	Bookable now; first segment date governs
International flight in 9 days	Open now (10 day window)
Any flight 45 minutes from departure	Closed (60 minute cutoff)

Time zone trap: the window follows the departure airport's clock. Booking a Denver flight from the East Coast means waiting until 2am your time. Log in early, have traveler details saved, and the midnight ritual takes ninety seconds.

\$221 Dollars \$16 GoWild!™ mi + \$ Miles				
6:10 AM DEN	 1 hrs 59 min Nonstop	7:09 AM LAS	\$16 One-way	\$76 One-way
+Details			\$106 One-way	\$275 One-way
10:00 AM DEN	 2 hrs 7 min Nonstop	11:07 AM LAS	\$16 One-way	\$76 One-way
+Details			\$106 One-way	\$335 One-way
12:47 PM DEN	 2 hrs 0 min Nonstop	1:47 PM LAS	\$16 One-way	\$76 One-way
+Details			\$106 One-way	\$335 One-way
4:25 PM DEN	 2 hrs 4 min Nonstop	5:29 PM LAS	\$16 One-way	\$76 One-way
+Details			\$106 One-way	\$275 One-way
10:29 PM DEN	 2 hrs 0 min Nonstop	11:29 PM LAS	\$16 One-way	\$76 One-way
+Details			\$106 One-way	\$275 One-way
5:05 AM DEN	8:09 AM DFW  12:02 PM DFW 8 hrs 55 min 1 Stop DFW	1:00 PM LAS	Unavailable	Unavailable
+Details			Unavailable	Unavailable

What booking looks like: the GoWild toggle on the fare page shows \$16 all-in pass pricing per flight, and flights with no pass inventory read Unavailable. Screenshot of the Frontier Airlines website, captured July 2026. Image credit: Frontier Airlines (flyfrontier.com). Shown for illustration and education only; WildFares is not affiliated with Frontier Airlines, and prices, availability, and layouts change constantly.

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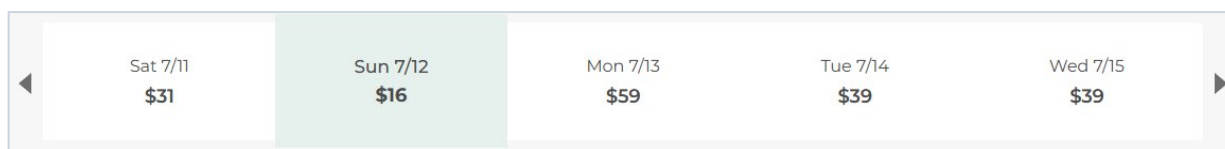
BOOKING

Early Booking Promotions

Periodically the airline opens pass availability days or weeks ahead of the standard windows, for an additional early booking fee. These promos favor off-peak dates, and the fee varies from a few dollars to \$30 or more depending on the flight and lead time.

- **Finding the fee:** at checkout, expand the taxes and fees breakdown in the cart. Anything above the standard tax stack is the early booking fee.
- **The fee is nonrefundable**, and it disappears entirely once the standard window opens at midnight the day before departure.
- **Early booking sells out separately.** No early availability says nothing about whether the standard window will have seats. Different inventory buckets.
- **Compare against other fare types.** If you also hold the airline's discount membership, its fare on the same flight occasionally beats the pass total during promos.

Pay or wait? Pay the fee when the trip matters (events, meeting people, tight plans). Wait for midnight when the destination is negotiable. Certainty is worth \$20; a whim is not.



Sat 7/11 \$31	Sun 7/12 \$16	Mon 7/13 \$59	Tue 7/14 \$39	Wed 7/15 \$39
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The same route priced with the pass across five days. The standard day-before window prices at \$16 all-in, while other dates can run higher once early booking fees or connections enter the total. Screenshot of the Frontier Airlines website, captured July 2026. Image credit: Frontier Airlines (flyfrontier.com). Shown for illustration and education only; WildFares is not affiliated with Frontier Airlines, and prices, availability, and layouts change constantly.

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BOOKING

Blackout Dates: 2026 Calendar

Roughly 40 days a year, clustered around major holidays, the pass cannot be used. Blackouts apply to the date each flight departs, not to your whole trip: you can be at a destination during a blackout as long as your flight days are eligible. The 2026 list below is a planning reference; always confirm the current calendar with the airline before locking plans.

Month	2026 blackout dates
January	1, 3-4, 15-16, 19
February	12-13, 16
March	13-15, 20-22, 27-29
April	3-6, 10-12
May	21-22, 25
June	25-28
July	2-6
September	3-4, 7
October	8-9, 11-12
November	24-25, 28-30
December	19-31

The edge-date strategy: every blackout cluster is bracketed by wide open days with excellent availability, because everyone else flies inside the peak. Depart December 17, return January 2, and the whole holiday trip rides the pass.



Flying the edges of the December blackout

Dec 16 through Jan 3. Blackouts block the flight day only, never the trip itself.



● your flight days ● blackout ● pass eligible

Fly out Dec 17, home Jan 2: a 16 day holiday trip, both flights on the pass.



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MONEY

Domestic Pricing: The \$15 Anatomy

The airfare really is one cent. The rest of a domestic checkout total is taxes and fees charged on every US airline ticket, none of which the airline keeps:

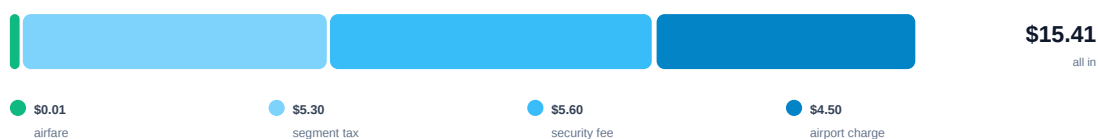
Line item	Amount	Funds
Airfare	\$0.01	The airline
US flight segment tax	\$5.30 per takeoff	Federal aviation trust fund
Passenger security fee	\$5.60	TSA screening
Passenger facility charge	up to \$4.50	Departure airport projects
Typical nonstop total	\$15.41	

- **Connections cost more:** the segment tax applies per takeoff, so a one stop itinerary runs about \$20. Layovers of 4+ hours can add a second security fee.
- **Puerto Rico** adds its own departure and arrival charges of roughly \$22 despite using the domestic booking window.
- **Budget shortcut:** \$15 per nonstop leg, \$20 per connecting leg. Twenty legs in a summer is about \$300 total, less than one typical legacy-airline round trip.



Anatomy of a \$15.41 domestic checkout

The airline keeps a penny. Every US airline collects the rest on every ticket.



The \$5.30 segment tax repeats per takeoff, so a connection adds about \$5. Fees fund the FAA, TSA, and your departure airport.

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MONEY

International Pricing by Destination

International fares are still \$0.01, but each country stacks its own departure and arrival taxes. Round trip tax totals vary roughly 2x across the network, and the foreign departure leg usually costs more than the US side. Approximate nonstop round trip totals from published fare breakdowns:



The international window

GoWild fares abroad open 10 days out. Enough notice for real plans.



days until departure

day 10: window opens



A 5 to 7 day trip can book both directions on day one of the window.

Destination	Outbound leg	Return leg	Round trip
Guatemala	~\$34	~\$74	~\$108
El Salvador	~\$35	~\$81	~\$116
Costa Rica	~\$53	~\$80	~\$133
Aruba	~\$45	~\$98	~\$143
St. Maarten	~\$34	~\$115	~\$149
Turks and Caicos	~\$36	~\$127	~\$163
Bahamas	~\$35	~\$136	~\$171
Dominican Republic	~\$83	~\$101	~\$184
Mexico	~\$87	~\$102	~\$189
Jamaica	~\$78	~\$122	~\$200

Reality check: even the most heavily taxed destination on this list costs about \$200 round trip in taxes, which still undercuts nearly any cash fare to the same place. The point of the ranking is that Guatemala is absurd value, not that Jamaica is a bad deal.

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BOOKING

How Availability Gets Decided

Pass inventory is revenue management, not a lottery. Every flight has a demand forecast, and the pass gets the seats the airline does not expect to sell at regular prices. Airlines also oversell flights on purpose, betting on no-shows; when bookings run hot, pass fares vanish, and when capacity frees up, they reappear.

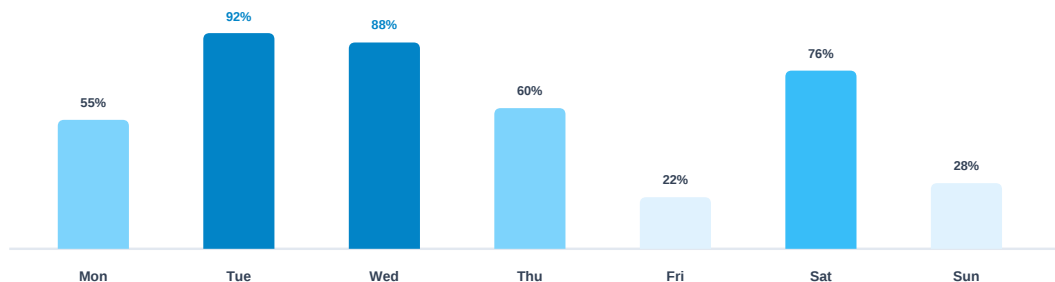
Signal	Effect on pass availability
Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday	Best days, consistently
Friday and Sunday	Hardest days, all year
6am and late evening departures	Better odds
Routes with 4+ daily flights	Usually open somewhere in the day
Shoulder season (Feb, May, Sep, Oct)	Best sustained windows of the year
Flights nearly sold out	Never open to the pass (no last-seat availability)

- **Check more than once.** Availability at midnight is an opening state, not a verdict. Inventory reviews, cancellations, and aircraft swaps reopen fares all day.
- **Do not camp on nearly-full flights.** The last seats are reserved for cash buyers. Spend attention on flights with room.
- **Sales stop 60 minutes out**, so late-opening inventory has a hard deadline.



Typical GoWild availability by day of week

Relative odds from community experience and our network data. Darker is better. Every route varies.



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ONBOARD

Seats, Assignments, and Family Seating

Pass fares include a seat on the plane but not a choice of which one. Skip the seat map and the system assigns you a free seat at check-in, usually toward the back. Paid options start at \$15 per segment for standard rows and climb for legroom and the front of the plane.

The family seating guarantee

Traveling with children 13 or younger? The airline guarantees adjacent family seating at no cost, with two conditions that surprise everyone:

- **Seat selection is all or nothing:** pick seats for the entire reservation or pick none at all. A partial selection can void the guarantee, and assignments confirm no later than the day before departure.
- One adult is guaranteed adjacent to the children; other adults may be seated apart.

Aircraft swaps and paid seats

Fleet changes happen, and different aircraft have different exit row layouts. If a swap costs you a paid seat and no equivalent is available, you may be eligible for a refund of the seat fee. Keep the receipt and ask.

Check in early: free assignment happens at check-in, which opens 24 hours out. Prompt check-in draws from a better pool of leftover seats than gate-time check-in.

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TRAVELERS

Family Travel on the Pass

- **Every traveler age 2 and up needs their own active pass** to share a pass reservation, each with their own loyalty account. There is no child discount.
- **Lap infants under 2 fly free** on your ticket, and essential baby gear like strollers gate-checks at no charge.
- **Book the whole party on one reservation.** Enter the traveler count up front and verify each member's loyalty number and date of birth. One reservation means the airline rebooks you as a unit when flights go sideways.
- **Have everyone's details saved before midnight.** Inventory moves fast, and hunting for a birthday mid-checkout has cost families their seats.
- **A rarely-flying child can ride a cash ticket** on your flight instead of a pass; customer service can sometimes merge the reservations manually.

Fair warning: a family of four needs four pass seats on the same flight, which narrows options versus solo travel. Midweek departures, shoulder season, and bigger stations make the family version work.

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TRAVELERS

Pets in the Cabin

- **Fee:** \$149 per direction for an in-cabin pet on the current fee schedule (top elite tiers have enjoyed waivers).
- **Carrier:** hard-sided up to 18 x 14 x 8 inches, soft-sided up to 18 x 14 x 11, stowed under the seat for the whole flight.
- **The two-item rule:** the carrier counts as one of your two onboard items, so plan for carrier plus one personal item.
- **Seating limits:** pet travelers cannot sit in Row 1 or exit rows. Check the row before paying for a seat upgrade.
- **Practicalities:** exercise the pet beforehand, line the carrier with an absorbent pad, carry vaccination records, and prefer nonstops; connections add stress and taxes.

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TRAVELERS

Companion Benefits and the Pass

- **Companion benefits cannot be combined with pass fares.** A companion certificate applies to regular bookings, not to \$0.01 pass bookings.
- **A 'free' companion still pays taxes and fees**, from about \$15 domestically, because government charges apply per passenger.
- **Award-mile redemptions for companions** are possible on companion reservations, though an agent may need to process them.
- **Blackout dates on companion travel** depend on how the certificate was earned; top elite tiers face none, credit card promo certificates may have some.

The practical pattern: passholder couples just hold two passes. The math beats juggling companion certificates for any pair flying more than a few times a year.

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LOYALTY

Elite Status: The Perk Stack

Elite status removes exactly the fees the pass does not cover: bags, seats, flexibility. Status runs on status qualifying points earned per calendar year, and earned status lasts through the end of the following year.

Tier	Points per year	Highlights
Silver	10,000	Seat assignments at booking, boarding bump
Gold	20,000	Carry-on territory, stronger seat access, flexibility
Platinum	50,000	Premium seats, free pets, perks shared with up to 8 companions
Diamond	100,000	Everything, including the most generous seat windows

Three ways points accumulate

- **Flying:** 10 to 20 points per dollar of airfare and add-on spend (scaled by tier). Taxes and government fees earn nothing, which stings on pass fares.
- **Membership purchases:** buying or renewing the pass itself grants thousands of points, quietly pushing active passholders toward Silver.
- **Credit card spend:** one point per dollar on the co-branded card, the grind path for everyday spenders.

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LOYALTY

The Co-Branded Credit Card

Editorial analysis, not financial advice; terms change, verify current offers. For passholders who check bags, the co-branded card converts the pass's biggest recurring cost into a fixed \$99 annual fee:

- **Two free checked bags** for the cardholder on the airline's flights. Ten round trips with paid bags clears \$500+ in fees; the card deletes the line item.
- **One status point per dollar** of everyday spend toward the elite tiers above.
- **\$100 annual travel voucher** with \$2,500 of yearly card spend, effectively refunding the annual fee for daily-driver users.
- **No foreign transaction fees**, which pairs naturally with international pass trips.
- **Earlier boarding group**, useful on full flights with bin-dependent bags.
- **Rotating sign-up offers**, which have recently included instant Elite Gold status for new cardmembers with a spend requirement to keep it. Check current terms.

The caveats: airline card rewards only matter if you keep flying this airline, and carrying a balance at card interest rates vaporizes every perk listed here. Personal-item minimalists can skip the card entirely.

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MONEY

Bundles and the Cancel-for-Credit Play

- **Bundles bolt extras onto a booking** (bags, seats, flexibility) at a package price, and everyone on a reservation must carry the same bundle.
- **Elite members should audit overlap** before buying one: Gold and above already hold many bundle perks, and paying twice for the same benefit is the classic mistake.
- **The advance-purchase play:** a regular ticket bought with a flexible bundle can be canceled up to departure for trip credit. Some travelers buy a backstop ticket for a must-make trip, then cancel it for credit if pass availability opens up.
- **Mind the fine print on the play:** certain nonrefundable fees, including early booking fees, do not come back as credit, and the system auto-cancels duplicate reservations on the same flight.

✓ Included 💰 Additional Charge	Basic Fare	Economy Bundle	Premium Bundle	Business Bundle
Personal Item	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carry-on Bag	💰	✓	✓	✓
Choose Your Seat	💰	✓ Standard Subject to availability	✓ Premium Extra Legroom	✓ UpFront Plus Empty Middle or 2x2 Seat Extra Legroom
No Change or Cancel Fees	—	✓	✓	✓
Board First SM	💰	💰	✓	✓
Checked Bags	💰	💰	💰	✓ 2 Bags (50lbs ea)

The bundle matrix on the booking site: each tier adds bags, seats, flexibility, and boarding perks on top of the basic fare. Screenshot of the Frontier Airlines website, captured July 2026. Image credit: Frontier Airlines (flyfrontier.com). Shown for illustration and education only; WildFares is not affiliated with Frontier Airlines, and prices, availability, and layouts change constantly.

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MONEY

Trip Credits and Vouchers

	Trip credits	Vouchers
Where they come from	Canceled bookings	Goodwill, promotions, disruptions
Validity clock	Typically 12 months from issue; trust the date shown in your account	Often as short as 90 days to redeem (travel can be later)
Multi-use?	Yes, until the value is spent	Typically single application
Covers	Booking value	Often airfare only; taxes, seats, and bags may be excluded
Name rules	Original purchaser's booking	Passenger name must match exactly

The expiring-voucher rescue: a voucher about to die can be redeemed for any future flight, then the flight can be changed later. Redeeming before expiration keeps the value alive; letting it lapse forfeits everything.

Passholder angle: pass fares are too cheap to absorb credits meaningfully. Spend funny money on cash bookings, bags, seats, and non-passholder family tickets instead. And mind the cancel fee on voluntary cancellations: standard fares can carry a \$99 to \$129 per direction charge unless a bundle, elite status, or the 24 hour grace period covers it.

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PROTECTION

Delays, Cancellations, and Your Rights

A pass ticket is a real ticket. Once booked, you are covered by the same contract of carriage and customer service plan as every passenger on the plane, regardless of fare paid. What you are owed depends on whether the disruption was in the airline's control:

Controllable (airline's responsibility)	Uncontrollable
Mechanical issues	Weather
Crew scheduling	Airport closures and air traffic control
Aircraft substitutions	Strikes and industrial action

- **Either way:** for cancellations or 3+ hour delays, choose between free rebooking on the next available flight or a full refund of unused value to your original payment.
- **Controllable extras:** a meal or voucher once a controllable delay passes three hours. It issues when the delay crosses the three hour mark, not when the delay is announced.
- **Work three queues at once** when things break: the app, the counter line, and the phone line. Know the alternative flights before you reach an agent.
- **The passholder superpower:** if rebooking options are bad, take the refund and book tomorrow's wide-open flight for another \$15. Flexibility is compensation.

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ONBOARD

Boarding Groups, Decoded

Stage	Who boards
Preboarding	Top-tier elites, passengers needing extra time, military
Group 0-1	Families with young children, upper elites, BoardFirst and premium bundles
Group 2-3	Paid carry-on passengers (rear seats before front), cardholders, mid elites
Groups 4+	No carry-on passengers, back of plane first

- **Personal-item travelers can relax:** underseat space exists at every seat, so late boarding costs nothing. Skip the aisle standing entirely.
- **Bin-dependent travelers** should sit toward the back, hold the co-branded card, or buy Board First (\$2.99 to \$14.99 per direction) on full flights.
- **Elite status** is the structural fix; Gold and above boards early forever.



Boarding order, simplified

The airline boards bin-dependent bags first. Underseat travelers can ignore the whole queue.



Personal item only? Every seat has an underside. Board last, calmly.

Bin-dependent bag on a full flight? Sit toward the back, hold the card, or buy Board First (\$2.99 to \$14.99).

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STRATEGY

The Best Home Airports

Your home station is the biggest variable in pass value. These stations serve 20+ nonstop destinations, meaning a midnight search nearly always finds somewhere worth going: Denver, Las Vegas, Orlando, Tampa, Phoenix, Dallas, Atlanta, Chicago, Miami, Philadelphia, Cleveland, San Juan, plus the Washington DC and Los Angeles metro areas.

- **Daily frequency beats destination count.** Twelve destinations served daily gives more real options tonight than 25 served twice a week. Judge your airport by an actual Tuesday's departures.
- **Routes with several daily flights** almost always have pass space on one of them.
- **Small-station play:** position to a hub on the pass (or a cheap cash fare), then fan out. It converts a two-route airport into the whole network.

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STRATEGY

Strategy: Weekends, Chains, and the Calendar

The weekend playbook

Friday out, Sunday back is the worst inventory of the week. Shift half a day: Thursday to Saturday, or Saturday to Monday, and both legs land in the best availability windows. Keep a three-destination shortlist and book whichever is open at midnight; flexibility beats fixation.

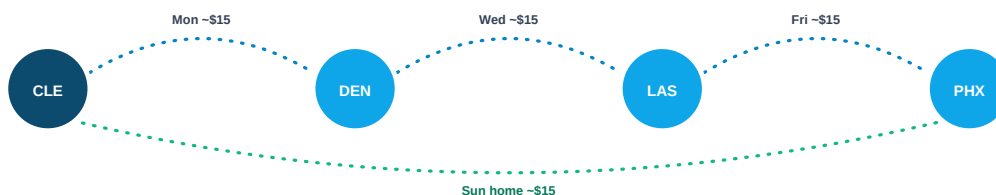
Multi-city chains

Nothing requires out-and-back trips. Chain hub cities (Denver to Vegas to Phoenix and home) with the rolling method: book leg one normally, then book each next hop the night before from wherever you are. Keep one hub between you and home, travel personal-item only, and hold plans loosely.



One week, four flights, about \$60 in taxes

Each hop booked the night before, from wherever you happen to be.



Keep one hub between you and home, and hold the plans loosely.

The demand calendar

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays are the reliable days. Late January, February, September, and October are the golden months. The 6am departure is the pass's best friend. A Tuesday dawn flight in late September is nearly a guaranteed yes; a Friday 5pm in July is nearly a guaranteed no. Plan on that spectrum.



GoWild conditions by month

Darker means easier. Blends demand patterns with blackout density; even light months hide gems.



● wide open ● good ● mixed ● hard: peaks + blackouts

February, September, and October are the golden months.

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TOOLS

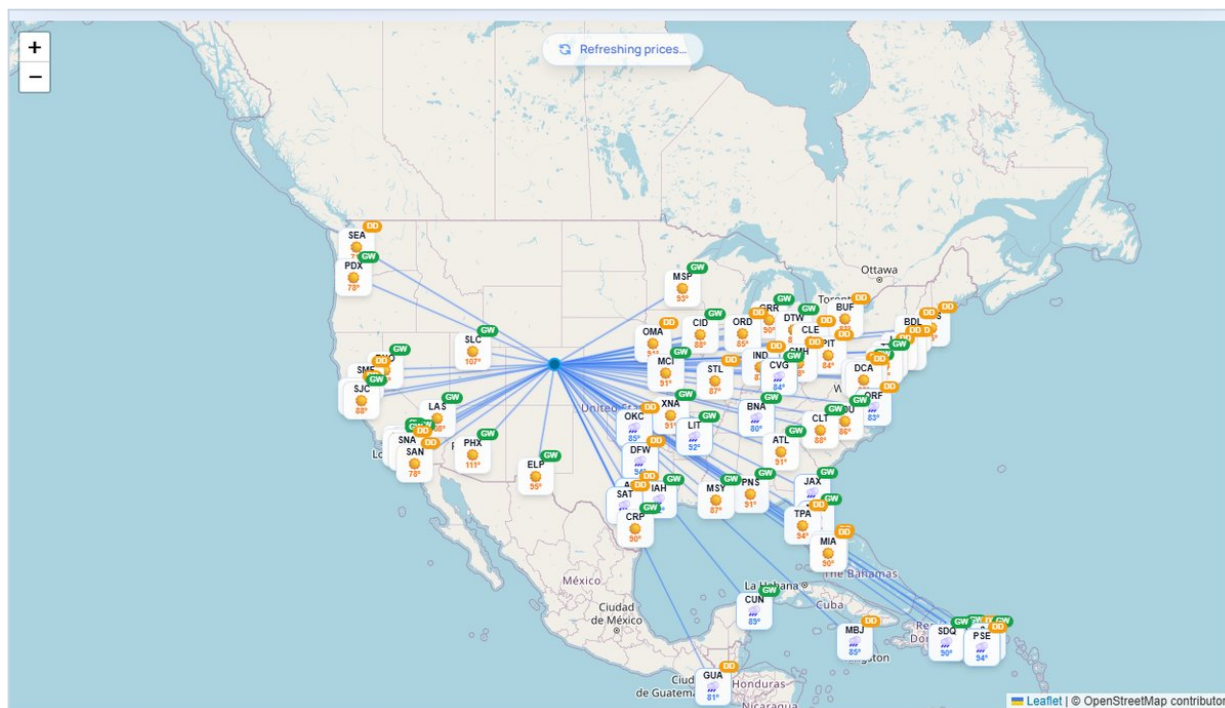
Tools: Stop Searching One Route at a Time

The airline's site answers one question at a time: does this route, on this day, have a pass fare? The question passholders have is broader: where can I go? A whole ecosystem of independent tools grew around that gap.

WildFares (the people behind this guide)

WildFares shows the entire network's live pass availability on a visual map: every open destination from your airport at a glance, plus multi-hop routing that chains legs the airline will not sell as one itinerary, calendar views for planning around blackouts, and alerts that ping you the moment a watched route opens. There is a free tier on the web and an iOS app.

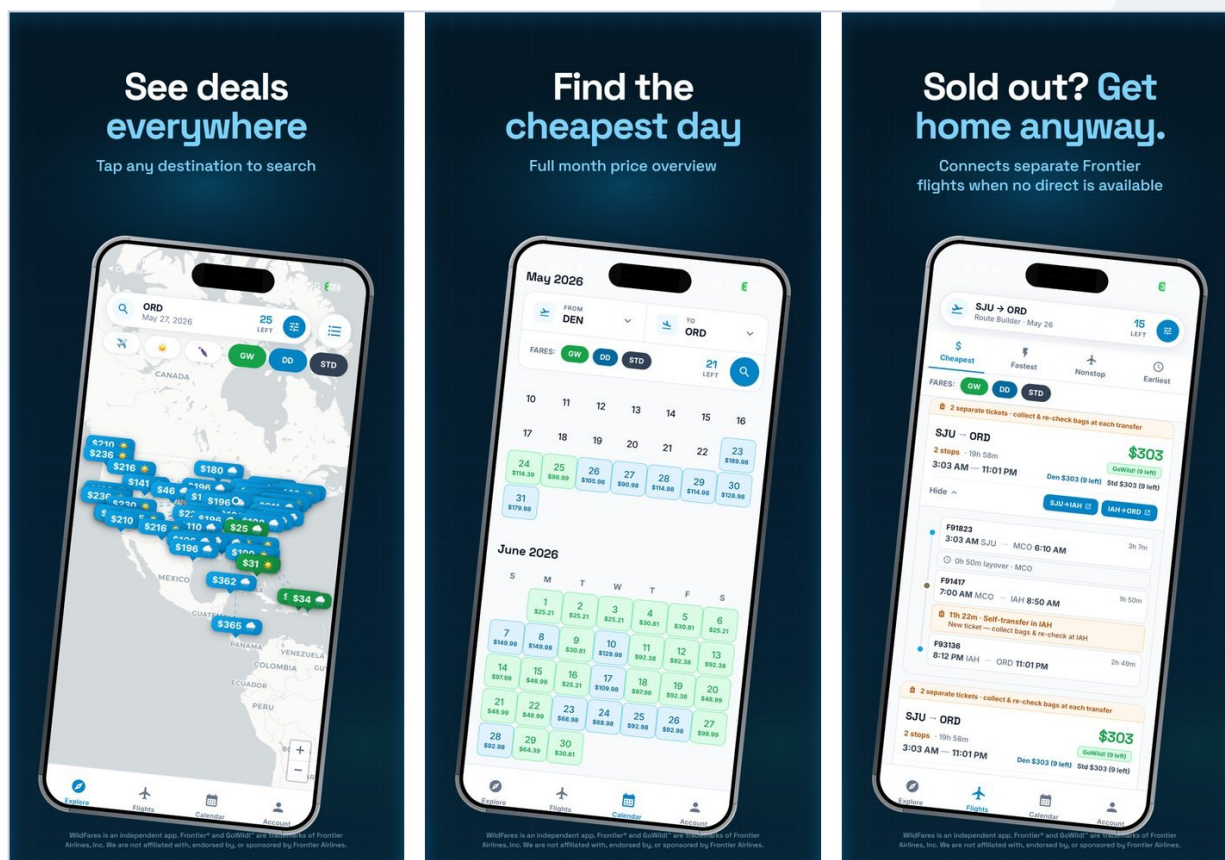
Try it: wildfares.com/register | iOS app: [App Store: WildFares](#) | Guides: wildfares.com/blog



One Denver search on wildfares.com: every reachable destination with its fare type and weather, on a live map. Screenshot: WildFares.

Getting started takes about three minutes

1. Create a free account at wildfares.com/register (no card needed).
2. Type your home airport and hit search. The map shows everything open right now; the list view prices every destination card.
3. Tap a flight and we hand you to the airline's checkout with the itinerary pre-filled. Bookings always happen on the airline's site, never ours.
4. Set an alert on the routes you care about and let the engine do the nightly checking for you.



The iOS app: the Explore map, a full month of prices in the calendar view, and the Route Builder connecting separate flights when no direct exists. Screenshot: WildFares.

Other tools in the space

The community also uses list-based search tools such as the 1491 Club and SearchGWP, both paid subscriptions with their own loyal followings, and general flight trackers for watching inbound aircraft. We have no affiliation or relationship with any of them or with the airline; their names are trademarks of their respective owners, and any dedicated tool beats manual searching. Pick whichever fits how you think, ideally one you can try free.

The alert that matters most: the one that fires just after midnight when tomorrow's flights open. Automating the nightly check is the single biggest quality-of-life upgrade in the pass lifestyle.

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STRATEGY

The Ten Expensive Mistakes

- 1. Buying the pass without checking your airport's actual daily departures.
- 2. Treating the window as 24 hours instead of midnight-the-day-before.
- 3. Paying airport prices for bags instead of deciding at booking.
- 4. Half-selecting seats when flying with kids, voiding free family seating.
- 5. Forgetting blackout dates until the airport tells you.
- 6. Fixating on one destination instead of holding a shortlist.
- 7. Camping on nearly-full flights that will never open to the pass.
- 8. Booking connections when a nonstop leaves an hour later.
- 9. Cutting the 60 minute booking cutoff to the minute.
- 10. Letting the pass auto-renew at full price without running the math.

The renewal audit: count trips flown, estimate their cash value, and compare against total spend. Over 2x value, renew happily. Under 1x, the pass already told you how you travel; walk away without guilt and rebuy at a promo if life changes.

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CHEAT SHEET

The Quick Reference Card

The whole guide, compressed to the numbers you need mid-trip. Screenshot this page or dog-ear it.

Thing	The number	Detail
Domestic booking window	Midnight, day before	Local time of departure airport; late flights get ~48h runway
International window	10 days out	Book the return too if it fits the window
Booking and check-in cutoff	60 minutes	Before departure, hard stop
Typical domestic taxes	\$15.41 nonstop	About \$20 with a connection
Personal item (free)	14 x 18 x 8 in	Fits under every seat, boards every group
Pet in cabin	\$149 each way	Carrier counts as one of your two items
Family seating	Free, kids 13 or younger	Pick seats for all or none; partial picks void it
Trip credit life	~12 months	From issue date; verify the date shown in your account
Controllable delay meal	3+ hours	Voucher issues once the delay crosses 3h
Best days	Tue, Wed, Sat	Fri and Sun are the grind
Best months	Feb, Sep, Oct	Plus late January; December is the wall

And the one habit that beats every number: check again. Availability is a living forecast, not a verdict, and the fare that was missing at midnight is routinely there at breakfast.

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THE TEAM

About WildFares

WildFares started the way most pass tools did: passholders who got tired of running the same thirty searches every night. We built the map we wanted, then the routing engine, then the alerts, and then this guide, because understanding the pass is half the value of holding one.

The search is free to try, the app is on the App Store, and the blog goes deeper on every chapter in this guide with new posts regularly.

Website: wildfares.com

Free signup: wildfares.com/register

iOS app: [App Store: WildFares](#)

The blog: wildfares.com/blog

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