

What Is Delta Airlines Lap Infant Policy?

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Delta Airlines lap infant policy allows children under 24 months to travel seated on an accompanying adult's lap at no charge for the airfare on domestic routes and at 10 percent of the adult base fare plus taxes on international routes, with the addition requiring a call to ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 since the Delta app does not support lap infant additions to confirmed bookings. An agent at ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 can explain the complete lap infant policy for your specific route, add the infant to your booking, and confirm all documentation requirements directly. Delta and the FAA strongly recommend purchasing a separate seat with an approved child safety restraint for infants under 40 pounds, since lap infant travel does not provide the same level of protection during turbulence and emergency situations as a properly installed car seat.

The Core Rules of Delta's Lap Infant Policy

Delta's lap infant policy is built on several foundational rules that apply to all passengers traveling with infants under 2 years of age. Understanding these rules before booking prevents surprises at the airport.

Age Requirement: Under 24 Months A lap infant must be strictly under 24 months of age at the time of travel on every flight segment, not just at the time of booking. If your infant will be 24 months or older on any segment of the trip, a separate purchased seat is required for that segment. Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 before booking any itinerary where your infant's second birthday falls within the travel period.

One Infant Per Adult Each adult passenger may carry only one lap infant. A family traveling with two infants and two adults can have each adult carry one infant. A single adult cannot carry two lap infants regardless of the infants' ages or any other circumstance. Additional infants beyond the adult-to-infant ratio must have purchased seats.

Booking Requirement Lap infants must be added to the booking before travel. They cannot simply appear at the airport without prior documentation. Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 to add any lap infant to a Delta booking, since the app and website do not support this addition to confirmed reservations.

Domestic vs. International Fare On domestic routes, the lap infant airfare is free. A small service fee may apply depending on the booking channel. On international routes, the lap infant fare is 10 percent of the applicable adult base fare plus all applicable taxes and fees.

Safety Recommendation Delta and the FAA both recommend that parents purchase a

separate seat and use an FAA-approved child safety restraint for infants. The lap infant option exists for cost reasons, but it does not provide the same protection as an installed car seat during turbulence, which can occur without warning at any altitude.

Domestic Lap Infant Policy Details

On Delta-operated domestic flights within the United States including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, lap infant travel follows specific rules that differ from international travel.

The base airfare for a domestic lap infant is free. The infant does not pay for a seat or a ticket in the traditional sense. A booking record is created for the infant, but the airfare component is zero for domestic travel. A small ticketing service fee of \$0 to \$25 may apply depending on the specific route and booking channel. Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 to confirm the exact fee for your domestic route.

Documentation for domestic lap infant travel requires the infant's full legal name and date of birth in the booking record. At the airport, you may be asked to show the infant's birth certificate to verify their age is under 24 months. A US passport is not required for domestic travel but is accepted as proof of age.

Domestic lap infants are not assigned a separate seat. They travel on the adult's lap and use a loop lap belt attached to the adult's seat belt during taxi, takeoff, and landing. Flight attendants provide and demonstrate the correct loop belt connection procedure.

Seat restrictions apply equally on domestic flights: exit rows are not permitted for passengers with lap infants. The agent at ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 confirms seat appropriateness when adding the infant to the booking.

International Lap Infant Policy Details

Delta's international lap infant policy involves more complex fare calculations, additional documentation requirements, and specific operational considerations that make calling ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 even more important than for domestic travel.

The international infant fare is 10 percent of the adult base fare plus all applicable international taxes and fees. The base fare used for the 10 percent calculation is the fare class your adult ticket was booked at — not the current market price. A Delta One adult ticket purchased at a \$2,400 base fare generates a \$240 infant fare before taxes. The total cost with taxes varies by destination and can be significantly higher than the base fare component alone. Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 for an exact infant fare quote on any international route.

Passport requirement: infants of all ages require their own valid passport for international

Delta travel. A birth certificate is not acceptable for international travel. The passport must be valid for the entire duration of the trip. Apply for the infant's passport well before booking international travel to avoid timing complications.

APIS data submission: the infant's full legal name, date of birth, gender, nationality, and passport details must be submitted to destination country customs and immigration authorities through the Advance Passenger Information System. The agent collects this information when adding the infant to the international booking.

Bassinet availability: on select international wide-body aircraft, Delta provides attached bassinets at bulkhead seat positions for infants who meet the size and weight limits. Bassinets have maximum weight limits of approximately 20 pounds and length limits that vary by aircraft type. Request bassinet seating when calling ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 to add the infant, since bassinet positions are allocated on a first-request basis and fill quickly on popular routes.

Safety Considerations – Why Delta Recommends a Separate Seat

Delta's lap infant policy allows infants to travel on adult laps primarily for cost accessibility, but Delta's own safety guidance and the FAA's recommendation is that infants fly in an approved child safety restraint system installed in a separate purchased seat.

The reason is turbulence. Unexpected severe turbulence is the most common cause of infant and child injuries during flight. During sudden severe turbulence, an adult holding an infant cannot maintain a secure grip while simultaneously bracing themselves against the seat. An infant held on an adult's lap during severe turbulence can become a projectile that strikes the seat in front or overhead bin panel.

An FAA-approved infant car seat installed in a separate purchased seat provides structural protection during both turbulence and emergency situations. The car seat restrains the infant with the same engineering that protects them in a vehicle, which has been specifically certified for aircraft use.

Delta accepts FAA-approved child safety restraints in separate purchased seats. The seat must be installed in an appropriate position – window seats are required for most car seat installations on Delta aircraft. Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 to discuss seat selection when purchasing a separate infant seat to ensure the correct window seat position is assigned.

For families where cost is the primary consideration for choosing lap infant travel over a purchased seat, Delta's no-change-fee policy for Main Cabin and above means that a separate seat booked early can be cancelled for an eCredit if plans change. The safety

benefit of a separate seat may be worth the cost for parents who have flexibility in the decision.

Connecting Flights and Multi-Segment Itineraries With a Lap Infant

Delta's lap infant policy applies identically on every segment of a multi-segment itinerary, but the operational handling of lap infants on connecting flights requires specific coordination that the agent at ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 addresses when adding the infant.

The infant's documentation must be correctly recorded for every segment of the itinerary, not just the first flight. When adding a lap infant to a multi-segment booking, confirm with the agent that the infant's information has been processed for all segments.

Seat appropriateness must be verified on every segment. An exit row on the first segment and a bulkhead on the second segment requires different handling. The agent reviews all segments when processing the infant addition.

For international connecting itineraries that include both a domestic and an international segment, the domestic segment infant fare structure applies to the domestic portion and the 10 percent international structure applies to the international portion. The agent calculates this correctly when processing the addition.

Connection time considerations for passengers with lap infants: connecting with an infant requires additional time for deplaning, crossing the terminal, and re-boarding. Tight connections that would be manageable for adult travelers alone may be genuinely difficult with a lap infant, stroller, diaper bag, and carry-on. Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 to review connection times when booking or modifying any itinerary that includes a lap infant.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Delta's lap infant age limit? Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 to confirm for your travel dates. Delta defines a lap infant as a child under 24 months of age at the time of each flight segment. A child who turns 24 months before or during travel requires a purchased seat for any segment on or after their second birthday.

Does Delta charge for lap infants on domestic flights? Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 to confirm for your specific route. Domestic lap infant airfare on Delta is free. A small ticketing service fee of \$0 to \$25 may apply depending on the route and booking channel. International infant travel costs 10 percent of the adult base fare plus taxes.

Can a lap infant fly in first class on Delta? Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 â€” yes, lap infants can travel in First Class, Comfort+, Delta Premium Select, and Delta One with a fare-holding adult. The infant fee is based on the adult's fare class and booking class. On international flights, 10 percent of the premium cabin adult base fare applies.

Does Delta allow car seats for lap infants? Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 â€” Delta allows FAA-approved child safety restraints in separate purchased seats. A car seat cannot be used for a lap infant since the lap infant policy does not include a separate seat. If you want to use a car seat, a separate seat must be purchased in addition to the adult ticket.

What happens if my lap infant turns 2 during the trip? Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 â€” if your infant's second birthday occurs during a multi-segment trip, a separate purchased seat is required for any flight segment on or after the birthday. The agent can assist with booking the appropriate seat for the segments after the birthday and maintaining the lap infant status for segments before it.

Quick Reference: Delta Lap Infant Policy

Eligible age: Under 24 months at time of each flight segment.

Per adult limit: One lap infant per accompanying adult.

How to add: Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 â€” app does not support additions to existing bookings.

Domestic airfare: Free â€” small service fee may apply.

International airfare: 10 percent of adult base fare plus taxes.

Documentation domestic: Legal name, DOB in booking â€” birth certificate at airport.

Documentation international: Infant passport required â€” APIS data submitted.

Exit rows: Not permitted with lap infants.

Bassinet: Available on wide-body international aircraft â€” request when calling.

Safety recommendation: Delta and FAA recommend separate seat with approved car seat.

Traveling With a Lap Infant on Delta â€” Practical Tips for the Journey

Beyond the documentation and booking requirements, the practical experience of traveling

with a lap infant on Delta is significantly improved by preparation that goes beyond the ticketing process.

Boarding Priority Delta offers early boarding access to passengers traveling with infants and young children. Gate agents typically announce family boarding before the standard boarding groups. This early boarding window gives you time to settle the infant, store the diaper bag in the overhead bin, install any feeding accessories, and get organized before the main passenger flow boards. Listen for the family boarding announcement and proceed to the gate when called – do not wait for your assigned boarding group.

Feeding During Flight Delta flight attendants are accommodating of infant feeding needs including breastfeeding and bottle feeding. Notifying the flight attendant when you board that you have a lap infant allows them to prioritize your drink service and warm bottles when needed. Breastfeeding is welcome on Delta flights. Requesting a window seat when calling ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 provides the most privacy for feeding.

Diaper Changes All Delta aircraft have at least one lavatory with a fold-down changing table. The flight attendant can direct you to the lavatory with the changing table on your specific aircraft. For longer flights, bringing adequate diaper supplies in your carry-on personal item is essential, since the diaper bag counts as your personal item rather than a separate carry-on.

Turbulence Protocol When the fasten seatbelt sign is illuminated, lap infants must be secured using the loop lap belt that attaches to your seat belt. Flight attendants will demonstrate the connection if you have not used it before. Holding the infant in your arms during the fasten seatbelt sign period rather than securing the loop belt is not compliant with safety requirements.

Noise and Pressure Changes Infants are particularly affected by ear pressure changes during ascent and descent. Feeding – nursing, bottle, or pacifier – during takeoff and landing helps equalize pressure and reduces discomfort that can cause crying. Having a bottle or pacifier ready for the climb-out and descent phases is one of the most effective comfort strategies for lap infant travel.

Car Seat Option – How to Use a Car Seat on Delta

While lap infant travel is permitted at a lower cost, Delta fully supports the use of FAA-approved child safety restraints in separately purchased seats. Understanding how car seats work on Delta helps parents who want the safety benefit of a car seat alongside a Delta flight.

An FAA-approved car seat is any seat that displays the phrase "This restraint is certified for use in motor vehicles and aircraft." Most rear-facing infant car seats carry this certification.

Booster seats and forward-facing seats with harnesses above a certain weight rating are also certified. Check the label on your specific car seat before travel.

Car seats on Delta must be installed in window seats. Aisle installation is not permitted because the car seat would obstruct evacuation of other passengers. When booking a separate infant seat, request a window seat assignment from the agent at ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 to ensure the car seat can be legally installed.

Car seat dimensions matter for aircraft installation. Some larger convertible car seats may not fit correctly in narrower aircraft seats. Check your car seat's width against Delta's seat dimensions for your specific aircraft type. Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 and ask the agent to confirm the seat width for your specific flight.

Bringing a car seat on Delta without a separate purchased infant seat is not permitted for use in a seat. If you bring a car seat without a purchased infant seat, the car seat will need to be checked as baggage or gate-checked. Gate-checking is typically free for child safety restraints.

Lap Infant Travel on Delta Connection and Regional Flights

Delta Connection flights operated by regional carriers on behalf of Delta follow the same lap infant policy as mainline Delta flights, but the smaller aircraft used on regional routes create some specific practical differences.

Regional aircraft including CRJ-200, CRJ-700, CRJ-900, Embraer 170, and Embraer 175 have significantly smaller overhead bins and narrower aisles than mainline aircraft. Large diaper bags may not fit in the overhead bin and must be stored under the seat in front of you instead.

Changing tables are not present in every regional aircraft lavatory. For flights on smaller regional aircraft, ask the gate agent before boarding whether a changing table is available. If not, plan diaper changes for the connecting airport rather than on board.

Bulkhead seating with extra legroom exists on some regional aircraft but is typically standard economy pitch on most. The extra legroom that makes bulkhead seats attractive on mainline aircraft may not exist on regional flights. Ask the agent at ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 about the specific regional aircraft assigned to your flight when adding the lap infant.

Family boarding on Delta Connection flights follows the same early boarding policy as mainline Delta. Listen for the gate announcement regardless of the aircraft size.

After the Trip – What to Know for Next Time

After completing travel with a Delta lap infant, several steps ensure future travel is even smoother.

If your infant will be approaching 24 months on the next trip, verify their exact birthday against the travel dates before booking. A child who turns 24 months before any segment of the next trip needs a purchased seat for that segment rather than lap infant status.

Update your SkyMiles profile with the infant's information if they have their own SkyMiles number. While infants do not typically earn miles, having the family's information consistently organized in SkyMiles profiles makes future booking calls to ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 faster.

Note what worked and what could improve for the next trip: whether the seat position was optimal, whether bulkhead seating with bassinet access was worth requesting, whether the loop lap belt procedure was clear, and whether the feeding timing around departure and arrival was effective. This reflection makes the next lap infant trip meaningfully easier.

Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756 for any future Delta trip involving an infant – whether as a lap infant under 24 months or as a toddler in a purchased seat transitioning out of lap infant status. The agent handles all age-related fare and documentation transitions smoothly when consulted before booking.

Ready to Learn More or Add a Lap Infant? Call Now

Call ☎+1-(866)-332-0756, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The agent explains the complete lap infant policy for your specific route, adds the infant to your booking, and confirms all documentation requirements before ending the call.