

## **Flying Private 101: From Booking to Landing**

Just a decade ago, the private aviation industry was one with few players, catering exclusively to individuals and corporations who could afford to purchase whole aircraft or fractional shares. Today, membership-based companies like Wheels Up have made private flying more accessible, allowing a greater number of people to experience the benefits.

Membership programs afford travelers the flexibility to fly as needed, even with as little as 24 hours' notice. With reasonably priced options, including pay-as-you-go, there is no need to worry about making a long-term commitment.

From booking the flight to arriving at the destination, you can travel efficiently on your own schedule and terms. Read on to find out more about the experience of flying private and how it works.

### **Booking**

Many private aviation companies have smartphone apps and dedicated member websites allowing you, or any of the other lead passengers on your account, to book a flight. As long as at least one lead passenger will be present, you may fly with family members, friends, or colleagues. If the company has its own fleet, you'll be able to schedule a trip on your choice of these aircraft. Some programs offer access to their approved charter partners' aircraft—including light, midsize, super-mid, and large-cabin jets—through the app or website.

- Start by entering your departure and arrival cities: a list of airport options will appear, including private airfields and private terminals (FBOs) at commercial airports, enabling you to choose the one you prefer.
- Next, select your desired departure date and time.
- Add the passengers (including pets) traveling with you.
- Arrange catering and ground transportation to and from the airport right there on the screen.
- Once done, review your itinerary, enter or select your payment method, and you're good to go.
- If you want to take another trip along the same route as a past flight, you can quickly scroll through your history and rebook the flight with 2 taps on your phone.

### **The FBO**

Love showing up at the airport 2 hours before your flight? Neither do we. With many companies, you can arrive at a private airport—or a private terminal at a commercial airport—just 20 minutes before takeoff. After being welcomed by the ground team, relax in the private lounge before your departure. At some airports, you can actually drive up right beside your plane and board immediately.

You'll find that there are small airports closer to your home than the commercial ones you're used to, so you can leave for the airport later and still make it there in plenty of time.

## Safety & Security

Flying private allows you to skip the security and bag check lines. At the FBO, the security team will complete a quick, non-intrusive inspection of all bags, to ensure that everyone can fly with peace of mind.

Travel worry-free, with the knowledge that private aviation organizations have senior safety teams with decades of experience—along with flight crews holding the highest certificates and exceeding FAA requirements for training and experience. At select companies, including Wheels Up and NetJets, the heads of safety personally conduct a thorough evaluation of every operator, including an on-site assessment, to ensure that they meet the firm's stringent safety and operating standards before they're approved to fly members.

## The In-Flight Experience

One of the first things you'll notice once you get on a private plane is that it's designed for comfort and relaxation:

- The seats are plush and roomy, and many of them come with pull-out tables significantly larger than the trays you're accustomed to on commercial flights.
- The cabins are quiet—some even feature noise-canceling technology—and are equipped with Wi-Fi.
- Many planes offer a communication service such as Gogo Talk & Text, allowing you to stay in contact with people on the ground while you fly.
- All snacks and beverages, including alcohol, are complimentary and easily accessible. Optional catering costs extra.
- There is an enclosed lavatory onboard virtually all aircraft.

## Arrival

Just as there are small private airports located near your home, there are others situated very close to your final destination, enabling you to get there faster. Certain private aircraft, including the King Air 350i, take this a step further with their ability to land on very short runways—giving you access to additional airports that many jets can't even use.

If you ordered ground transportation when booking your flight, your vehicle will be waiting for you as soon as you land—just grab your bag, step off the plane, hop in the car, and go.

**Private aviation is about shortening your travel time while maximizing your time at home and your destinations—giving you a comfortable, stress-free way to get everywhere you need to be.**

**Find out more about how Wheels Up can make your travel more convenient and efficient.**

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