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Use Uber's Reserve feature to book a ride in advance and have peace of mind knowing your ride is secured for a specific time and location. The feature is available on both iOS and Android versions of the Uber app, and the steps to book a ride in advance are the same. Reserving an Uber ride in advance eliminates the stress of not finding a ride when you need it, allows you to schedule trips up to 90 days ahead, and offers special features for airport pickups and dropoffs. Ever wanted to book a ride in advance to avoid the stress of not being able to find a ride when you really need it? Uber's Reserve feature lets you do just that within a matter of seconds. Using Uber to reserve a trip means you'll have peace of mind knowing your ride is booked for a specific location at a specific time. Here, we'll show you how to use this handy feature in the Uber app. How to Book a Ride in Advance in the Uber App Uber's Reserve feature is a lifesaver when you're worried your Uber driver won't arrive on time for an important meeting or be there when your flight is delayed. The steps you need to follow are identical both the iOS and Android version of the Uber app. Download: Uber for Android | iOS (Free) Follow these simple instructions to book an Uber ride in advance: Open the Uber app, navigate to Services from the bottom menu, and tap Reserve > Reserve a ride. Alternatively, you can tap Now on the home tab to reserve a ride. Type in your trip details, including the pickup location, destination, date, and time. You can either type the address or set the location on the map. Also, you can customize your pickup time based on what time you want to be dropped off. Tap Next to book your Uber ride as you usually would. You'll get a map view showing the selected route along with all the different Uber ride types and options. The last thing you need to do is hit Reserve Uber. To make sure you have a smooth airport experience, Uber offers some great features if you reserve a ride to or from the airport. All you have to do is type in what airline you're flying if you're getting dropped off or enter your flight number if you're getting picked up from the airport. Uber uses your flight number to monitor and track your flight, so the app will adjust the pickup time if your flight is delayed or if it arrives early. Plus, your driver will wait up to an hour for you once you've landed at the airport. There's nothing worse than requesting an Uber ride and getting a notification that no cars are available. This is especially horrible when you're in a rush or waiting at the airport. So, one of the biggest benefits of reserving an Uber ride is that you never have to worry about being picked up on time or whether drivers are available in the area. Another aspect that ensures you don't stress about getting an Uber ride is that you can conveniently schedule your trip up to 90 days in advance. You can even cancel the reservation up to an hour before the ride in case something suddenly comes up. Perhaps the standout advantage of using Uber to book a ride ahead of time is how stress-free it makes traveling to and from the airport. Now, you no longer have to leave your flight and hope you have a reliable and affordable ride in an unfamiliar place. Regardless, always remember to use specific strategies to stay safe during your Uber ride. If you want to ensure your day is as chaos-free as possible, you should take advantage of Uber's Reserve feature. An Uber driver will always be waiting for you, and you won't have to request a ride at the last minute. All it takes is a few simple steps to reserve, confirm, and enjoy your ride. So, whether you need to make a reservation for your next business trip or just want to plan ahead for an important meetup with friends, Uber's Reserve feature is a lifesaver. AARP Smart Driver™ Course When you take the AARP Smart Driver course, you could be eligible for a multi-year discount on your auto insurance.\* Refresh your driving skills and explore the latest rules of the road. You'll learn research-based driving strategies to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road. \*Upon completion, you may be eligible to receive an auto insurance discount. Other restrictions may apply. Consult your agent for details. Did you know that you can schedule an Uber up to 90 days in advance? The scheduling feature on Uber is called Uber Reserve, and it comes in handy when you want to book a ride ahead of time. When you schedule a ride, you get a guaranteed upfront price, and you can often match you with a driver ahead of your pickup time. But reservations can be more expensive than regular on-demand Uber rides because of the Uber reservation fee and other pricing practices. Read on to learn how scheduled rides work, how much they cost, and how you can make sure that your scheduled ride actually arrives. How to schedule an Uber ride On the home screen of the Uber app, tap the clock icon in the "Where to?" search bar. Then, select a time for your reservation from the dropdown menu and input your pickup & drop-off locations. You can also find the clock icon after you enter a destination. After you select a date and time, select a ride type and confirm your reservation. Finally, you'll see a confirmation screen and the ride will appear in your upcoming trips. Tap the clock icon to begin scheduling a ride You can also find the clock icon after you enter a destination During the scheduling process, you'll see an option to enable or disable 'auto rematch.' Auto rematch will match you with a new driver if your scheduled driver is late. Auto rematch finds you a new driver if yours is running late Drivers can see and accept your reservation in advance. You will get a notification to confirm that you are matched with a driver. If you aren't matched with a driver far in advance, you will still be matched with a driver around 20 minutes before your reservation. Drivers can accept your reservation in advance How to manage or cancel a reserved ride To manage your reserved ride: From the home screen: Tap Activity, then find your ride under the Upcoming section at the top of the screen. You can't edit your ride after making the reservation. If you made a mistake, you need to cancel the ride and start over. There is no cancellation fee if you cancel more than 60 minutes before the reserved time, so there's no penalty for adjusting your ride when your plans change. Find your scheduled ride in the Activity section of the app How much do reserved rides cost? You will see an upfront price estimate when you book your reservation. The system creates a price for your ride by using market data to predict the appropriate cost on the day and time that you schedule. Reserved rides also include a 'reservation fee.' The reservation fee is a variable charge that riders pay to compensate drivers for the additional wait time with reservations. Your upfront price will only change if your trip ends up being much longer than expected, or if you change the destination. Typically the upfront price will stay the same as long as the ride isn't significantly longer than the initial estimate. Does it cost more to reserve a ride? If your scheduled ride seems more expensive than expected, it's because of the reservation fee that is added to every scheduled ride. Uber doesn't say exactly how reservation fees or upfront prices are calculated, so there's not much you can do to figure out how to get a better price. If your reserved ride seems expensive, try placing the reservation at different times of the day to see if the price changes. The old scheduling system (still active in some markets) In the past, Uber had a scheduling feature that only sent out an automated request a few minutes before your scheduled time. Uber did not attempt to match you with a driver when you first scheduled the ride. That scheduling system is still active in some markets. You'll know if you're using the older system if there's no information about upfront driver matching. Under the older system, there was a greater chance that no drivers would accept your ride during a busy time. Driver rematching with Uber Reserve has proved to be more reliable for passengers. Cancel fees and wait time for reserved rides You can cancel a reserved ride for free up to 60 minutes before your reservation. You will be charged a cancellation fee if you cancel less than 60 minutes before your reservation. You can also cancel for free if your driver is going to be 10+ minutes late when they are matched with you. Example of cancel fees & wait times in Los Angeles Ride TypeCancel FeeWait Time UberXS255 minutes UberXL\$285 minutes Uber Comfort\$375 minutes Uber Black and SUVCost of the full fare15 minutes How reliable are Uber reservations? There's an important section in the terms and conditions for Uber reservations: "Uber doesn't guarantee a driver will accept your ride request. Your ride is confirmed once you receive your driver details." If Uber doesn't guarantee that a driver will accept your request, how reliable can reservations be? There's a very good chance that the driver will show up if you reserve a ride and get pre-matched with a driver. But remember that Uber drivers are independent contractors and are free to cancel your ride with little or no penalty. It's easy to find stories from upset passengers who had drivers cancel reservations at the last minute. What's going on? Some Uber drivers don't like reservations. Why your reservation is getting cancelled The benefits of Uber Reserve come with some drawbacks for drivers. Some drivers cancel reservations or never accept them to begin with. One reason is that the reservation pricing system may not correctly predict the best market price at the time of the ride, resulting in a scheduled ride that doesn't pay the driver as much as other rides. Let's say your upfront reservation price was \$25. If there is unexpected surge pricing at the time of your ride, it might mean that your driver could get paid more for another ride that uses the current market price. Another reason is the excessive wait time for drivers. Reservations sometimes send drivers to the pickup location up to 25 minutes before the reservation, and drivers aren't paid for that wait time. Any additional unpaid wait time is frustrating for drivers, so many choose to cancel the ride or skip reservations altogether. This driver might have to wait nearly half an hour. Unpaid! Keep an eye on your phone when you have a reservation coming up! To ensure you get a ride, keep an eye on your Uber app at least 20 minutes before your reservation time. If you aren't matched with a driver and there are only a few minutes until your reservation, consider cancelling the reservation and manually requesting another ride. You can cancel the reservation at no charge if your driver is going to be 10+ minutes late when they are matched with you. More about Uber The impact Uber has had on our culture should not be underestimated. It has made ride hailing easier than ever before while shaking up the monopoly cabs had in every city in the world. No longer are we held to ransom by cab drivers or limited to hailing a cab by hand in our city. We can now call a ride from anywhere at any time and have it arrive when and where we want. You can even schedule a ride in advance with Uber. The ability to schedule rides is relatively new to Uber. The first generation of the app didn't include this feature but further releases introduced Schedule Rides that allow you to book in advance. If you have a function, appointment, trip to the airport or something else that you know the exact time you'll need a ride, you can schedule it in advance from within the Uber app.Schedule an Uber in advanceSchedule Rides isn't available universally but it is available in most US cities right now. It isn't the perfect service for reasons I'll cover in a minute but if you live in a city with lots of Uber drivers it is a valuable additional feature to use Here's how to schedule a ride. Open the Uber app and set a destination. Select your service type and select the clock icon next to Request Vehicle. Set the date and time from the calendar popup. Set your pickup point as normal. Select Schedule and then Done. The process isn't much different from requesting a normal ride. You set your destination, choose a car or ride type and rather than moving straight into the pickup, you set the time and date instead. Then you set your pickup point, confirm the car or ride type and confirm the ride.You will see the route map and approximate cost as usual before you hit Schedule. The ride type will also be included in that Schedule button as normal.Once confirmed, the app will give you a fifteen minute pickup window. Make sure to schedule this into your plans when setting a time. If time is going to be tight, add some extra time when setting your pickup.Changing a Scheduled RideOnce you have a Scheduled Ride set up you can cancel or modify it at any time until a driver has accepted the ride. To change your ride, you have to cancel and rebook. There is currently no option to modify the schedule within the existing order. Not on my app anyway.To change or cancel a Scheduled Ride: Open Uber and select the Settings menu. Select Your Trips from the options and select the Upcoming option. Select Cancel and confirm cancelation. Follow the above process to create a Scheduled Ride with your new details. Cancelling before a driver has accepted a booking does not incur a fee. Canceling after the driver has accepted the ride will incur the usual fee. Typically, drivers will not accept a Scheduled Ride until the day or within half an hour or so before the ride is due to begin. Cancelling before then will usually be fine. Otherwise the fee is around \$5.Uber Scheduled RidesIn most situations, Scheduled Rides work perfectly well. They are a cheaper alternative to hiring a town car for a function, important meeting or trip to the airport but won't be ideal in every situation.Uber recommends not using Scheduled Rides for airport pickups. They work fine for getting you to the airport but the company says a number Uber drivers will work within a short range of most airports and it's easier to just request a ride when you land and clear security. Flight delays are all too common so they recommend against a Scheduled Ride there.A key shortcoming of Scheduled Rides is that Uber won't actually tell you if there isn't a driver available until you are within or at the end of your pickup window. This is less than ideal and can leave you hanging when you need it least. While I don't see how they could do this differently, it does leave you exposed or potentially late for your event.Users in less built up areas may also have trouble with Scheduled Rides. If a driver isn't available at the time, you're not going to know until that time. Practically, that's no different than booking a ride and no driver picking it up but if you're depending on that ride, you're left hanging.Scheduled Rides is a very neat feature that works as well as the rest of Uber. It helps take a weight off your mind knowing transport should be ready to take you where you need to go. If the standard service works in your area, Scheduled Rides should too.Have you used Scheduled Rides? Did it work? Would you use it again? Tell us about your experiences below.

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