

After the Comcast Cable Contract Ends: Options for Cable and Streaming Services

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As you probably know, Pelican Cove is ending its cable contract with Comcast in early January 2025. This article will give you a high-level overview of your options once the Comcast contract ends.

Before you choose your cable, replacement be sure to browse each streaming service's channel listing to make sure it includes the channels you want. Go to each company's website, enter your zip code and see what's available. You'll also want to consider the availability of add-on packages and special live broadcasts.

One other thing to note: most of these options don't include local TV news (ABC, NBC, CBS). The usual solution for watching local news is to get an antenna but Pelican Cove's many trees make it hard to get a signal.

Options for Streaming Services

DirectTV Stream

- **Monthly bill:** \$80 to \$165
- **What you get:** The cheapest plans provide a mix of live TV stations and cable channels. The top-tier package adds premium channels such as Max, Showtime and Starz. All of the services come with on-demand shows and movies, and unlimited cloud DVR storage.
- **Equipment:** You can get DirectTV Stream service using an app on streaming players and some smart TVs, but DirectTV also sells its own Android-based player, which costs \$120 up front or \$5 per month for 24 months.
- **What you don't get:** Some local channels and regional sports networks aren't available in all markets or in the most basic plan. BBC World News, FXM (the FX movie channel), Logo, L Network, Nick Jr., Oxygen, and the Smithsonian Channel are available only in the pricier plans.

FuboTV

- **Monthly bill:** \$80 to \$100 per month
- **What you get:** This sports-centric service provides live and on-demand channels from ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC in most markets. You also get cable channels (AMC, Bravo, Discovery, FX, HGTV, Syfy, and TLC) and sports networks (BeIn Sports, FS1, Golf Channel, MSG, SNY, and NBA TV). Thanks to a deal with Disney, the service now has ESPN (ESPN, ESPN 2). The upper tier plan adds more channels and options.
- **What you don't get:** Fubo's on-demand library is limited. Also, Fubo is missing Turner channels (Adult Swim, Cartoon Network, CNN, TBS, TNT) and A&E networks. You also don't get Fox regional sports networks or the Yes Network, home to Yankees games.

Hulu +Live TV

- **Monthly bill:** The pricing tiers are confusing, varying mainly by which parts of your service show ads. You'll need to do research to figure out the best combination for your household. Hulu (no ads) + Live TV, Disney+ (no ads), ESPN+ with ads \$89.99 month

- **What you get:** Hulu + Live TV offers about 75 channels, including the major broadcast channels of ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC. You also get cable channels such as A&E, BET, CN, CNN, Disney, Fox News, FX, HGTV, TBS, and TNT. The lineup includes CBS Sports, ESPN, and Fox Sports, plus some regional sports networks. Hulu has recently added Hallmark, The Weather Channel, Disney+ and ESPN+.
- **What you don't get:** The service is mainly missing AMC, BBC America, MLB Network, NBA TV, NFL Network, IFC, and PBS.

Philo

- **Monthly bill:** \$25 Philo is a service backed by several cable networks.
- **What you get:** Access to more than 70 channels from partners, including A&E, AMC, Discovery, Scripps, and Paramount (formerly CBS Viacom). The company recently added the Smithsonian Channel and Pop.
- **What you don't get:** Philo has no local channels and doesn't offer live news (CNN, Fox News) or sports networks such as ESPN or NFL Network.

Sling Blue

- **Monthly bill:** \$40-\$55.
- **What you get:** Sling has two major offerings. The Orange package, for \$40, features about 30 cable channels, including Disney and ESPN, plus A&E, the Food Network, and TBS, but no broadcast TV. You can add premium channels, including Showtime (\$10) and Starz (\$9). Sling TV offers a large number of add-on packs, which provide extra genre-based programming (sports, news, lifestyle, Hollywood, etc.).
- **What you don't get:** You can get ABC, Fox and NBC in some markets, so you need to check before signing on. CBS is still missing from any plan. In addition, Sling doesn't offer Max as an add-on package, and subscribers outside of several major markets can no longer get NBC on-demand channels.

YouTube TV

- **Monthly bill:** \$82.99
- **What you get:** YouTube TV offers access to more than 100 channels, including all the major broadcast networks, cable channels (AMC, Bravo, Disney, ESPN, FX, Fox News, Fox Sports, MSNBC, National Geographic, Turner, USA), and major sports networks such as CBS Sports, ESPN, and Fox Sports, along with the MLB, NBA, and NFL league networks. It recently added a bunch of Paramount channels, including BET, Comedy Central, TV, Nickelodeon, and Paramount Network. YouTube is now also the home to NFL Sunday Ticket.
- **What you don't get:** YouTube TV's biggest content holes are some cable channels, including A&E, CW, DIY Network, History Channel, and Lifetime.

Sling Freestream

What you get: Ad-supported TV service offering over 500 free live TV channels and an extensive library of over 40,000 on-demand shows and movies, including popular titles like Hell's Kitchen and The Walking Dead. It's user-friendly, requires no credit card, and is always free.

Criterion Channel

- **Monthly bill:** \$19.99 annual \$99.99
- **What you get:** Offers on-demand access to The Criterion Collection, providing access to thousands of classic films from the entire history of cinema.
- **What you don't get:** The biggest flaw is that it does not have every film from the Criterion Collection. Although a curated list of films each month may appeal to the serious film scholars among the service's viewers, it means some flicks aren't available when you want to watch them. In any case, for film buffs, this service is likely your best option for a deep dive into domestic and international cinema

ISPs – internet service providers

- Xfinity \$40- Netflix, Peacock, and Apple TV+ \$30 NOW TV, with 125 live channels and On Demand, Netflix, Peacock, and Apple TV+
- Frontier \$29 – YouTube \$62.99
- DirectTV \$69.99 only satellite TV service
- Verizon \$ 35 - Netflix & Max, free for the first 12 months then \$10/mo. after.
- T-Mobile \$50 FREE Amazon Fire TV 40-inch 2-Series (online order only)