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## Check in With These Travel Tips Before Arriving at the Airport

Suggestions can help make for a smooth trip through Philadelphia International

**PHILADELPHIA** – Thanksgiving traditionally signals the arrival of the busy holiday travel season, and in the next several weeks large numbers of travelers will be coming to Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) to fly out to visit that special someone or vacation in a favorite place. In order to facilitate the trip through the Airport, PHL is pleased to provide the following tips:

- Check the status of your flight by contacting your airline directly, or call the Airport at 800-PHL-GATE, or visit the Airport's website (<u>www.phl.org</u>) and click on "Flight Information." Please have your flight number handy.
- If you are 18 or older, make sure you have a valid, **government-issued photo ID** (driver's license, passport, military ID, or government employee ID).
- Extra time may be needed for checking-in and security screening. Check with your airline for recommended check-in time.
- Liquids, gels and aerosols in 3-ounce or smaller containers may be carried onto the aircraft in a re-sealable, one-quart, clear plastic bag. Only one such bag per passenger is permitted and it must be removed from your bag for inspection at the checkpoint. Liquids, gels and aerosols in containers larger than 3 ounces must be placed in your checked baggage. Exceptions are made for prescription and over-the-counter medicines, baby formula, and breast milk. NOTE: Free, one-quart, re-sealable plastic bags are available at Information Counters throughout the airport.
- For additional information on permitted and prohibited items, consult the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website <u>www.tsa.gov</u>, e-mail the TSA at <u>TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov</u> or call the TSA Consumer Response Center toll-free at 1-866-289-9673. Check the TSA website often, since regulations can change at anytime.
- TSA Pre ✓ <sup>™</sup> lanes for eligible US Airways, United Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Alaska Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Virgin America and JetBlue passengers are available at Security Checkpoints in Terminals A-East, B, C and D/E. The checkpoints are operated by the Transportation Security Administration. TSA Pre ✓ <sup>™</sup> allows select frequent travelers of participating airlines and certain members of existing U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Trusted Traveler Programs eligibility to receive expedited screening benefits during domestic travel. For more information, visit <u>www.tsa.gov/tsa-precheck</u>.

- Global Entry kiosks are available in the federal inspection area of Customs Arrivals. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection program allows expedited clearance for pre-approved travelers upon arrival in the U.S. For more information on the Global Entry program, visit www.globalentry.gov
- Airline ticket counter personnel handle wheelchair service requests (all airlines provide wheelchair service; only US Airways provides both wheelchair and electric cart service). If you require these services, advise your airline when making your reservation and confirm the request prior to the day of departure.
- Check with your airline for specific carry-on baggage allowances as well as checked baggage policies.
- Passengers must obtain **boarding passes** before entering the security checkpoint. Check with your airline to see if they provide paperless boarding. At the checkpoint, have boarding passes and photo ID ready for inspection by TSA personnel and keep these documents handy until you exit the checkpoint.
- Many airlines assess a fee for checked bags. Check with your airline for specific policies and fees for checked bags.
- Check with your airline to find out if it offers curbside check-in. If curbside check-in is not available, allow extra time for checking in at the ticket counter.
- If you are not checking any bags, you may not have to wait in line at the ticket counter to
  obtain a boarding pass. Most airlines now allow passengers to check in and print boarding
  passes from their websites, and most airlines have check-in kiosks at the Airport away
  from the ticket counter. Check with your airline prior to arriving at the Airport.
- At security checkpoints, passengers can choose screening lanes based upon their travel experience and needs in order to facilitate the screening process: Expert (frequent travelers who are very familiar with security screening procedures), Casual (sometime travelers who are somewhat accustomed to the security screening process), and Family/Special Assistance (families traveling with small children, passengers requiring special assistance, unfamiliar with the security screening process, or traveling with more than 3 ounces of medically necessary liquids).
- The TSA has deployed AIT Technology, or full body scanners, at all checkpoints.
- Drinks may not be taken through the checkpoint. Consider picking up a carry-on meal and beverage for your flight once you have passed through the checkpoint. Most airlines now charge for in-flight meals; on some flights, food may not be offered.

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- To expedite your passage through the checkpoint, place **personal items** like cell phones, pagers, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), keys, loose change and jewelry **into your carry-on bag** or use one of the **free re-sealable bags** available at the Information Counters. At the checkpoint, the TSA provides bins in which to place these personal items along with shoes, coats, jackets and belts, which must be passed through the X-ray machine.
- Remove **laptops** from their cases and place them in a bin to be X-rayed. **Video games** with consoles must also be removed from bags and placed in a separate bin for screening.
- Equipment used to screen checked baggage may damage certain types of **undeveloped film.** Pack undeveloped film in your carry-on bag. Remove undeveloped **high-speed and specialty film** from canisters and place in a clear plastic bag. Screening equipment will not affect digital cameras or electronic image storage cards.
- All checked baggage is subject to **hand inspection**. The TSA recommends using locks that screeners can open and re-lock. Some recommended locks are listed on its website.

Do not wrap gifts. They may have to be opened for inspection. This applies to both checked and carry-on items.

## Parking:

- The Airport offers nearly 19,000 parking spaces. Long-term parking is available in the Garages and in the Economy Lot; parking in the Short-Term lot is recommended for visits of less than one hour.
- Parking Rates are as follows:

Economy Lot: \$11.00 daily	Garage Parking: \$20.00 daily	Short-Term Lot: \$40
	\$6.00 up to 1 hr	\$6.00 up to 1 hr
	\$15.00 up to 3 hrs	\$20.00 up to 4 hrs

- The Philadelphia Parking Authority has a parking guidance system in the garages at the Airport. The parking guidance system is a real-time inventory control program that directs customers to available parking spaces.
- For more information on Airport parking, contact the **Philadelphia Parking Authority** at 215-683-9842 or consult their website, <u>www.philapark.org</u>.
- A free on-Airport "Cell Phone Waiting Lot" is available for motorists to wait, with their vehicles, for short periods of up to 30 minutes until their party is ready to be picked up. The

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lot is less than a one-minute drive from the baggage claim areas. Follow the Arriving Flights roadway into the Airport and then follow the signs to the Cell Phone Waiting Lot.

## **SEPTA Airport Rail Line:**

• As an alternative, travelers can use the **SEPTA Airport Line**. Convenient and accessible, trains run every 30 minutes and stop at Terminals A,B,C,D and E. The one-way fare is \$8.00 to and from Center City. For more information on schedules and fares, contact SEPTA at 215-580-7800 or visit SEPTA's Web site at www.septa.org.

During the holiday season, the Airport is offering complimentary apple cider to travelers waiting in security screening lines.

"During the holiday season, the Airport welcomes many travelers who are not familiar with the Airport or accustomed to traveling by air," said Airport CEO Mark Gale. "We are pleased to offer these suggestions in order to help these folks be better prepared when they arrive at the Airport. The Airport will also have additional staff assisting travelers during peak travel times. On behalf of the employees at Philadelphia International Airport, I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season."

Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for more than 141,000 jobs.