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Traveling During the Holidays? Read These Tips Before Coming to the Airport

Suggestions for a smooth trip through Philadelphia International Airport

PHILADELPHIA – With the busy holiday travel season here, Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) is prepared to welcome large numbers of travelers.

To facilitate your departure, the Airport is pleased to provide the following tips:

- Check your flight status by contacting your airline directly, or call the Airport at 800-PHL-GATE, or visit the Airport's [website](#) 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, aerosols, creams and pastes in **3.4-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 3.4 ounces must be placed in your checked baggage. Medications, baby formula and food, and breast milk are allowed in reasonable quantities exceeding 3.4 ounces and they don't need to be in a zip-top bag. Declare items for inspection at the checkpoint. Items may be opened and are subject to additional screening. **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](#), e-mail the TSA at TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov or

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call the TSA Consumer Response Center toll-free at 1-866-289-9673. Check the TSA website often, since regulations can change at any time. The **My TSA** mobile application can be downloaded on iOS and Android devices from iTunes and Google Play as well as accessed by visiting tsa.gov/mobile.

- Travelers or families of passengers with disabilities and medical conditions may call the TSA Cares toll-free helpline at 1-855-787-2227, 72 hours prior to traveling with any questions about screening policies, procedures and what to expect at the security checkpoint.
- [TSA Pre-Check](#) lanes for eligible US Airways, United Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Alaska Airlines, Southwest Airlines, 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-Check 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.
- [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.
- Automated Passport Control kiosks are available in the federal inspection area in Terminal A-West to U.S. and Canadian passport holders and eligible international visitors from Visa Waiver Program countries. For more information, visit www.cbp.gov
- **Airline ticket counter personnel handle wheelchair service requests (all airlines provide wheelchair service; only US Airways/American Airlines 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. Many airlines assess a fee for checked bags. Check with your airline for specific policies and fees for checked bags.
- Place your **name and contact information** inside your checked bags in case your luggage tag is lost.
- 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.
- Passengers must obtain **boarding passes** before entering the security checkpoint. If you are not checking any bags, you may check in and **print boarding passes from the airline's website**, and most airlines have **check-in kiosks** at the Airport away from the ticket counter. In addition, most airlines operating at PHL offer mobile boarding; check with your carrier.

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- 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.
- 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.
- To expedite your passage through the checkpoint, place **small electronics** like cell phones, pagers, and tablets and personal items like 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 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.

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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:

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

- For more information on Airport parking, contact the [Philadelphia Parking Authority](#) at 215-683-9842.
- A free PHL 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 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:

- Convenient and accessible, the SEPTA Airport Line 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](#).

Keep up to date with PHL news by following the Airport on Twitter @PHLAirport.

“The holiday season is a busy travel period and also a time when the Airport welcomes many individuals who are not familiar with the routine of traveling by air,” said Airport CEO Mark Gale. “We are pleased to offer these suggestions in order to help these travelers 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.