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Philadelphia International Airport Prepares for Pope Francis

PHL welcomes visitors to WMOF and Papal visit, offers travel tips

Philadelphia, PA—Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) is welcoming tens of thousands of visitors to the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) 2015 gathering that got underway on September 22 and the visit by Pope Francis this weekend.

Pope Francis will arrive at Atlantic Aviation at the Airport at approximately 9:30 AM on Saturday, September 26 and depart at 8:00 PM on Sunday, September 27. The arrival and departure are not open to the public.

Volunteers from the Airport, World Meeting of Families, Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau and Temple University are greeting and assisting passengers as they arrive for the festivities. Visitors are being welcomed by banners, monitor graphics, and floor decals touting the Papal Visit and WMOF. On Monday September 22, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society handed flowers to arriving passengers in the B/C baggage claim.

“This is an exciting time for the entire Philadelphia region,” said Airport CEO Mark Gale. “We are proud to serve as the entry point through which so many pilgrims from throughout the world are coming to celebrate this historic event with us.”

As anticipation builds toward Pope Francis’ arrival in Philadelphia on Saturday morning, here are some important things to know if you are traveling to and from the Airport this week and weekend:

The Airport is open. Passengers may contact their airlines directly for questions regarding flight schedules and status. Flight information can also be obtained by calling 1.800.PHL.GATE or by checking www.phl.org

SEPTA Airport Rail Line – All passengers traveling on the Airport Rail Line through Friday, September 25 including seniors, those with disabilities and children over the age of 5 must purchase a ticket prior to boarding the train. Passengers can follow special wayfinding signs to SEPTA’s temporary ticket sales locations in Baggage Claim A and on the pedestrian walkways between Terminal B and Baggage Claim B, Terminal C and Baggage Claim C, and Terminal D and Baggage Claim D. There are no cash sales on board the train.

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Beginning on Thursday, September 24 at 10:00 PM, Suburban Station in Center City will be closed.

On Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27, the SEPTA Airport Rail Line will operate in both directions twice hourly from 4:15 a.m. to 1:15 a.m. with limited station stops. The train will stop in Center City at Jefferson and University City stations only. At the Airport, the train will stop and pick up passengers on the platforms at Terminal A, B and C-D only. The train will not stop at Terminal E on Saturday and Sunday.

All passengers must purchase a One Day Papal Pass for travel on the Airport Rail Line on Saturday and Sunday. The Papal train passes can be purchased at the Airport at the SEPTA ticket sales locations noted above. The passes will not be sold on the train.

SEPTA Bus routes 37 to/from South Philadelphia and 108 to/from 69th Street Transportation Center will operate at Zone 1 outside of baggage claim areas. Single ride transit fares are \$2.25 and transfers are an additional \$1.00.

For detailed information on SEPTA Service during the Papal Visit, visit www.septa.org

Road closures and traffic restrictions will be put in place beginning Thursday starting at 10:00 PM through Monday morning. Details can be found [here](#).

Beginning on Friday, September 25 at 10:00 PM through Monday morning, September 28, the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76) will be closed eastbound from the 1-476 interchange in Conshohocken to I-95, and westbound from I-95 to the Roosevelt Expressway. The Vine Street Expressway (I-676) will be closed in both directions. I-95 will remain open; however, all I-95 exits from Broad Street to I-676 will be closed. The Airport exits from I-95 will be open.

For more information on road closures, traffic conditions, directions to Papal events and alternate routes, visit www.papal511.com

For more information, visit the [Traveler Information for Papal Visit](#) page on phl.org and follow the Airport on Twitter @PHLAirport.

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.