

A Few TSA Travel Tips for 2025

1. Pack smart and start with an empty bag. If you start packing with an empty bag, you are less likely to bring prohibited items to the checkpoint. Not sure what's prohibited? Visit our "[What Can I Bring?](#)" webpage.

Know the 3-1-1 liquids rule. Remember, if you can spill it, spray it, spread it, pump it or pour it, then it is a liquid and must be packed in your checked bag. Pack liquids, gels and aerosols larger than 3.4 ounces in a checked bag to avoid having the carry-on bag pulled aside, opened by a Transportation Security Officer (TSO), and then potentially having to voluntarily abandon the item because it is over 3.4 ounces.

2. Arrive early. Travelers are taking to the skies in record numbers, so plan to arrive at least two hours prior to your flight's scheduled boarding time to allow enough time to park, navigate to the terminal, check luggage with the airline if needed and go through security screening before arriving at your gate. Arrive at least three hours before international flights.

3. Bring an acceptable ID. Before heading to the airport, make sure you have acceptable identification and make it REAL ID since you must have a REAL ID -compliant ID to fly by May 7, 2025. [Visit the TSA website](#) to learn which IDs are accepted by TSA at the entrance to the security checkpoint. Identity verification is a critical step of the screening process. **[Currently, U.S. Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents is acceptable.]**

4. Do you carry a firearm? Prepare, pack and declare. If you plan to travel with a firearm, you must properly pack the firearm in a hard-sided, locked case in your checked luggage and declare it with the airline while checking in at the airline ticket counter. Bringing a firearm in your carry-on bag to a TSA checkpoint, even accidentally, is expensive and will cause delays for you and others, even if you have a concealed carry permit or live in a constitutional carry jurisdiction. If you bring a firearm to the security checkpoint on your person or in carry-on bag, TSA will contact law enforcement, who may arrest or cite the passenger, depending on state law.

5. Be aware of new checkpoint screening technology. TSA uses a variety of methods and technologies to enhance security effectiveness, efficiency and the passenger experience. Screening protocols vary from airport to airport, depending on available technology and the current threat environment. Some airports use the second generation of Credential Authentication Technology (CAT), called CAT-2 units. This technology confirms the authenticity of a passenger's identification credentials with their [acceptable photo identification](#) (ID) along with their flight details and pre-screening status, but with an added camera feature. The facial recognition technology TSA uses helps ensure the person standing at the checkpoint is the same person pictured on their ID. Photos are not stored or saved after a positive ID match has been made, except in a limited testing environment for evaluation of the effectiveness of the technology.

Passenger participation is voluntary. If a passenger chooses not to have their photo taken, they may have their identity checked manually without penalty or losing their place in line. Passengers who do not want their photo taken should alert the TSO, who will verify their ID using the CAT machine only. For more information on how TSA is using facial recognition technology, see TSA's [Fact Sheet](#) and [biometrics technology](#) webpages.

6. Travel with ease with TSA Pre-Check. Join more than 20 million members benefitting from the TSA Pre-Check Trusted Traveler program. TSA Pre-Check passengers are low-risk travelers who do not need to remove shoes, belts, 3-1-1 liquids, food, laptops and light jackets at the security checkpoint. Wait time standards for TSA Pre-Check lanes are under 10 minutes, whereas standard screening lanes are 30 minutes and under. Visit www.tsa.gov/Pre-Check for more information on enrolling with one of TSA's three enrollment providers. TSA Pre-Check members are reminded to make sure their Known Traveler Number (KTN) is in their airline reservation, so it appears on their boarding pass.

7. Call ahead to request passenger support. If you or a family member require additional assistance through security screening, you may request a TSA [Passenger Support Specialist \(PSS\)](#). A PSS is a TSO who has received specialized training, including how to effectively assist and communicate with individuals with disabilities, medical conditions or those who need general additional screening assistance. Individuals should request passenger assistance at least 72 hours in advance by contacting [our TSA Cares passenger support line](#) at (855) 787-2227.

8. Visit the TSA Customer Service [Contact Us](#) page for various options in getting assistance with any questions or complaints you may have. You may also reach the TSA Contact Center at 866-289-9673.

9. Listen to and respect frontline employees. Pack an extra dose of patience, especially during these high travel volumes, and show gratitude to all those who are working to get everyone to their destinations safely including TSA and airport personnel, gate agents and flight attendants. Please follow instructions from the TSOs when going through security screening. Violence and unruly behavior in the transportation systems are not acceptable and result in significant delays at traveler checkpoints. Assaulting a TSA employee is a federal offense and will result in penalties and/or arrest.

10. Remain vigilant. Be aware of your surroundings and report suspicious activities. Remember: If You See Something, Say Something.

This list is not all inclusive. For additional information please visit the TSA website at: [Travel Tips 2025 | Transportation Security Administration](#)