

# TSA TRAVEL TIPS FOR FLYING

Here is a list of tips from the Transportation Security Administration for groups that are flying to their destination. The resource for this document is the TSA Website.

## **Security Screening**

TSA has evolved from a one-size-fits-all security screening approach to a risk-based, intelligence-driven strategy designed to improve both security and the passenger experience. This approach permits us to provide expedited screening for trusted travelers and to focus on high-risk and unknown passengers at security checkpoints.

TSA officers may use risk-based security measures to identify, mitigate and resolve potential threats at the airport security checkpoint. These officers may ask you questions about your travel to include identity, travel itinerary and property. TSA may use a variety of screening processes, including random screening, regardless of whether an alarm is triggered. In addition, TSA uses random and unpredictable security measures throughout the airport and no individual is guaranteed expedited screening.

## **Screening Technology**

TSA uses millimeter wave advanced imaging technology and walk-through metal detectors to screen passengers. Millimeter wave advanced imaging technology safely screens passengers without physical contact for metallic and non-metallic threats, including weapons and explosives, which may be concealed under clothing. Generally, passengers undergoing screening will have the opportunity to decline AIT screening in favor of physical screening. However, some passengers will be required to undergo AIT screening if their boarding pass indicates that they have been selected for enhanced screening, in accordance with TSA regulations, prior to their arrival at the security checkpoint. This will occur in a very limited number of circumstances. The vast majority of passengers will not be affected.

**Safety**: Advanced imaging technology is safe and meets national health and safety standards. This technology uses non-ionizing radio-frequency energy in the millimeter spectrum with no known adverse health effects. It does not use X-ray technology.

**Privacy**: TSA has strict privacy standards when using advanced imaging technology to protect your privacy. Advanced imaging technology uses automated target recognition software that eliminates passenger-specific images and instead auto-detects potential threats by indicating their location on a generic outline of a person. The generic outline is identical for all passengers.

## **Pat-Down Screening**

If you cannot or choose not to be screened by advanced imaging technology or a walk-through metal detector, you will undergo a pat-down procedure instead. You may also undergo a pat-down procedure if you alarm the screening equipment and/or at random. The pat-down will be conducted by a TSA officer of the same gender and you may ask that the TSA officer change their gloves before performing a pat-down. The TSA officer will ask whether you have an injury or tender area to treat such areas accordingly during a pat-down.

You may request to have a pat-down in private and be accompanied by a companion of your choice. You may bring your carry-on baggage to the private screening area and may request a chair to sit if needed. You will not be asked to remove or lift any article of clothing to reveal sensitive body areas. Please note a second TSA officer will always be present during a private pat-down screening.

## **Checked Baggage Screening**

TSA screens approximately 1.1 million checked bags for explosives and other dangerous items daily. Upon check in, your checked baggage will be provided to TSA for security screening. Once the screening process has completed, your airline will transport your checked baggage on your respective flight as well as deliver it to the baggage claim area. The majority of checked baggage is screened without the need for a physical bag search.

**Inspection Notices**: TSA may inspect your checked baggage during the screening process. If your property is physically inspected, TSA will place a notice of baggage inspection inside your bag. This is to inform you that an officer conducted an inspection of your property. TSA may randomly inspect checked baggage, regardless of whether an alarm is triggered during screening.

**Claims**: If your property is lost or damaged during the screening process, you may file a claim with TSA. If your property is lost or damaged during transport to the plane or baggage claim, please contact your airline.

**Monitoring**: Responsibilities for access control and video monitoring of checked baggage facilities fall to individual airports as part of their security plan. Methods of monitoring vary from airport to airport and may include CCTV.



## 3-1-1 Liquids Rule

You are allowed to bring a quart-sized bag of liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes through the checkpoint. These are limited to 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) or less per item. This is also known as the 3-1-1 liquids rule.

## **TSA Recognized Locks**

TSA officers have tools for opening and re-locking baggage with accepted and recognized locks, such as Safe Skies<sup>®</sup> and Travel Sentry<sup>®</sup>, reducing the likelihood of damaging the lock or bag if a physical inspection is required. TSA is not liable for damage caused to locked bags that must be opened for security purposes.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

#### **General Screening**

### Can I bring my hover board?

The FAA does not prohibit hover boards in carry-on or checked baggage. However, because the lithium ion batteries exceed 100 watt hours, hover boards are allowed on the aircraft with airline approval only. Many airlines have banned these from being brought on the plane or in checked baggage. Please check with the airline.

### Can I film and take photos at a security checkpoint?

TSA does not prohibit photographing, videotaping or filming at security checkpoints, as long as the screening process is not interfered with or sensitive information is not revealed. Interference with screening includes but is not limited to holding a recording device up to the face of a TSA officer so that the officer is unable to see or move, refusing to assume the proper stance during screening, blocking the movement of others through the checkpoint or refusing to submit a recording device for screening. Additionally, you may not film or take pictures of equipment monitors that are shielded from public view.

#### How early should I arrive to the airport prior to my flights departure?

You are encouraged to arrive at the airport two hours prior to flight departure for domestic travel and three hours for international travel. This allows time for parking and shuttle transportation, airline check-in, obtaining a boarding pass, and going through the security screening process, which includes screening of your carry-on baggage. You are encouraged to contact your airline as times may vary depending on the airport and date of travel.

#### I forgot my identification; can I still proceed through security screening?

In the event you arrive at the airport without proper ID, because it is lost or at home, you may still be allowed to fly. By providing additional information, TSA has other ways to confirm your identity, like using publicly available databases, so you can reach your flight. If your identity cannot be verified, you will not be allowed to enter the screening checkpoint. See further details later in this document.

## May I keep head coverings and other religious, cultural or ceremonial items on during screening?

Persons wearing head coverings, loose fitting or bulky garments may undergo additional security screening, which may include a pat-down. A pat-down will be conducted by a TSA officer of the same gender. If an alarm cannot be resolved through a pat-down, you may ask to remove the head covering in a private screening area. Religious knives, swords and other objects are not permitted through the security checkpoint and must be packed in checked baggage. Inform the TSA officer if you have religious, cultural or ceremonial items that require special handling.

#### Should I remove my body piercing?

Certain metal body piercings may cause the machines to alarm and a pat-down may be required. If additional screening is required, you may be asked to remove your body piercing in private as an alternative to the pat-down.

#### What are the size restrictions for carry-on bags & Musical Instruments?

Size dimensions of carry-on baggage allowed in the cabin of the aircraft vary by airline. Contact your airline to ensure what can fit in the overhead bin or under the seat in front of you.

Musical instruments must undergo screening when transported as carry-on or in checked baggage. Musical instruments transported as carry-on require a physical inspection at the security checkpoint. Inform the TSA officer if your instrument requires special care and handling. Pack smaller woodwind and brass instruments in your checked baggage. Check with your airline prior to your flight to ensure your instrument meets the aircraft size requirements. **Music Festivals & Tours** suggest that for International Flights that each person only check one bag. The second "bag" will be the instrument. Costs for second bags vary but are usually \$60. For oversize instruments such as Sousaphones, Tubas, Percussion cases, etc. cannot exceed 60 pounds. These are oversized baggage and costs could be as high as \$200 per checked item. This will vary by airline. Please note, even though you may be able to carry smaller instruments through the security check-point, the airline may still want to gate check your instrument if it will not fit in the overhead bins. This will actually save you money as gate checked items are usually not charged for. Larger instruments must be checked.

## Can I use my driver's license to board an aircraft?

Yes. TSA will continue to accept valid driver's licenses and identification cards issued by all states until January 22, 2018.

## Do I need a passport to travel domestically in 2016?

No. TSA will continue to accept driver's licenses from all states until January 22, 2018.

## Is a passport my only other option if my state is not compliant?

No. TSA accepts and will continue to accept other forms of identity documents. Read about other acceptable forms of identification you may present at the security checkpoint.

## Identification

Adult passengers 18 and over must show valid identification at the airport checkpoint in order to travel.

- Driver's licenses or other state photo identity cards issued by Department of Motor Vehicles (or equivalent)
- U.S. passport
- U.S. passport card
- DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- U.S. military ID (active duty or retired military and their dependents, and DoD civilians)
- Permanent resident card
- Border crossing card
- DHS-designated enhanced driver's license
- Airline or airport-issued ID (if issued under a TSA-approved security plan)
- Federally recognized, tribal-issued photo ID
- HSPD-12 PIV card
- Foreign government-issued passport
- Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card
- Transportation worker identification credential

## Children

TSA does not require children under 18 to provide identification when traveling with a companion within the United States. Contact the airline for questions regarding specific ID requirements for travelers under 18. **Music Festivals & Tours recommends, since the students may not be with their parents, to have a driver's license or a school issued ID or an ID card from the DMV.** 

## Forgot Your ID?

In the event you arrive at the airport without valid identification, because it is lost or at home, you may still be allowed to fly. The TSA officer may ask you to complete a form to include your name and current address, and may ask additional questions to confirm your identity. If your identity is confirmed, you will be allowed to enter the screening checkpoint. You may be subject to additional screening. You will not be allowed to fly if your identity cannot be confirmed, you chose to not provide proper identification or you decline to cooperate with the identity verification process. TSA recommends you to arrive at least two hours in advance of your flight time to allow ample time for security screening and boarding the aircraft.

## PLEASE NOTE: Names on the airline tickets must match the form of ID that the traveler will be using. Formal Names Only, no nicknames unless the nickname is on the ID.

Starting January 22, 2018, passengers who have driver's licenses issued by a state that is not compliant with REAL ID and that has not received an extension will need to show an alternative form of acceptable identification for domestic air travel. To see if your state is compliant, check out the DHS REAL ID schedule and enforcement brief on the TSA Website. DHS continually updates this list as more states become compliant or obtain extensions. Passengers who have licenses issued by a state that is compliant or that has an extension to become compliant with REAL ID requirements may continue to use their licenses as usual. Starting October 1, 2020, every traveler will need to present a REAL ID-compliant license or another acceptable form of identification for domestic air travel. A REAL ID compliant license is one that meets, and is issued by a state that complies with, the REAL ID Act's security standards. Check with your state DMV if your driver's license is compliant.