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How To Pass The Airport Checkpoint Quickly

By George Williams

Many travelers have to waste time queuing for the screeners at the airport. This is unavoidable and it is the front line personnel that you see as you make your way toward the gate are just the worker bees. They're not Congress and they're not the big wig decision makers. If at times they seem like robots, deviating very little from their speech, it's because they have procedures that they must follow and deviating from the standard operation procedure is not an option.

There are a number of things you can do yourself to speed things along. Listed below are the top ten tips to help your visit to the airport security checkpoint hassle-free.

1. Don't wear pants or suspenders that contain a lot of metal. If you can't remove the metal prior to passing through the metal detector, you'll be sent for additional screening, thus increasing your wait time.
2. Laptop computers and video cameras that use cassette tapes, not digital cameras, need to come out of their carrying case prior to passing through the x-ray machine. Have these items out of the case before you reach the table to divest your items.
3. Wear tennis shoes or known airport friendly footwear so you'll avoid setting off the alarm on the walk through metal detector. Often the screeners will encourage you to take your shoes off before passing through the metal detector. What many passengers fail to recognize is that many, many shoe manufacturers place steel shanks (supports) in the soles of the shoes. Just because you don't see metal, doesn't mean they are metal-free.
4. If you have an inkling that your belt buckle or larger metal watch may set off the metal detector, remove them while you're waiting in line and have them ready to place into a bin.
5. Have your boarding pass and government issued photo ID readily available. Some airports have someone checking your boarding pass and ID as you first approach your concourse, then shortly thereafter there is another employee asking for the same thing. Actually they may be asking for the same thing, but these employees, often one a federal employee and one a private company employee,

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while looking at the same thing, aren't looking for the same thing. Each person has a different role to fill. If you have to dig in your purse or wallet for these items, that will increase the wait time. Ensure your boarding pass is pulled out of the airline envelope.

6. Only undeveloped film with a speed of 800 or higher should be hand checked. All other disposable cameras, film of 100, 200 or 400 speed and digital cameras are safe to pass through the x-ray. Know your film speed before reaching the x-ray machine.

7. Leave all tools, Swiss army knives, pointed end scissors, and bladed corkscrews in your checked bag. You may not bring them onboard the aircraft in your carry-on bags. If your bag must be searched to find these items, it's definitely going to increase your wait time.

8. Strollers and pet carriers need to pass through the x-ray machine. Remove your children and pets from this equipment prior to reaching the x-ray.

9. Most small jewelry such as rings, necklaces and earrings will not set off the alarm. Don't bother wasting time removing them.

10. Yes your fanny pack, hidden money belt and wallet on a string around your neck must pass through the x-ray, have it ready to place into a bin.

With this method, you can pass the metal detector easily without much checking from the officers. When you fly next time, use these strategies and try having fun by being prepared!

George Williams maintains a number of metal detector websites, including

<http://www.metaldetectingsecrets.info>

,

<http://www.metaldetectorsecrets.info>

, and

<http://www.metaldetectorsnow.info>

. Please visit his websites and find more interesting articles about

metal detector.

How Safe Is Flying Today?

By Laura Quarantiello

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Editor: The following article is offered for your free use provided
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HOW SAFE IS FLYING TODAY?

By Laura Quarantiello

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440 words

More than a year after the September 11th attacks, many travelers are still wary of boarding commercial aircraft for fear of further terrorist activity. Though the government has taken steps to increase air travel safety – including creating of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), placing sky marshals aboard aircraft, and requiring that all airport security in this country be handled by federal employees – they have stopped short of deeming air travel safe, saying that they cannot offer the public a blanket guarantee of protection. So how safe is flying today? Should you be concerned the next time you step aboard a commercial airliner?

Safety at United States airports is better than it ever has been. Only ticketed passengers are now allowed past security checkpoints and all passengers are required to show a government–issued identification card (such as a driver's license or military ID) at the ticket counter, security checkpoint, and boarding gate. More passengers and their carry–on luggage are being searched and screened before boarding. Carry–on bags have been limited to one piece plus one personal item per passenger and no knives, box cutters, or other sharp objects are allowed. More explosives detection machines are in place to check luggage and the government is moving toward having all bags screened by the end of the year. A program known as CAPPs (Computer Assisted Prescreening System) is being used at many airports to identify suspicious passengers who are then taken aside and thoroughly searched.

There is no question that the new security measures have raised the safety level. Everyone from skycaps to security officers to flight attendants is now more aware of the potential for trouble and are on the alert both for suspicious passengers and questionable items in baggage. It is this level of awareness, more than anything else, that makes flying one of the safest means of travel there is.

You can be an unofficial member of the security team by doing your part to contribute to an uneventful flight:

Watch for unattended luggage or bags in the airport terminal or curbside area and report them to security.

Control your own luggage by keeping it with you at all times.

Refuse anyone's attempts to get you to take items aboard the aircraft for them.

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Don't be afraid to report "odd" behavior from other passengers, but do it discretely – you could be wrong.

Don't discuss terrorism, bombs, guns, etc., but you may consider reporting someone who is talking about these things.

Comply with all security requirements, even if it means unpacking your bags to satisfy screeners.

Don't try to carry prohibited items aboard such as corkscrews, golf clubs, ski poles or tools.

Have electronic devices ready for screening at the security checkpoint.

Pack metal objects you might otherwise wear in your carry-on bag instead of trying to wear them through security checkpoints.

Following the above suggestions will make your trip through airport security smoother and might even stop another tragedy before it happens.

(end)

Laura Quarantiello wrote the book "Air-Ways: The Insider's Guide to Air Travel" to help you find cheaper, more comfortable flights. More info at: <http://www.tiare.com/airways.htm>



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