TSA's Travel Tips

Before you go . . .

- Double check your bags for PROHIBITED items. Go to TSA's Web site to see the complete list.
- Do not take lighters. TSA prohibits all lighters beyond the checkpoint and in the cabin of an aircraft.
- Pack valuables such as jewelry, cash and electronics, as well as fragile items, in your carry-on baggage.
- Screening includes x-ray inspection of footwear, wearing footwear that is easily removable helps to speed you through the screening process.
- Avoid wearing clothing, belts, jewelry and accessories that contain metal which will set off the metal detector.
- Put all undeveloped film in your carry-on bag, because checked baggage screening equipment will damage film. If your film is over ASA/ISO 800, or has been sent through an X-ray machine five times, request a hand inspection.
- Place firearms and ammunition in your checked baggage and declare them to your airline. Firearms must be unloaded and carried in a locked, hard-sided container. Ammunition must be transported in packaging specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition.
- Lock your baggage using a TSA-accepted lock. A list of these locks can be found at *www.tsa.gov*, under *Travelers & Consumers* and *Travel Tips*.

When you arrive . . .

- As you approach the checkpoint, take your laptop and video cameras with cassettes out of their cases.
- Remove your outer coat, suit coat, jacket or blazer to place in bin for X-ray.
- Place the following items in your carry-on baggage before entering the screening checkpoint: cell phones and personal data assistants, keys, loose change, jewelry and large metal items.
- Medications and medical equipment are allowed through the security checkpoint. Visit **www.tsa.gov,** *Persons With Disabilities & Medical Conditions*, under *Travelers & Consumers* for helpful information.

TSA Points of Contact

Security Checkpoint Wait Times

To assist you in planning your arrival time at the airport, TSA provides historical wait time information for security checkpoints at **www.tsa.gov.**

TSA Claim Form for Missing or Damaged Items

TSA Security Officers exercise great care to ensure that your property is properly handled, should baggage need to be opened. However, if you believe TSA is responsible for damage or loss, you can download a claim form from **www.tsa.gov.** You can also check the status of your claim online.

Contact Center

The TSA Contact Center can address questions or concerns about security and screening. They can be reached toll-free at (866) 289-9673 or by E-mail at **TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov**.

Lost Items

If you lost or left an item at a TSA security checkpoint, you can locate the lost and found contact numbers for specific airports by visiting **www.tsa.gov.**

Additional Note on Prohibited Items:

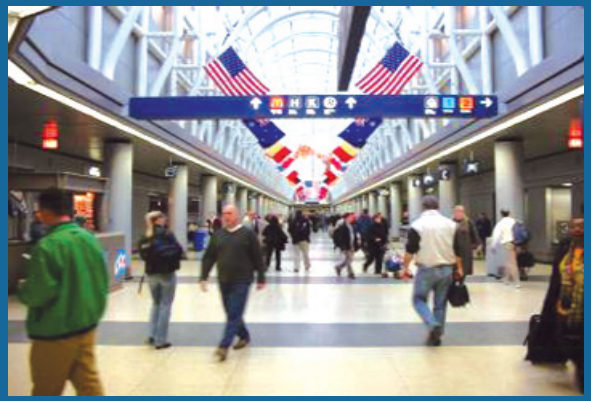
The *Prohibited Items* list applies to flights originating within the United States. Please check with your airline or travel agent for restrictions at destinations outside of the United States. If you bring a prohibited item to the checkpoint, you will be asked to voluntarily surrender the item and may be criminally and/or civilly prosecuted.

Important Information for Air Travelers

Changes at the Checkpoint

January 2006

Transportation Security Administration



Prohibited Items Changes

Scissors

Small Scissors are now permitted. Metal scissors with pointed tips and a cutting edge four inches or less are also allowed through the passenger screening checkpoint and into the cabin of an aircraft.

Tools

Screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers and other tools seven inches or less in length are permitted. All tools greater than seven inches in length, as well as all crowbars, drills, hammers, saws, continue to be prohibited.

At the Security Checkpoint

Screening of passengers

- The refined pat-down procedure includes a screening of the shoulder to wrist. A Transportation Security Officer (TSO) of the same gender will screen the passenger. Exposed skin or clothes that clearly reveal there is not a threat will not require screening. Throughout the process, TSOs will communicate with the passenger, and private screenings are available upon request.
- Passengers may also be selected randomly for an additional search. These searches are very straightforward for passengers, but add complexity to those who would wish to exploit our system. By design, a traveler will not experience the same search every time he or she flies. These searches include:

  - Screening of footwear
  - Hand wanding of passengers
  - Pat downs
  - Carry-on bag searches

Why Has TSA Changed the Security Process?

In the past, security measures at every airport were standard. Whether you were a frequent flyer or a potential terrorist, you knew what to expect. With recent changes to security procedures, that predictability is gone. The new procedures are easy for passengers to navigate, but difficult for terrorists to manipulate. They include new random searches of passengers and their carry-on bags as well as a refined pat-down and an updated prohibited items list.

Amending the prohibited items list to permit certain low risk, high volume items through the screening checkpoint allows TSA to focus resources to identify and prevent more serious threats, such as explosives from passing through the check-point.

Simple Ways To Make Air Travel Easier

- Check TSA's Web site, ***www.tsa.gov,*** before you travel for up-to-date information, such as changes in the checkpoint procedures.
- Leave your lighters at home.
- Don't overstuff your carry-on or checked baggage. If your bag is opened for inspection, it may be difficult to repack the same way or to close.
- Don't pack dense items like cans of honey or jars with opaque liquids in your checked baggage. They could set off the alarm and cause your bag to be opened for inspection.
- If you require extra time during screening or have special needs, be sure to let the screener know before you begin your screening.
- Talk to children about the screening process before arriving at the airport so they won't be frightened or surprised.
- Sign up to receive travel and security alerts and other information by going to *www.tsa.gov*, then *Travelers & Consumers*, and *Sign Up for Homeland Security Alerts.*