

A forecast for this year's Thanksgiving holiday period by [AAA](#) predicts about 23 million vacationers will take to the skies between Friday, Nov. 18, and Tuesday, Nov. 29.

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### **Ready for Take Off? Philadelphia International Airport Offers Holiday Travel Tips**

*Helpful suggestions can make for a smooth trip through the airport*

**PHILADELPHIA** - As the busy holiday travel season begins in earnest during Thanksgiving week, Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) is pleased to provide the following tips to assist the many air travelers who will be passing through Philadelphia in the coming weeks:

Check the status of your flight by contacting your airline directly, or call the Airport at 800-PHL-GATE, or visit the Airport's website ([www.phl.org](http://www.phl.org)) and click on "Flight Information." Please have your flight number handy.

If you are 18 or older, make sure you have a valid, **government-issued photo ID** (driver's license, passport, military ID, or government employee ID).

Extra time will be needed for checking-in and security screening, so get to the Airport **at least 2 hours** prior to a domestic departure and **3 hours** prior to an international departure.

Liquids, gels and aerosols in **3-ounce or smaller containers** may be carried onto the aircraft in a re-sealable, one-quart, clear plastic bag. Only one such bag per passenger is permitted and it must be removed from your bag for inspection at the checkpoint. Liquids, gels and aerosols in containers larger than 3 ounces must be placed in your checked baggage. Exceptions are made for prescription and over-the-counter medicines, baby formula, and breast milk. **NOTE: Free, one-quart, re-sealable plastic bags are available at Information Counters throughout the airport.**

For additional information on permitted and prohibited items, consult the **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** website [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov), e-mail the TSA at [TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov](mailto:TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov) or call the TSA Consumer Response Center toll-free at 1-866-289-9673. Check the TSA website often, since regulations can change at anytime.

**Airline ticket counter personnel handle wheelchair service requests (only US Airways provides electric cart and wheelchair service).** If you require these services, advise your airline when making your reservation and confirm the request prior to the day of departure.

Carry-on baggage is limited to **one piece of luggage and one personal item** such as a purse or briefcase. The personal item must fit under your seat and the luggage must fit into the overhead bin on the aircraft or it will not be permitted on board. Check with your airline for specific carry-on baggage allowances.

Passengers must obtain **boarding passes** before entering the security checkpoint. At the checkpoint, have boarding passes and photo ID ready for inspection by TSA personnel and keep these documents handy until you exit the checkpoint.

Most airlines assess a fee for checked bags. Check with your airline for specific policies and fees for checked bags.

Some airlines have reduced their curbside check-in services. Check with your airline to find out if it offers curbside check-in. If curbside check-in is not available, allow extra time for checking in at the ticket counter.

If you are not checking any bags, you may not have to wait in line at the ticket counter to obtain a boarding pass. Most airlines now allow passengers to check in and **print boarding passes from**

**their websites**, and most airlines have **check-in kiosks** at the Airport. Check with your airline prior to arriving at the Airport.

At checkpoints, passengers can choose screening lanes based upon their travel experience and needs in order to facilitate the screening process: Expert (frequent travelers who are very familiar with security screening procedures), Casual (sometime travelers who are somewhat accustomed to the security screening process), and Family/Special Assistance (families traveling with small children, passengers requiring special assistance, unfamiliar with the security screening process, or traveling with more than 3 ounces of medically necessary liquids).

**Drinks may not be taken through the checkpoint.** Consider picking up a carry-on meal and beverage for your flight once you have passed through the checkpoint. Most airlines now charge for in-flight meals; some offer no food at all.

To expedite your passage through the checkpoint, place **personal items** like cell phones, pagers, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), keys, loose change and jewelry **into your carry-on bag** or use one of the **free re-sealable bags** available at the Information Counters. At the checkpoint, the TSA provides bins in which to place these personal items along with shoes, coats, jackets and belts, which must be passed through the X-ray machine.

Remove **laptops and video cameras with cassettes** from their cases and place them in a bin to be X-rayed. **Video games with consoles** must also be removed from bags and placed in a separate bin for screening.

Equipment used to screen checked baggage will damage **undeveloped film**. Pack undeveloped film in your carry-on bag. Remove undeveloped **high-speed and specialty film** from canisters and place in a clear plastic bag. Screening equipment will not affect digital cameras or electronic image storage cards.

All checked baggage is subject to **hand inspection**. The TSA recommends using locks that screeners can open and re-lock. Some recommended locks are listed on its website.

**Do not wrap gifts.** They may have to be opened for inspection. This applies to both checked and carry-on items.

#### **Parking:**

Long-term parking is available in the **Garages** and in the **Economy Lot**; parking in the **Short-Term** lot is recommended for visits of less than one hour.

Parking Rates are as follows:

**Economy Lot:** \$11.00 daily **Garage Parking:** \$20.00 daily **Short-Term Lot:** \$40 daily  
(6,278 spaces) (10,800 spaces) \$6.00 up to 1 hr (800 spaces) \$6.00 up to 1 hr  
\$15.00 up to 3 hrs \$20.00 up to 4 hrs

The Philadelphia Parking Authority has a parking guidance system in the garages at the Airport. The parking guidance system is a real-time inventory control program that directs customers to available parking spaces.

For more information on Airport parking, contact the **Philadelphia Parking Authority** at 215-683-9842 or consult their website, [www.philapark.org](http://www.philapark.org).

A free on-Airport **"Cell Phone Waiting Lot"** is available for motorists to wait, with their vehicles, until their party is ready to be picked up. The 150-space lot is less than a one-minute drive from the baggage claim areas. Follow the Arriving Flights roadway into the Airport and then follow the signs to the Cell Phone Waiting Lot.

**SEPTA Airport Rail Line:**

As an alternative, travelers can use the **SEPTA Airport Line**. Convenient and accessible, trains run every 30 minutes and stop at Terminals A,B,C,D and E. The one-way fare is \$7.00 to and from Center City. For more information on schedules and fares, contact SEPTA at 215-580-7800 or visit SEPTA's Web site at [www.septa.org](http://www.septa.org).

**Enhanced Hospitality Program:**

In order to accommodate passengers staying overnight at the Airport due to a variety of situations that interrupt flight operations, the Airport has expanded its Hospitality Program. Passengers will be given pillows, blankets, foam bedrolls, vanity kits, water, snacks and Airport brochures. Snooze zones, which will operate from 11:00 PM - 7:00 AM, will be set up at Gate E-3 and near Gate A-1. Kidz Snooze Zones will be available in the children's play areas near Gate D-8 and Gate A-1 starting at 6:00 PM. Books, magazines, board games, playing cards, and diapers will be available in both snooze areas, while kids movies will be playing on televisions in the Kidz Snooze Zone.

"This is traditionally the busiest travel season of the year and coming through the Airport can be challenging, especially for travelers who aren't accustomed to the rules and regulations," said Airport CEO Mark Gale. "We're pleased to provide these suggestions and amenities to make the airport experience less stressful. The Airport staff will also be available to assist passengers. We wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season."

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**Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport System 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 \$14.2 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for nearly 141,000 jobs in the region.**

Visit the official Philadelphia International Airport website at <http://www.phl.org>

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DEPARTMENT

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