

75 Tips Airplane & Airport Travel Hacks

Booking Your Flight

1. Find the perfect Seat. If you're a little afraid of flying, book your seat in the middle of the plane. (less turbulence). Also fly in the morning or late evening because the weather is usually calmer.
2. If you want to get on and off quickly, book seats in the front of the plane..
3. For the best service and to be near a toilet, book your seat in the rear of the plane.
4. For the perfect seat, consider window seating. You'll have a great view and get plenty of rest. The drawbacks are these seats are colder and you have to sneak past other passengers to use the bathroom.
5. The other option is booking the aisle seat. (nobody likes the middle)
6. If traveling with someone try booking both the window seat and the aisle seat. If someone sees that these two are taken it is unlikely they will choose the middle seat when booking their own flight.
7. If you're a bit geeky, check out seatguru.com They give you free detailed information on the best seats to select for your flight.

8. If you check in a little late and your preferred seat is taken, you may still be able to get it. Go to expertflyer.com and set up a seat alert. If someone changes their seat, you can swoop it up.
9. Book your flight in the morning whenever possible. If there is a cancellation or flight delay, chances are you can get on a flight going out later that day. An evening flight makes this very unlikely.
10. Traveling on a budget?: Try and travel as light as possible. Extra baggage can be an additional up-charge. Check your airlines policy on baggage before purchasing your flight.
11. It is often worthwhile to order a special meal on the flight. You will usually get served before everyone else and you can purchase food that fits your requirements.
12. *As soon as you check in download all the documents onto your phone. If you have an iPhone, lock them into your wallet where they are easy to view.
13. While downloading your documents, download the flight app from your airline. These apps offer the most up to date information for your flight.
14. If you have a credit card, check to see if they offer any extra flight perks. Some offer lounge access or accumulate

where you can use them for your flight

15. Use the [hopper app](#) or the [sky scanner](#) to set up flight price alerts. This helps you book your flight at the best possible price.

Before You Begin

Booking Your Flight

16. Bring a water bottle. Bottled water costs \$3 to \$4 at the airport. There are drinking fountains to fill your own all over the place!
17. You can freeze your water in the bottle at home and it will pass through security.
18. Put a luggage tag on your bags that have a top to cover your sensitive information.
19. Don't wear belts with metal buckles that are likely to beep when you are going through security.
20. Put all of your liquids into transparent pouches before you get to the airport.
21. Destinations that require a visa ask for landing cards. These cards ask for the destination you will be staying. Have it available.
22. Buy easily identifiable luggage so you can spot it on the conveyor belt. This also prevents your bag being taken by mistake.
23. If you aren't looking to buy expensive luggage, just spruce your bag up with a ribbon or

one of those covers you can buy on amazon.

24. Put a “tracker” in your luggage. These can be purchased on Amazon. Make sure you check with your airline-some don’t allow GPS devices.
25. Bring a classic USB-C charging cord for your electronics. These fit the outlets used at airports.
26. Bring your own food to the airport and onto the plane. You can even bring foods that require hot water such as instant soups, ramen or oatmeal. Hot water is available on most flights and at airports.
27. Bring a sweater and/or a scarf with you onboard the flight. Airplanes can often be very cold. (especially the window seats)
28. You can take an empty pillowcase and stuff it with any extra clothing or a neck pillow for optimal comfort.
29. Invest in a pair of compression socks for long flights. They help with your circulation and decrease the likely hood of deep vein thrombosis.
30. Apply sunscreen. You are exposed to greater radiation from the sun when flying and this is just a good idea.
31. Trouble sleeping on airplanes. Invest in earplugs, melatonin pills and a good eye mask.
32. Due to low humidity in the plane cabin, makeup can

cause skin problems when flying. Either don't wear any or bring makeup wipes to take it off before you board.

33. Using sheet masks when flying is getting more popular as a means of keeping your facial skin hydrated. The plane cabin air has a powerful drying effect.

34. Wear your glasses and not your contact lenses when flying. The dry air can make you feel as if you have sand behind your lenses.

35. Pack an extra set of underwear to bring on the plane with you.

36. Bring a good set of earphones. Planes are naturally noisy and the free ones that some airlines give out are very low quality.

37. Even better, get your self some noise canceling headphones. A big problem on planes can be drunk passengers or even crying babies.

38. Traveling with someone? Invest in an earphone splitter so you can listen to stuff together. (cost about a dollar)

39. Get a phone case with a stand so you can watch Netflix on your phone while flying. Make it a group activity with tip 38

40. Traveling with a lot of luggage? Consider using a J-hook. It is a device that clips onto your big bag and then you can add the smaller bag on top. They are not

expensive but make moving your luggage so much easier

41. A lot of airlines and airports no longer allow cloth masks. They now require respirators such as the kn95 masks. You might as well get some before you go.

42. Create a separate pouch in your carry-on luggage for all your documents. These include boarding passes, passport, visa documents, covid documentation etc. OR create a folder on your phone and take pictures of them.

43. Have a tiny pouch in your luggage for all the small things you might need. These include hand sanitizer, lip balm, hand cream, contacts, eye drops, chewing gum etc. (you should have a little candy also)

Things You Should Do At The Airport

44. Get there early! It is a big mistake if you don't.

45. Take a picture of where you parked your car. It is very easy to forget just where you parked.

46. Drop your checked luggage immediately. It is pointless to carry it around.

47. Use curbside check-in. You can check in your luggage as soon as you get out of your car and get your boarding pass at the same time. It is a really convenient time saver. (make sure to tip)

48. If you have two bags, you can often clasp the handles of both in one hand to lead them around.
49. When checking your bag ask for a fragile sticker if you have concerns of anything being broken inside your luggage. You will often get your luggage first at the carousel because it is put on top of other luggage.
50. Never throw away your luggage receipt. At least take a picture of it so that you have a receipt if your luggage gets lost.

Security

51. Go to the left when going through security. Most people are right handed and will go to the right when going through a security line. Just head to the left and you will find a shorter line.
52. The dirtiest place at the airport is actually those bins you put your stuff in when going through security. Use some sanitizer on your hands after you remove your stuff.
53. Use the toilet outside security. It tends to be the cleanest toilet at the airport. Use the first stall in the security toilet as studies have shown it is the cleanest one.

Back To Things You Should Do At The Airport

54. You have arrived at the gate, ready to board, but there is no available seats while you await boarding. No problem, just move down to the next closest gate and sit there.
55. If you have a long wait (3+ hours) consider visiting an airport lounge. They are very luxurious, but expensive. You can find some great deals for passes on Craig's List and some credit cards even offer this as a perk.
56. Make use of free WiFi from the airport lounges even though you do not have a lounge pass. You can get the password at this [amazing website](#).
57. If you have a long delay or stopover, do check out [The Guide To Sleeping In Airports](#). This is an amazing resource and comes in handy when there are delays due to cancellations, snowstorms etc.
58. If you are a cheapskate like me and have left your charger behind, you can usually get one for free at Lost & Found. Most airports have a 90 day rule that they can give away items that have not been claimed in 90 days.
59. Head to Duty Free and cover yourself head to toe in free samples. My favorite is lotions

by La Mer. These actually cost \$400 to \$500 for a small jar but you can sample them for free.

60. Download all your movies and series from Netflix and Amazon Prime offline so you can watch them on the airplane.

61. If you have a carry on that needs to go on a little bit of a diet, you can repack them in your personal items (backpack or handbag which fit under your seat). These are not typically weighed.

62. You can also get one of those big airport shopping bags and put your stuff in it. They are unlikely to get weighed.

63. If you do have a very short layover, tell your air host. They may move you to the front of the plane to help you get to next flight on time.

64. To save time you can also google a map of the airport you are traveling through. This will help you get to the specific gate you are going to.

65. Make use of this wonderful website called [Flight Aware](#). You will probably know more about the status of your flight than the gate agents if you use it.

66. The final tip for things to do pre-departure is to set an alarm. A little cat nap can cause you to miss your flight. Don't let it happen to you.

Things To Do On The Plane

67. Don't rush boarding. The added benefit of getting on last is you get to see where all the free seats are. You can ask your hostess to move you to a seat you like.
68. Don't ask to be moved on super busy flights because you might be forced to store your luggage behind you. This is a real problem when its time to get off the aircraft.
69. As soon as you board the plane, change your phone to the new time zone you are flying to. This allows you to start adapting to the new time schedule you will be in.
70. Bloating on a plane is quite common (jet belly). You can help avoid this issue by staying away from carbonated beverages and alcohol.
71. If you find out you forgot your medicine, contact your hostess. They often have over the counter medicine such as ibuprofen or diarrhea pills.
72. Be nice to your flight attendants. They have a difficult job to do.
73. The dirtiest place on the airplane-it's the tray tables. Be aware and use sanitizer where needed.

After Your Flight

74. If your getting a Uber, try not to book it from the airport but

rather from near the airport. A lot of cars get charged just from entering that space, so if you leave it you will be paying less money. Also if getting a taxi in a foreign country, google the fares first so you don't get overcharged.

75. GET THAT MONEY. If you are delayed you might as well be compensated for it. There are different rules in different countries so google up how to do this depending on where you are. Sometime you might get air miles and sometimes just cold hard cash.