

## Saving Time and Money at the Airport

If you are planning a domestic trip then consider getting **TSA Pre-Check**. This takes a few months but well worth it. Security lines and checkout are faster and easier.

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|--------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Leave shoes on  | d. Laptops stay in the bag |
| b. Leave belt on   | e. Liquids stay in the bag |
| c. Jackets stay on |                            |

If you are planning an international trip then add **Global Entry**. This saves time and long lines grief with expedited customs screening entering the USA.

The website for both programs: <https://ttp.dhs.gov/>

1. Check-in early on-line to avoid overbooking surprises.
2. Avoid airport parking. Use Uber or a close-by airport hotel with free shuttle and low cost parking.
3. Get some Air Tags, Apple sells these as 'AirTags'. Others are available. Place one in each bag. They will help you trace your luggage anywhere in the world. I place mine under the liner in each bag. Here is a handy reference: <https://besttravelluggage.com/tsa-approved-luggage-trackers/>
4. Always bring disinfectant wipes for the tray and seat arms.
5. Bring a charger cord and plug-in charger. Don't use courtesy USB jacks except at home.
6. Get a universal plug adapter if travelling outside the USA.
7. Choose seats that are not in front of emergency exits or bulkheads as they don't recline.
8. If travelling with another, consider choosing seats on either side of an aisle.
9. Don't get to the airport too early. This will save you spending on overpriced foods.
10. Pack your own food but not liquids.
11. Fill your empty water bottle at the airport After security. Most have filtered water dispensers near each restroom.
12. Don't be too hasty to pay for extra bags. Most airlines will gladly take your bag at the gate if the flight is close to full. Check the seating on the airline's app. It's easy to see what seats are filled.
13. While seated, in your comfy assigned seat, you can add a few inches of comfort by lifting the seat arm between the seats and also the aisle seat arm (press the little button under the arm).
14. Airline bottled water is fine, but the ice is not.
15. Hint: Once you've cleared security, anything you purchase such as food can be taken on board, It does not count as your 'personal item'.

### Prep for out-of-control possibilities

1. Pack extra snacks. This gives you something to eat while your flight is circling the airport for hours.
2. Call your airline or credit card to work out alternates. This avoids standing in line at the terminal.
3. Why the delay? If it's the airlines fault then they must pay for hotel and transportation.
4. Ask for compensation. No ask, no gain.
5. Be persistent.