

UNDERSTANDING FLYING

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

ARRIVING AT THE AIRPORT

PURCHASING YOUR TICKET



ARRIVING AT THE AIRPORT



DURING YOUR FLIGHT



LUGGAGE PICK UP



PREPARING FOR YOUR FLIGHT

WHILE AT THE AIRPORT



CONNECTIONS AND SECURITY



YOU'VE ARRIVED!

PURCHASING YOUR TICKET



It is recommended that you purchase your airline ticket 2-4 months prior to your departure. However, you can begin to look at and track flights prior to that. You can purchase your airfare directly from the airline or use aggregator site instead (Skyscanner, Google Flights, Kayak, Student Universe). There will be a lot of options, sort by airline, price, and dates. When tracking flights, use the 'Incognito' browser setting, prices can increase when a particular route is repeatedly searched.

PREPARING FOR YOUR FLIGHT



Plane ticket purchased - great! Before departing on your flight, you will need to do some research in order to make your experience a success. Check the airline's baggage allowance to confirm the size, weight and number of carry-on bags allowed. Review your ticket carefully for arrival/departure times and layovers. Long layovers may require you to reserve a hotel room. Download your airline's app ahead of time, make sure your reservation details are in, and then use it to check-in. Review the seat map and confirm your chosen seat, note that there may be an additional fee to change seats.

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ARRIVING AT THE AIRPORT



Use your airlines app to check real-time reports, so if your flight is delayed you will know. Check in to your flight 24 hours before to confirm your seat. Arrive at least 1 hour before. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a jacket, some international flights can last several hours. Be organized, when you are going through security and have your travel documents readily available. Gather all your electronics in one bag and be prepared to show them. Remember, any liquids you're carrying through TSA checkpoints must be less than 3.4 ounces and placed in a see-through bag.

DURING YOUR FLIGHT



Keep your boarding ticket readily available, you'll need it to board the plane. Verify your seat before sitting down and stowing away your carry on. Your personal item should be placed underneath the seat in front of you. It may take several minutes before the plane takes off, get yourself comfortable. Every airline is different, some will have wi-fi, entertainment or food service. To be prepared, have a backup that doesn't require internet and snacks. You will not be able to get out of your seat until the pilot indicates it is safe to do so.

WHILE AT THE AIRPORT



Going through security requires that you unpack and show some of the items you are carrying with you. Before moving through the airport take some time to re-organize yourself and verify that you have all your items with you. Airports vary in size, a good practice is to become familiar with your departure gate before exploring. After you have located your gate, you can relax and unwind. Depending on when your flight departs you may have the opportunity to eat, work on projects, or take a quick nap. Remember to be at your gate when boarding begins.

CONNECTIONS AND SECURITY



When your plane lands, stay in your seat. The line in the aisle will begin moving soon enough, sit tight until it does. Before you step off the plane, check that you have all your items with you (especially your travel documents). You may have another flight to board as soon as you land. Know where your next gate is by checking your airline app. If you are entering a new country, you will need to through security again. Do not waste time and head there immediately.

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LUGGAGE PICK UP



When you have reached your final destination you'll need to make your way to baggage claim. Every airport is distinctively designed, so baggage claim may look different. It is important to look for signs and follow directions. Once you have arrived at the correct baggage carousel keep an eye out for your own suitcase. Being attentive will reduce the amount of time you spend in that area. Inspect your luggage before departing, if you have major damage to your bag that you think was caused by the airline, report it to the airline as soon as possible.

YOU'VE ARRIVED



What happens next will vary pending on your program. You may be getting picked up by a program coordinator, a student or not getting picked up at all. If you are getting picked up be vigilant for signs or report to the designated pick up location. If you are not getting picked up use recommended methods of transportation to get to your next location. Again, verify that you have all your documents and items with you before leaving the airport. You are ready to begin your next adventure.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

Make your luggage stand out – International flights can have over 100 people, which can make baggage claim a headache. Placing colorful duct tape on the handle can help easily identify your luggage so you don't miss it.

Research local transportation in advance – If you will be securing your own transportation to your accommodations. Some countries offer Uber and Lyft, others don't. Know what your options are.

Checking your Carry On – sometimes due to limited space on the airplane cabin, you may be required to check your carry on. What this means is your luggage would be handed off and tagged as you board your plane. Upon disembarking, make a line to the left side of the passenger boarding bridge. Your luggage will be given to you here.

What to put in your carry-on – Always travel with a change of clothes, tooth brush, and tooth paste on your carry-on. This comes is very handy in the event of long layovers or lost luggage.