



## **DESPITE RESTRICTIONS, TRAVELERS CAN SPEED UP AIRPORT SCREENING PROCESS FOR HONEYMOON TRAVELS**

*WorldTraveler.com Provides Tips For Best Carry-ons, Avoiding Security Hangups*

Heading for a flight to your honeymoon and want to speed through security and board the plane in 15 minutes flat? While it may seem impossible with the heightened airport screening procedures, it can be done.

“With good planning, strategic packing, lightweight luggage and luck, passengers can fly through the check-in process,” said Buzz Kaehler, president of WorldTraveler.com online travel goods store, and a frequent international flier himself.

Of course, passengers are recommended to allow a minimum of one hour to check-in for domestic flights, and two to four hours for international flights, according to the airlines and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). But, many travelers have time-starved schedules that do not permit much waiting time, or, have a tendency to be late for appointments.

### **Ten Tips For Quick, Hassle-Free Security Screening**

So, for those intrepid travelers eager to cut their security screening times to a minimum, WorldTraveler.com’s Kaehler provides these proven tips:

- 1) **Check With The Airline:** Two to three hours before the flight is due to depart, call the airline’s toll-free number or visit its website to ensure that the flight will depart as scheduled and to reconfirm your reservation. Save yourself potential hours of unnecessary waiting at the airport.
- 2) **Wear Slip-ons:** Avoid the time taking off and putting on your shoes and having them x-rayed by wearing flip-flops or slip-on shoes without metal parts. Flip-flops normally do not need to be taken off.
- 3) **Have Tickets/Identification in Holder:** If possible, pre-arrange your tickets and identification in a travel holder that can slip over your neck. These holders typically can hold your boarding pass, airline tickets, passport, driver’s license and credit cards for easy access. WorldTraveler.com has had a more than 500 percent increase in sales of travel holders in the past four

years. Many airlines permit travelers to print a boarding pass on their home printer and bring it to the airport. This can allow passengers with carryon bags to proceed right to the gate after the security screening.

4) Place Valuables in Plastic Bag: Before getting to the security checkpoint, put your wallet, spare change, metal-clad belt, keys, etc., in a plastic bag, seal it and put it in a side pocket of your carryon bag. This can lessen chances of setting off an x-ray alarm when doing the dreaded checkpoint x-ray walk through.

5) Eliminate Distractions: Focus only on the task at hand, getting quickly through the check-in. Hands should be free to hold on to your tickets and ids only. Before getting to the check-in line, turn off the cellphone and music players and put them with your coat and any reading materials in your bag. Place any food or drinks in another sealable plastic bag tucked in the carryon.

Take off your sunglasses so can make easy eye contact, carefully listen to security agents' requests and speak clearly so they can hear you.

6) Bring Carry-on Bags: Limit your luggage to one or two carry-on bags that are kept unlocked until you've boarded the plane. Based on FAA restrictions, carry-ons are permitted a combined length, width and height of 45" or less. Each bag should have an id tag on both the outside and inside of the bag, in case the external one gets torn off.

Among excellent carry-ons available, Kaehler recommends the Travelpro Walkabout Lite Rolling Tote, a wheeled bag with a retractable handle (\$99.99) and Briggs & Riley Superlight 22" Rolling Suiter (\$179.10). Both have lifetime warranties and are available at WorldTraveler.com and other leading retailers.

On the other hand, if you have too much luggage, consider shipping it in advance to your destination using Fed Ex, UPS or a luggage delivery firm like Luggage Express.

7) Don't Travel With Prohibited Items: Take heed of this safety message as the TSA has confiscated over 6 million dangerous items since 9/11. Don't travel with any pointed knives or scissors, firearms, or lighters in your carryon luggage. If you discover a prohibited item -- whether before or after the first security checkpoint -- consider checking your bag and putting the item in, if permitted. Or, walk to the nearest trash can and discreetly discard it, put it in your car at the airport, give it to a friend there, or mail it home.

8) Be Polite With Security Agents: While there is no need to act like their best friend, greet them "Good Morning" or "How are you?" If they sense that you are an open and honest person, they may be less likely to find a cause to delay you.

In contrast, if you are in an angry mood, the screening is apt to be irritating and take longer.

9) Eliminate Barriers: Some innocent travelers who are of a certain race or are wearing particular clothing may attract unwanted security scrutiny. Do what is possible to remove these barriers. So, for example, if a person would normally wear several layers of clothing at once, instead wear a simple outfit with just one layer for the check-in process, and have additional clothing in the carryon so you can put it on in the plane if necessary. Have a relaxed and accepting attitude for the screening that may reduce the chance of your being singled out by security.

10) Fly Early: Take an early morning flight if possible. Morning flights have a much better record for on-time departures and arrivals than later in the day.

And, if you have a choice of days for traveling, avoid Mondays and Fridays. They tend to be the busiest days for air travel year round.

One more suggestion. Check with your airline to see if you should bring a pillow. American Airlines for one has removed pillows from all its domestic flights as a cost-cutting maneuver.

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According to the National Luggage Dealers Association, an industry trade group, Americans will spend an estimated \$18 billion on travel supplies in 2005. The National Luggage Dealers Association recommends that consumers shop at specialty stores to obtain expert guidance and have the widest selection so they can make the best purchase decision.

*Buzz Kaehler, president of internationally renowned WorldTraveler.com online travel goods store and the Kaehler TravelWorks retail stores, is available for media interviews. He has more than 25 years of management experience in the travel industry, and is a frequent international traveler himself. Buzz can provide air travel tips and other travel information that your audience can use.*