



Travel Tips

Holiday Season 2006

The Department of Aviation offers the following tips to make travel through Chicago's airports as simple as possible:

Before you leave...

- Plan to arrive at the airport at least two hours before your scheduled flight departure.
- Before you head to the airport, check with your airline about possible flight delays and cancellations.
- If you are a traveler with special needs, such as the need for wheelchair assistance, make arrangements with your airline in advance.
- If you plan to travel with liquids, gels or aerosols in your carry-on bag remember 3-1-1: 3 ounce or smaller containers; containers must be in a 1 quart-size, clear, plastic, zip-top bag and placed in the security bin. Only one zip-top bag is permitted per traveler.
- Do not bring wrapped gifts in your checked luggage and carry-on baggage. Wrapped gifts may be opened and inspected.
- Avoid wearing clothing, jewelry or other accessories that contain metal when traveling through the security checkpoints. Remember that all outer garments will need to be removed and placed in the security bins. This includes coats, windbreakers and suit jackets.
- Do not over pack bags. If TSA Security Officers have to open them, closing overstuffed bags can be difficult and may result in your luggage being delayed.
- Remember to put identification tags in and on all baggage, including laptops.

Getting there...

- Take public transportation. The Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) Blue Line to O'Hare and the Orange Line to Midway are convenient ways to get to and from the airports while avoiding roadway congestion. The Metra North Central Service also has five weekday inbound and outbound trains between O'Hare and Chicago's Union Station.

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- To ease holiday roadway congestion, traffic exiting O'Hare to the westbound Northwest Tollway (I-90) will be detoured Wednesday, December 20 through Wednesday, January 3. The Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Tollway, working in cooperation with the Chicago Department of Aviation, will be closing access to westbound I-90 from I-190, which routes traffic via the northbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and onto the westbound Northwest Tollway (I-90). Directional signs will be posted at multiple locations throughout the area.
- Learn where to park. Real-time parking information for both O'Hare and Midway airports is available on our Web site, www.flychicago.com. You can also register to receive parking information e-mail alerts on the days you plan to travel. Once en route, motorists within a 1-mile radius of both airports can tune their radios to 800 AM for the latest parking information.
- Unattended vehicles parked in front of terminal curb fronts will be ticketed and towed. Both O'Hare and Midway airports offer short-term parking rates for those picking up travelers. Motorists will be able to park for \$2.00 for the first hour at O'Hare and \$4.00 for the second and third hours. Midway will offer a special holiday rate of two hours for \$2.00 in the terminal garage. In addition, Midway's new economy parking garage is open. Ample parking is available for travelers in our economy parking garage for the reasonable rate of \$12 per day.
- Don't idle at the curbfront, use our cell phone parking lots. Cell phone lots enable motorists to temporarily park free of charge until friends, family members or business associates have deplaned, collected baggage and called to be picked up curbside. At O'Hare, the 150-space lot is conveniently located at Economy Parking Lot F. Exit I-190 at North Mannheim Road and follow the signs to Economy Parking F/Cell Phone Lot. The 90-space lot at Midway is conveniently located at 61st and Cicero Avenue just south of the main airport entrance.
- Use O'Hare's free and easy Kiss 'n' Fly parking to avoid roadway congestion. The drop-off point at which family members and friends can wait for and greet travelers is located directly off Bessie Coleman Drive. From this location, passengers are transported to the Airport Transit System (ATS), which quickly shuttles them to any of the airport's four terminals.
- Also at the Kiss 'n' Fly, travelers can use our new remote baggage handling and check-in service. For a \$5.00 fee, domestic travelers may check-in their baggage; receive their airline boarding pass and seat assignment at a staffed kiosk located in O'Hare's Economy Parking Lot E; board the Airport Transit System (ATS) to the terminals; and proceed directly to their gate. Participating airlines include Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta Airlines and United Airlines, which together account for more than 91 percent of flights departing from O'Hare. Hours

At the airport...

- Use curbside check-in or e-ticket kiosks to avoid lines at the ticket counters. Check directly with your airline to see if these timesaving options are available.

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- Have your boarding pass and government-issued photo identification out and ready to show as you approach the security checkpoint. Only passengers with these two items will be allowed beyond the checkpoints.
- Know what to expect at the security checkpoint. Laptops must be removed from the cases, shoes must be removed for x-ray and children must be taken out of strollers. While in line, place all metal items (cell phones, pagers, coins, keys etc.) in a carry-on bag and take laptops and video cameras that require cassette tapes out of their cases for x-ray.
- Declare larger liquids. Essential prescription medications and baby formula when traveling with an infant or small child are allowed in larger quantities if declared for inspection at the checkpoint.
- If you are selected for additional screening, know that you have the right to request it be done in a private location.
- Belligerence, inappropriate jokes and threats are not tolerated. Jokes and/or comments about threats to passengers or the aircraft will be taken seriously and could result in criminal or civil penalties for the passenger.
- Prior to leaving the checkpoint area, check to ensure that you have taken all personal items including bags, coats, laptops, keys, coins, etc., with you.

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The Chicago Airport System is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.

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