

Making the Best of Summer Air Travel

By Cruise Holidays Mission Viejo

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Tips for getting the most out of flying this Summer

Even when your cruise vacation is everything that you dreamed it would be, traveling to and from the ship can be challenging if you go by air. Unfortunately, the forecast for air travel this summer includes crowded planes, delayed flights and frustration levels that rise with the temperature. Cruise Holiday offers some tips that will help you enjoy your entire vacation from start to finish – not just the part on the cruise ship.

Consider flying to your departure port in the middle of the week, when passenger loads tend to be lighter. It is also a good idea to fly in early: you won't miss your cruise ship's launch due to flight delays, and you may have time to explore the city.

Nearly all airlines now charge baggage fees, some based on the weight of your luggage and some based on the number of bags you have. So, the best approach is to pack light. You can also ship your luggage to your departure port; some travelers find the cost of shipping their luggage ahead to be worth the convenience of passing through airports without multiple bags in tow. Always keep your photo identification, medicine, jewelry, cell phone, cameras and film in your carry-on bag, not in checked or shipped luggage.

Remember the Transportation Safety Administration's 3-1-1 rule for any liquids or gels you carry on board. Liquids and gels must be in containers that are three ounces or smaller; all of your containers of liquids or gels must be placed in a one quart-sized, clear plastic, zip-top bag; and you are allowed one such bag, which must be screened at an airport security checkpoint.

Instead of driving yourself to the airport and leaving your car there, ask a friend to take you (and to pick you up upon your return). Or, treat yourself to a limo ride to and from the airport. You won't have to worry about fighting traffic or paying for parking.

For more ideas about making your pre- and post-cruise air travel smoother, talk with your personal cruise expert.

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