



# ETIQUETTE TIPS FOR AIR TRAVEL

Choosing to travel to your destination by air can offer the convenience of a faster arrival time and fewer variables to worry about. Unfortunately, air travel may also expose travellers to a host of bad travel behaviour from others. While a lot of these actions aren't meant to offend fellow travellers, they can jostle the mind of even the most patient person. If you'd like to set a good example for your cabin mates, here are a few things to keep in mind while travelling by plane.

## Boarding

When most airlines begin boarding, passengers are boarded according to the zone in which they will sit. People who have special needs or who have earned the right to board first (or have paid to do so) are the first allowed on the plane. When the attendants begin to announce that your flight is boarding, be sure to adhere to boarding rules and get on the plane in an orderly fashion. If possible, try not to crowd the walkways around your gate, so that other travellers may easily pass through on their way to their own flights!

## Overhead Compartments

After you board the plane, you can put your carry-on luggage in one of the overhead bins. The etiquette in this situation has to do with what a traveller plans to store in this area. If you have a large piece of carry-on luggage, go ahead

and put it in the bin. If you have a purse, a coat, or a regular-sized backpack, stow it under the seat in front of you. There is limited space in overhead compartments and that space should be reserved for items that don't fit under the seat. When you limit the space you use above your seat, you leave more space for those who really need the overhead bins.

## Before You Recline

Who knew a small button on the side of an airline seat could be so controversial? While you have the right to recline if your seat has that option (those in exit rows do not), doing so can invade the space of the person behind you and make that person's flight decidedly less



enjoyable. If you need to lay the seat back, talk to the person behind you and let him or her know that you need to recline. This at least gives your fellow passenger time to return their seat back tray to the upright position or stash a bottle of water so it doesn't get knocked over.

## Electronic Devices

Check the volume on your electronic devices before you kick back and relax. Sometimes, even when your ear buds are in, the sound may seem loud to your neighbours. Before viewing adult content, try to consider whether your device may be in the line of sight of young children or others who may feel uncomfortable as a result.

## Scent Free

Some people don't have a tolerance for strong scents of perfumes or lotions, and when they smell those scents, they can get headaches, migraines or a general feeling of malaise. As you don't know who will board or sit near you, be sure to forgo putting on your favourite scented products until after you reach your destination.

## Disembarking

When the plane finally lands, most people are anxious to get off of it. While you may be tempted to jump out of your seat and rush to the front of the plane after it reaches the gate, try to wait your turn. Allow the people in rows in front of you to leave first; it's the courteous thing to do and allows everyone to exit in an orderly fashion. Alternatively, a flight attendant may ask that you let passengers with tight connections debark first, regardless of where they're seated; keep in mind that you'd hope for the same privilege if you were in their situation.

## Moving Sidewalks

Moving sidewalks can be a relief to many time-crunched or weary travellers. When you use moving sidewalks, always make sure to adhere to the rules on the sign. If you are not in a rush, be aware of your surroundings and allow rushed travellers the room they need to get by quickly. If you are in a rush, be courteous and respectful of slower-moving travellers.

It's not always an unruly seat-mate that throws a wrench into your trip. Sometimes, it's an unforeseen medical emergency, lost luggage or a cancelled flight. For the times when an unexpected travel mishap may occur (potentially anytime), remember to pack a travel insurance plan from Travel Guard. A travel insurance plan with 24/7 assistance may help to take some of that stress off your mind so you can concentrate on enjoying your vacation. Travel Guard's around-the-clock assistance team can go to work on your behalf to re-book flights and hotels, help find lost luggage and more. Plus, a comprehensive travel insurance plan offers coverage for contingencies such as travel delays due to inclement weather, trip cancellation/interruption and medical expenses so that you may travel with confidence.

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