

FIVE WAYS TO MAKE FLYING FUN

TERRANCE ZEPKE



WWW.TERRANCETALKSTRVEL.COM

Okay, so maybe "fun" is stretching it but how about more enjoyable than your last flight probably was? If you get smart you can not only survive but thrive on a flight!

1. Get fast-tracked. Enroll in TSA's Pre-Check program and skip the long lines. The cost is \$85 and enrollment is good for five years. It is a bit of a hassle to get set up but if you fly much or absolutely hate security delays then it may be well worth it for you. www.tsa.gov.
2. Load up on travel apps. **FlightStats** is a free app available for all Android and IOS devices. You will get instant alerts to update you on your flight. **TripItPro** is an app that helps you manage your itinerary. **GateGuru** will get you around more than 200 airports easily and includes all airport amenities and restaurant ratings. There are dozens more good apps, depending on your needs so be sure to check the app store before departing.
3. Get the right seat. Check out www.SeatGuru.com before reserving any ticket.
4. Be organized. Be sure to have your ID and ticket ready. Make sure you have the right size and number of carry-on luggage. Be sure to pack toiletries according to TSA guidelines (3 oz. or less in clear quart-size bag). Be sure to check out the latest before packing as TSA does change their guidelines periodically. www.tsa.gov.
5. Buy a lounge pass. For \$25 - \$50 (typically) you can buy a day pass to many airport lounges. Or if you're in a rewards program your status may permit free access. In addition to scoring a nice quiet place to wait, you'll also get free Wi-Fi, food, beverages, periodicals, and television. Some have showers and other amenities. You can join an independent club, such as Priority Club (\$99 yearly membership), to gain access to more than 700 lounges worldwide. www.prioritypass.com.

More Tips:

Be sure to dress comfortably.

Eat light and right.

Wash your hands often to avoid getting sick. Do you know what has more germs than anything else on a plane? Your tray stand! Bring a wipe and take care of that first thing.

Bring a good book or load up your favorite device with entertainment options and sit back and relax!

Use flier miles when possible to upgrade to business or first class.

Be sure you have all your documents, such as e-tickets and ID. Keep them with you and not in your carry-on bag or checked bag.

Check out airline stats for the best and worst airlines for arrival/departure times, cancellations, and customer service.

<http://www.foxnews.com/travel/2013/05/22/consumer-reports-rates-best-and-worst-airlines/>

Summary: Plan! Plan! Plan! A little planning will go a long way towards making your flight and airport experience enjoyable.

Sign up for *TERRANCE TALKS TRAVEL* blog to receive travel tips and more.