



## *Spring break travel tips:* What you need to know before you go

INDIANAPOLIS—Although it may seem as if you’ve barely finished packing away the holiday decorations, it’s already the time of year when students of all ages rejoice—Spring Break.

Students from Purdue, IU, IUPUI, Ball State, University of Indianapolis, Butler, and other Indiana colleges begin their breaks tomorrow. Other universities, including DePauw and Taylor, will take breaks later in the month.

Indianapolis Public School and township students will also take breaks toward the end of the month and continue through early April.

### PROJECTED AIR TRAVEL VOLUMES

Early travel projections through Wednesday of next week are expected to be:

▪ Friday, March 7	17,865
▪ Saturday, March 8	15,375
▪ Sunday, March 9	13,972
▪ Monday, March 10	10,948
▪ Tuesday, March 11	8,685
▪ Wednesday, March 12	11,021

In comparison, passenger throughput for the same period in 2007 was:

▪ Friday, March 9	19,205
▪ Saturday, March 10	15,607
▪ Sunday, March 11	15,808
▪ Monday, March 12	13,995
▪ Tuesday, March 13	11,516
▪ Wednesday, March 14	13,266

One reason for the passenger decrease is an increase in air fares. A Jan. 22 **Travel Industry Wire** report finds Spring Break air fares are up 10-12 percent over 2007. Several factors—including rising oil prices, fuel surcharges, discussions of consolidations and mergers, and reduced seating capacity—have impacted pricing. **Farecast.com** reports the most expensive days for flying in March will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with prices expected to peak Friday, March 21.

— More —

The most popular travel days across the U.S. are expected to be March 14–16 and March 21–23.

Another reason for the decrease is unrelated to Spring Break travel. According to a March 4 **USA Today** report, some businesses are reducing their travel budgets as the economy slows. Instead, these companies are turning toward technologies like audio and Web conferencing to conduct virtual meetings and reduce costs. Others are renting fuel-efficient economy rental cars for short trips.

### **GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK: ARRIVE EARLY**

Despite the lower passenger projections, there could be a spike of last-minute bookings among some college students. In addition, winter storms can cause delays.

Anyone traveling to and from Indianapolis International is advised to allow at least 60–90 minutes for parking, check-in, and security clearance.

Flights will be full, so expect crowded ticket counters and long lines at security checkpoints. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will be the busiest travel days.

To save time (and vacation money), ask a friend or family member to drive to the airport. They can drop you off at your airline’s curbside check-in and be on their way. The airport’s parking lots fill quickly during peak travel periods like Spring Break, especially in snowy weather. Long-term parking in the Tiger and Economy parking lots with shuttle-bus service to the terminal is recommended.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers will check travel documents. Keep photo IDs and boarding passes in hand; they may be examined under special lights to ensure authenticity.

Security checkpoint wait times vary depending on weather, passenger loads, and other factors. For more information, visit <http://waittime.tsa.dhs.gov/index>.

### **BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME**

Don’t be a pack rat! TSA’s Web site provides great information about packing and simplifying air travel. For the latest tips, go to [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) and explore the section for travelers.

#### **The 3-1-1 rule: Packing liquids, gels, and aerosols in carry-on bags**

- Each passenger is allowed one (1) zip-top bag with liquids, gels, and aerosols in his or her carry-on.
- Pack small (3 oz. or less) containers of liquids, gels, and aerosols in a one- (1) quart, clear plastic zip-top bag. Consider buying travel-sized toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, soaps, and other items.

- All liquids, gels, and aerosols must be screened separately. Put your zip-top bag in the carry-on last, so it is on top. When going through security, remove the zip-top bag and place in the screening bin with your carry-on.

### **Keep prescription medicines in your carry-on**

After TSA clearance, medicine and medical devices may accompany you on the plane:

- Prescription and over-the-counter medications, including eye drops and saline solution.
- All disability-related equipment, aids, and devices including mastectomy products like prosthetic breasts, bras, or shells containing gel, saline solution, and other liquid.
- Gels or frozen liquids needed to cool medical items.
- Nutritional supplements for those with disabilities or medical conditions.

### **In addition to one carry-on, passengers may board with one personal item and one camera bag.**

- Personal items include a purse, book bag, or laptop in a case (laptops must be removed from cases and placed in a bin to pass through screening).
- Camera bags must contain ONLY photographic equipment. Film should be packed in carry-on bags. Film faster than 800-speed can be given to TSA officers for physical instead of X-ray inspection.

### **TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN**

- When traveling with children always allow extra time to clear security.
- Children who can walk without assistance must move through metal detectors separately. Babies and infants who cannot walk should be removed from carriers for individual screening.
- Strollers, infant carriers, car seats, baby slings, diaper bags, toys, and book bags must go through X-ray machine. Over-size items will be visually inspected by TSA officers.
- Explain to children old enough to understand that they will be asked to remove their shoes and that dolls, toys, stuffed animals, favorite blankets, and other items will pass through a special machine but will be returned to them.
- Medications, formula, breast milk, and juice are allowed in reasonable quantities exceeding three ounces and are not required to be in a zip-top bag. All items will be inspected, however.

### **TRAVELING WITH ELECTRONICS, SPORTING GOODS, AND OTHER ITEMS**

- NEVER pack fragile, expensive electronic devices in checked luggage. Camcorders, laptop computers, mobile phones, pagers, PDAs, and other items can be taken on the plane.
- Two (2) lighters without refillable fuel ARE allowed in checked baggage.
- Film in checked luggage can be damaged by X-ray equipment; put undeveloped film and cameras with undeveloped film in your carry-on baggage and ask screeners to inspect them by hand.

- If you plan to travel with golf clubs or other sports equipment, they must be checked.
- Avoid air travel with firearms, ammunitions, knives, bows and arrows, etc. If you must fly with these items, check with your airline to ask how they must be secured and declared upon check-in as well as any limitations and fees.
- No fireworks, explosive materials, and flammable items may be packed in carry-on or checked bags.
- Cigar cutters, corkscrews, nail files and clippers, safety razors, scissors with blunt tips and those with pointed tips that are shorter than four inches in length are allowed in checked or carry-on bags.

### **IS YOUR FLIGHT DELAYED OR CANCELLED? CHECK BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME**

In the case of severe weather in Indianapolis, in or near an area where you will board a connecting flight, or at your final destination, check the status of your flight before leaving home. The airport's Web site ([www.indianapolisairport.com](http://www.indianapolisairport.com)) provides real-time flight data listed under "Check My Flight" that is updated every 30 seconds. You can also obtain real-time reports from the FAA's Air Traffic Control System Command Center at [www.fly.faa.gov/flyfaa/usmap.jsp](http://www.fly.faa.gov/flyfaa/usmap.jsp).

### **GOING ABROAD THIS SUMMER? APPLY FOR PASSPORTS NOW**

It's too late to obtain a passport for Spring Break, but don't forget about summer travel. Apply for passports now to avoid a backlog. According to the U.S. Department of State, it takes four to six weeks after receiving applications for passports to be processed and delivered.

Passports are required for all Americans traveling into and out of the U.S., including flights to Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, and the Caribbean. First-time passport seekers should go in person to one of more than 9,000 U.S. passport acceptance facilities, which include post offices and county clerk offices, with two photographs, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license. For more information, visit: [www.travel.state.gov/passport](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport).

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