



Transportation
Security
Administration

Know Before You Go

Multicultural Branch, Office of Civil Rights & Liberties, Ombudsman, and Traveler Engagement

TRANSGENDER TRAVELERS

WHAT TO KNOW

- **Making Reservations:**
 - TSA requires airlines to collect a traveler's full name, date of birth, gender, and redress number (if applicable) to significantly decrease the likelihood of watch-list misidentification. TSA verifies identification through Secure Flight.
 - You are encouraged to book your reservation such that the reservation information matches the gender and name data on the government-issued identification (ID) that you will use for travel. For additional information about identification, visit the Identification page on TSA.gov here.
 - On arrival to the security checkpoint, you must present your government-issued ID and boarding pass to the TSA Officer who will ensure the names on the ID and boarding pass match, and that the photo on the ID matches you.
- **TSA Cares:**
 - TSA Cares is a toll-free helpline, 1-855-787-2227 or Federal Relay #711, available for transgender travelers to ask questions about screening or request help at the checkpoint. You may call from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekends and holidays.
 - If you would like assistance at the checkpoint, TSA recommends that you call no less than 72 hours ahead of travel so that TSA Cares has the opportunity to coordinate checkpoint support. Checkpoint support may include coordination with a Passenger Support Specialist (PSS). Each airport has different resources; therefore, the level of assistance you receive at the checkpoint can vary. Some airports have an individual who will call you to gather additional information and arrange a meeting time and place. Other locations notify the checkpoint manager of your itinerary, but no pre-contact is made. If you arrive at the checkpoint and have any concerns before, during, or after the

screening process, you should immediately request to speak with a Supervisory Transportation Security Officer (STSO) or a Passenger Support Specialist for assistance.

- **Planning Your Trip:**

- Arrive early to allow time for security screening.
- Communicate your specific needs to the TSA Officer before screening begins to facilitate your airport screening experience. You may communicate to the TSA Officer that you are transgender, and you may provide this information to the TSA Officer verbally or in writing. This notification does not exempt you from screening.
- The 3-1-1 liquids rule for carry-ons allows each traveler to have liquids, gels, aerosols, creams and pastes in quantities of 3.4 ounces (100ml) or less per container; in 1 quart sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; and in one bag. This rule does not apply to medically-necessary liquids for travelers with disabilities and medical conditions. However, you will need to declare medically-necessary liquids for inspection at the checkpoint, and officers may need to conduct additional screening of these items.

- **Walk-Through Metal Detectors (WTMD):**

- Travelers may be screened by walk through metal detectors if they can walk through the machine on their own.
- Travelers cannot request metal detector screening in lieu of advanced imaging technology or a pat-down.
- Learn more about walk through metal detectors at [TSA.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).

- **Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT):**

- Travelers are eligible to be screened using advanced imaging technology if they are able to stand, walk through the machine, and stand and hold their hands above their head for five to seven seconds without support. If there is an alarm, the traveler may need to stand for additional time to resolve the alarm.
- Travelers not wishing to be screened by advanced imaging technology, and travelers who are not eligible for such screening, can request a pat-down.
- The AIT has software that protects individual privacy, eliminating passenger-specific images by auto-detecting potential threats, which are indicated on a generic outline of a person. The generic outline is identical for all passengers. The equipment is programmed to identify unexpected items located on the body based on a broad cross-section of binary body types. This screening technology can present a

challenge for TSA when a traveler's anatomy does not correlate with the presented gender. Individuals who are transgender are encouraged to let a TSA Officer know; this can assist with the screening and pat down.

- When you enter the imaging portal, the TSA Officer presses a button designating a gender (male/female) based on how you present yourself. The equipment conducts a scan and indicates areas on the body warranting further inspection if necessary. If there is an alarm indicated on the generic outline, TSA Officers are trained to clear the alarm, not the individual. Additional screening is conducted to determine whether a prohibited item is present.
- TSA is committed to ensuring effective and efficient security screening while treating all travelers with dignity and respect.
- Learn more about advanced imaging technology at [TSA.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).

- **Pat-Downs:**

- You may choose to opt out of the screening technology and receive a pat-down, but you cannot choose to opt in to the technology in lieu of the pat-down. You also may undergo a pat-down if the screening technology alarms, or if you are randomly chosen for pat-down screening.
- When conducted, the pat-down will be performed by a TSA Officer of the same gender as the traveler presents.
- You can request a private screening at any time and be accompanied by a companion of your choosing.
- Additionally, you can request a chair if you need to sit down.
- A pat-down may include inspection of the head, neck, arms, torso, legs, and feet. This includes head coverings and sensitive areas such as breasts, groin, and the buttocks. You may be required to adjust clothing during the pat-down. The Officer will advise you of the procedure to help you anticipate any actions before you feel them. Pat-downs require sufficient pressure to ensure detection. TSA Officers use the back of the hands for pat-downs over sensitive areas of the body. In limited cases, additional screening involving a sensitive area pat-down with the front of the hand may be needed to determine that a threat does not exist.
- Learn more about pat-downs at [TSA.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).

- **Prosthetics:**

- Inform the TSA Officer verbally or in writing if you have a prosthetic.
- Passengers with prostheses can be screened using advanced imaging technology, metal detector, or a pat-down.

- You will not be required to remove your prostheses; however, they are subject to additional screening, which may require you to lift, raise, or lower your clothing. If the screening will involve a sensitive area, a private screening will be provided and a disposable drape will be available upon request. You may also request a private screening at any time.
 - You may voluntarily remove your prosthesis and submit it for X-ray screening.
 - If you have prostheses in a carry-on bag, the item will be allowed through the checkpoint after you complete the screening process. If a bag must be opened by a TSA Officer to resolve an alarm, you may ask that bag be screened in private.
- **Explosive Trace Detection Screening:**
 - TSA Officers may swab personal property or a traveler's hands, and then use explosive trace detection technology to test for explosives.
 - Explosive trace detection is conducted by a TSA Officer of the same gender unless it is explosive trace detection of your hands, which need not be conducted by a TSA Officer of the same gender.
 - For ETD testing, a swab of the area is conducted, and it is tested for the presence of potential explosive residue.
 - Travelers can request a new swab prior to their hands being sampled.
 - Learn more about ETD testing at [TSA.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).

WHAT TO REMEMBER:

- **Packing:** Separate medically-necessary liquids and equipment from other belongings so they can be quickly identified and accessed for screening.
- **Known Traveler Number (KTN):** Enter your known traveler number when you book your flight to get TSA Pre✓® (PreCheck) benefits.
- **Companion:** You can be accompanied by a companion of your choosing to provide assistance during the screening process. However, the companion must be re-screened after providing assistance that involves physical contact.
- **Body Piercing:** Certain metal body piercings may cause the machines to alarm, which will result in additional screening. If additional screening is required, passengers may be asked to remove their body piercing.
- **Gift Wrapping:** If a TSA Officer needs to inspect a package, a gift may have to be unwrapped. Passengers should refrain from wrapping gifts until arriving at their final destination.
- **Dress Smart:** Dressing smart for security will get you through the checkpoint faster. Learn more about dressing smart at [TSA.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).

TSA Pre✓® (PreCheck)

Travelers eligible for TSA Pre✓® (PreCheck):

- Proceed to the TSA Pre✓® (PreCheck) line;
- Present your boarding pass and government-issued ID to the TSA travel document checker;
- The TSA travel document checker will scan your boarding pass barcode.

During the screening process:

- Generally, TSA Pre✓® (PreCheck) lines are shorter and have shorter wait times. Find out when TSA Pre✓® (PreCheck) lanes are available at your airport at [TSA Pre✓® \(PreCheck\) Checkpoint Schedule](#).
- If eligible, travelers may be screened using advanced imaging technology, or a walk-through metal detector, or they may be screened using a pat-down.

Not required to remove:

- Shoes
- Jackets
- 3-1-1 compliant bag
- Laptop and large electronics from carry-on
- CPAP/BPAP

It is **recommended** that you remove items from your pockets to expedite the screening process and minimize the need for additional screening.

Standard Screening

Travelers not eligible for TSA Pre✓® (PreCheck):

- Proceed to the standard screening line;
- Present your boarding pass and government-issued ID to the TSA travel document checker;
- The TSA travel document checker will scan your boarding pass barcode.

During the screening process:

- Generally, passengers experience **longer lines** depending on the date and time of travel.
- If eligible, travelers may be screened using advanced imaging technology, or a walk-through metal detector, or they may be screened using a pat-down.

Required to remove:

- Shoes
- Jackets/Coats
- 3-1-1 compliant bag
- Medically necessary liquids
- Laptop and large electronics from carry-on
- Video cameras that use video cassettes
- CPAP/BPAP

It is **recommended** that you remove items from your pockets to expedite the screening process and minimize the need for additional screening.