

# ✈️ ■ First-Time Flyer Checklist (2025–2026)

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## Documents

- ■ REAL ID–compliant license (U.S. domestic, effective May 7, 2025)
- ■ Passport (6+ months validity for international trips)
- ■ Visa/ESTA/eTA (apply at least 72 hours before travel)
- ■ Boarding pass saved to Apple/Google Wallet (+ screenshot)
- ■ Travel insurance details and emergency contacts

## App Setup

- ■ Download airline app; enable flight alerts and push notifications
- ■ Add frequent flyer number and known traveler number (KTN)
- ■ Download offline maps and entertainment for the flight

## Airport Timing (Plan Ahead)

Domestic flights	Arrive 2 hours early (3 hours during holidays)
International flights	Arrive 3 hours early (verify airline guidance)
With TSA PreCheck	You can often subtract ~45 minutes

Tip: Early morning departures are more punctual and less crowded.

## Security: What to Expect

- ■ 3–1–1 liquids rule: 3.4 oz (100 ml) max containers; 1 quart-size clear bag; 1 bag per passenger
- ■ Regular line: laptops/tablets OUT of your bag; PreCheck: devices usually stay IN
- ■ Wear easy-off shoes; empty pockets; belt off (unless PreCheck)
- ■ Power banks must be in carry-on; never in checked baggage

## Flight Day Timeline

T–24 hours	Check in online; save boarding pass; set alerts; re-check seats
Departure day	Fully charge devices; pack liquids bag on top of carry-on; empty bottle for post-security refill
At security	Have ID + pass ready; follow bin instructions; be patient and courteous
At the gate	Re-check gate screens; use the restroom; board when your group is called

## Seats & Comfort

- ■ Window = better for sleep; Aisle = easiest access
- ■ Avoid last row (no recline) and seats near lavatories, if possible
- ■ Wear your bulkiest shoes/jacket on travel day to save bag space

## Notes

**Questions? Email [hello@ashlycummings.com](mailto:hello@ashlycummings.com) • Family Footprints Travel**