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MEDIA RELEASE

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St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) Summer Travel Tips

Please plan ahead to help make your travel easy as PIE! Summer is our busiest time of the year, so please be patient and follow these travel tips.

Airport Travel Tips

- ✓ Parking options are limited at the airport. We expect our long-term parking lot to fill to capacity on weekends and holidays. Complimentary shuttle service is provided between the economy lots and the terminal. The Key Lime Economy Lot is the primary Economy Lot and is located across Roosevelt Blvd; shuttles operating to and from our Key Lime Economy Parking Lot may experience delays due to traffic. The Strawberry PIE Lot opens after Key Lime Economy is full and accepts only credit and debit cards only when exiting. **No overnight parking is allowed in Short-term parking.** For parking info, rates and maps, check fly2pie.com/parking-and-transportation/parking For information on Disabled Parking, check fly2pie.com/parking-and-transportation/parking/disabled-parking-info
- ✓ The Grouper is a new low-cost airport express shuttle service offered by the Pinellas Suncoast Transportation Administration (PSTA) that operates on-demand from PIE to/from Clearwater Beach and select Sand Key hotels. Visit psta.net/grouper to book. For available transportation services, please check fly2pie.com/parking-and-transportation/transportation-services/
- ✓ **Picking up passengers?** Use our free cell phone lot to await your party until they are curbside with their luggage. No unattended parking is allowed in the cell phone lot. **Active loading and unloading only at curbside in front of terminal and remain with your vehicle at all times. No curbside waiting allowed.**
- ✓ Go Easy! **Please allow ample travel time to the airport.** For more information, including our terminal map, parking map, and airline websites, visit our website fly2pie.com

Airline Travel Tips

- ✓ Plan to arrive 2 hours before your scheduled flight departure time and check departure gate. PIE has two separate gate areas 2-6 and 7-11 that are not connected, so make sure you are at your correct gate 60 minutes before departure ready to board. Please check with airline for carry-on luggage requirements and sizes.
- ✓ Monitor/Check with your airline for updated flight information.
- ✓ For wheelchair assistance, request directly from your airline. Wheelchair assistance is provided from check-in to boarding aircraft and from aircraft to baggage claim.

TSA Travel Tips - [tsa.gov/travel](https://www.tsa.gov/travel)

- ✓ **Make sure you have an acceptable ID.** Adult passengers 18 years and older must show [valid identification](#) at the airport checkpoint in order to travel. **Are you REAL ID ready?** Starting May 2025, U.S. travelers must be REAL ID compliant to board domestic flights and access certain federal facilities. Check here for compliance <https://www.tsa.gov/real-id>
- ✓ **TSA PreCheck members: Make sure the TSA PreCheck mark is on your boarding pass.** Passengers must ensure that their Known Traveler Number (KTN) along with correct date of birth is in their airline reservation. Teenagers age 17 and under may now accompany TSA PreCheck enrolled parents or guardians through TSA PreCheck screening when traveling on the same reservation and when the TSA PreCheck indicator appears on the teen's boarding pass. Children 12 and under may still accompany an enrolled parent or guardian when traveling through the TSA PreCheck lanes anytime without restriction. [Enroll](#) in TSA PreCheck enjoy the benefits of faster checkpoint screening.
- ✓ **Firearms and ammunition are not permitted in carry-on bags, but are permitted in checked bags when properly packed and declared.** If passengers choose to travel with a firearm, they are permitted only when properly [packed](#) and declared at the airline ticket counter for checked baggage. Airlines may have additional requirements for traveling with firearms and ammunition, so travelers must also contact their airline regarding firearm and ammunition carriage policies prior to arriving at the airport.
- ✓ **Pack an empty bag and know before you go.** When airline passengers begin packing for travel with an empty bag, they are less likely to be stopped at the security checkpoint for having prohibited items. Prior to packing that empty bag, check TSA's ["What Can I Bring?"](#) tool to know what is prohibited. The most common prohibited items at the TSA checkpoint are drinks and foods that are prohibited according to the [liquids, gels and aerosols](#) rule.
- ✓ **Give yourself plenty of time.** Summer travel is busy, so plan ahead! Passengers should give themselves plenty of time to park, return a rental car, take a shuttle to the airport if needed, check-in with the airline, check bags with the airline and prepare for the security checkpoint. Passengers may save time by removing items from pockets and placing them in their carry-on bag, instead of putting items directly into bins at the conveyor belt.
- ✓ **Be aware of new checkpoint screening technology.** TSA uses a variety of security methods and technologies to secure our transportation systems. Screening protocols can be unpredictable and may vary from airport to airport depending on available technology and the current threat environment.
- ✓ **Tip 7: Follow TSO guidance.** Some people may not have traveled recently, so it is important to listen to the direction provided by our TSOs at the security checkpoint. There may be information on new technologies that helps reduce touchpoints or a TSO may redirect passengers to ensure we keep people moving through the screening process.
- ✓ **Tip 8: Respect TSA and other frontline airport and airline employees.** Violence and unruly behavior in the nation's transportation systems are not acceptable and cause delays at traveler checkpoints. TSOs, along with all frontline airport and airline employees and local law enforcement are all working together to ensure safe and secure travel. Assaulting a TSO is a federal offense and will result in penalties and/or arrest. Always follow the directions of flight attendants aboard aircraft. They are there for your safety and security.
- ✓ **Tip 9: Contact TSA with questions, compliments, complaints or assistance.** Travelers with questions have [many options for contacting TSA](#). AskTSA is available for live assistance from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. ET via Twitter or Facebook by messaging @AskTSA or by sending a

text to “272872” (“AskTSA”). For customer service issues, travelers may reach the TSA Contact Center (TCC) at (866) 289-9673. Individuals with disabilities, medical needs or other special circumstances may request passenger assistance at least 72 hours in advance by contacting our **TSA Cares** passenger support line at (855) 787-2227. Live assistance for both the TCC and TSA Cares is available weekdays, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET, or weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

- ✓ **Tip 10: Traveling with Kids?** We know traveling can be stressful. TSA offers a [series of videos](#) made specifically for kids to help them understand what they can and cannot bring through the checkpoint. Passengers should double-check the bag their child packed before arriving at the security checkpoint. Formula, breast milk, juice, baby food and even liquid medications in quantities greater than 3.4 ounces are exempt from the 3-1-1 liquids rule. Passengers must remove these items from their carry-on bag to be screened separately from the rest of their belongings.

Checkpoint-ready passengers are instrumental in helping with efficiency at the checkpoint. When passengers arrive with their identification credentials in hand and avoid the delays associated with bringing firearms, oversized liquids and other prohibited items into the checkpoint, it facilitates faster screening for everyone.

TSA encourages all passengers to remain vigilant. [If You See Something. Say Something®](#). Those traveling abroad should check the U.S. Customs and Border Protection [Know Before You Go](#) page to learn about required documentation for your destination.

Enjoy your summer!

Thank you!

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