

THE ESCAPIST

During the busiest time for travel, Jessica Huras reminds us how to navigate the airport and your plane journey with fellow travellers in mind.

[TRAVEL ETIQUETTE]



THERE'S NO BETTER time of year to reflect on airport etiquette than the holiday season. Whether it's to reunite with family or indulge in a winter getaway, the number of people travelling through airports around the world doubles (full disclosure: I have zero stats on holiday season travel; I can only say from having travelled regularly in December that airports get insanely busy).

While I could easily devote an entire (very long, very ranting) magazine to airport etiquette, most of my key tips and grievances boil down to consideration of those around you: Think about how you can make line-ups move more quickly by having your documents ready during security screenings; and for the love of God, don't cut in line (yes, we all noticed and we all hate you).

By all means, treat yourself to some airport fast food but don't bring your greasy takeaway bag on the plane so everyone has to smell your French fries in the recirculating air for three-plus hours. Consider keeping your bulky winter coat in the seat with you (I know, it's a tough life) instead of jamming it into overhead bin space that's clearly meant for other passengers' luggage. And

it's possible that the long, loud conversation with your friend sitting across the aisle can just wait until you both arrive at your destination.

In the interest of transparency, I should admit something: I'm regularly guilty of one particular airport faux pas: gate hovering. Most of the time, I end up assigned to one of the last boarding groups (as I write this, I'm currently waiting at the airport in boarding group 7. I didn't realize it was possible to sink so low in airplane hierarchy), but I'll pop out of my chair and start dancing around the gate as soon as group 1 is called.

Sure, I have my excuses (my carry-on usually consists of my laptop and camera gear and ain't nobody going to force me to check that when the overhead bin space fills up), but I also know I'm inconsiderately contributing to crowding the boarding gate area. So let's make a pact, fellow holiday travellers: You stop hogging all the overhead bin space by bringing ridiculously oversized carry-on bags onto the plane and I'll stop worrying about if there's going to be enough space for my bag and just wait patiently until my group is called. Deal? ♦

BUDGET BUDDIES

These apps can make your group travel budgeting a breeze.



SPLITWISE

As you travel with your group, keep track of your shared expenses with Splitwise. This app logs a running tab of how much is owed then prompts your pals when it's time to pay up.

TRAVEFY

Organizational travel app Travefy takes your group through every step of planning a trip. Search for and book hotels, plan activities, collect payments and chat as you build your itinerary all together.

TRAIL WALLET

Set out your daily budget before you travel and keep track of your expenses as you go. Trail Wallet will inform you if you're under or over your goal so you'll know if that extra group activity will break the bank before you do it.

✎ Airport by Skyler Smith; Splitwise by Tanvi Kuntekar