



For Immediate Release

November 17, 2009

Contact: Office of Public Affairs, 703-417-8370

Airports Authority Offers Tips for Thanksgiving Travelers

Thanksgiving is typically a busy time for air travel. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority offers the following tips for passengers to plan ahead to help smooth travels through Washington's airports.

"We would like to help our customers to be prepared this Thanksgiving travel season," said James E. Bennett, Airports Authority President and CEO. "Our best advice is to plan ahead and arrive early during peak times."

The Airports Authority anticipates the Thanksgiving holiday rush will start on Friday, November 20 and continue through Monday, November 30. Peak travel times are typically during the early morning (5:30 AM to 8 AM), mid-day (11 AM to 1 PM), and late afternoon (3:30 PM to 5:30 PM). Travelers are advised to arrive at least two hours before a domestic flight and three hours before an international flight, especially during these peak times.

"There are some new improvements in place since last Thanksgiving at both Reagan National and Dulles International Airports," Mr. Bennett said. "The Airports Authority has opened more than 800 new parking spaces at Reagan National. At Dulles International, departing passengers will find a new passenger security screening mezzanine built to suit today's federal security screening standards. Passengers traveling to Dulles on international flights will find an expanded area for processing passengers arriving in the United States."

Useful information about traveling through Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport is posted on the Airports Authority website, including one-page information sheets that passengers may print ahead of time and bring along on their trip. Please visit www.mwaa.com/reagan or www.mwaa.com/dulles and click on "Travel Tips".

The Airports Authority offers these additional travel tips:

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- Weather—both here and in other parts of the country—can greatly affect flight schedules. Call your airline's customer service number or visit the airline's website to confirm your flight prior to coming to the airport, especially if severe weather is predicted.
- Consider printing your boarding pass at home or work before coming to the airport.
- Place identification tags on both the inside and outside of your baggage.
- If you are traveling with a laptop computer, be sure to place a label on the computer itself and another label on the carrying case.
- Government-issued photo identification is required for all passengers over age 18.

- - More - -

GETTING TO THE AIRPORT

To Reagan National Airport

- A Metro stop on the blue and yellow lines is located at Reagan National Airport, making Metro a convenient way to get to the airport.

To Dulles International Airport

- Passengers may consider taking Metro to the West Falls Church Station on the orange line and connecting to the Washington Flyer Bus for express bus service to Dulles Airport. Cost is \$10 one way or \$18 for a round-trip ticket on the Washington Flyer Bus. Visit www.washfly.com for a bus schedule.
- For Washington Flyer Taxi service to Dulles Airport, please call 703-572-TAXI (8294) to place a reservation.

To both airports

- Super Shuttle provides door-to-door shared-ride service to both airports. Call 1-800-BLUEVAN or visit www.washfly.com for a fare quote or to book a reservation on the Super Shuttle.

PARKING

At Reagan National Airport

- Due to high demand for parking, the Airports Authority is adding more than 1,400 spaces at Reagan National by building an additional level on the parking garages. More than 800 new parking spaces have opened in Daily Garage B/C since last Thanksgiving along with spaces that were closed during construction.
- Real-time parking information is available online at www.mwaa.com or by calling 703-417-PARK to speak to a parking attendant 24/7.

At Dulles International Airport

- Dulles has 25,000 parking spaces so finding a space should not be a problem.
- For parking information at Dulles, please call 703-572-4500 or visit www.mwaa.com/dulles.
- The Airports Authority provides *Parking Locator Cards* in yellow boxes at the elevator areas in the garages and in the bus shelters in the economy lots. Take one to help you find your car when you return from your trip.
- PAY & GO is available at Dulles to avoid waiting in lines at the parking exits. Bring your parking ticket with you and use the Pay & Go Machines as you exit the Main Terminal on the lower level near the east and west exit doors. Once the ticket is paid at the Pay & Go machine in the Terminal, drivers exit at the Pay & Go lanes with the paid ticket without having to stop at the cashier booth.
- At Dulles, Valet Parking is available within the Hourly Parking Lot in front of the Main Terminal. No reservations are necessary. Call 703-572-4540 for more information.

At both airports

- When picking up an arriving passenger, wait in the Cell Phone Waiting Areas until your party calls to say they have arrived and are ready to be met at the curb. The Cell Phone Waiting Areas are free. Look for signs directing you to their locations when you arrive at the airport.

BEFORE YOU GO TO THE SECURITY CHECKPOINT

At Dulles International Airport

- A new Security Screening Mezzanine opened in the Main Terminal in September 2009. This new mezzanine level houses two new passenger security screening areas on either end of the Main Terminal, replacing the previous security checkpoints on the ticketing level. There are two entrances to this new area on the ticket counter level and two entrances on the baggage claim level. Passengers should follow the signs marked "To All Gates" to reach the new security screening areas.

At both airports

- Bag those liquids and gels! Remember these numbers: 3-1-1. Only liquids and gels in 3-ounce or smaller containers are permitted in carry-on luggage. All 3-ounce containers must fit in 1 clear sealed plastic bag that is no larger than 1-quart. Place the bag in the gray bin at the checkpoint for inspection.
- Have your boarding pass and government-issued photo ID available to present to the TSA officer.
- Leave gifts unwrapped. They may be opened for inspection.
- Place keys, loose change, cell phones, pagers, and other items from your pockets into your carry-on baggage prior to arriving at the checkpoint to avoid activating the metal detector.
- Avoid wearing heavy jewelry, metal hair barrettes or clothing with metal snaps or buttons that may activate the alarm at screening checkpoints. If the metal detector alarms when you pass through, you will be required to undergo additional screening.
- You must remove your shoes so consider wearing shoes that are easy to slip on and off to expedite your trip through security screening.
- Carry-on baggage is limited to one carry-on bag plus one personal item. The airlines strictly enforce this rule. Personal items include laptops, purses, small backpacks, briefcases or camera cases. Laptops must be removed from most cases at the x-ray machine.
- Spare lithium batteries—like the ones found in cameras, lap-top computers, cell phones and radio-controlled toys—are prohibited in checked baggage. Spare batteries are allowed in carry-on luggage as long as they are in the original packaging, or in separate protective cases or have tape across the battery's contacts to isolate the terminals and prevent short-circuiting.
- If you are traveling with infants or young children, take them out of baby carriers and strollers and take them through the metal detector with you. Strollers and baby carriers go through the X-ray machine with your bags.
- Check www.tsa.gov for more information about screening procedures and a complete list of prohibited items.

TRAVEL WISELY

- Carry medicine, cash, jewelry, electronic devices and other important and valuable items with you on the plane—not in checked luggage.
- If you leave your car at the airport, remove any valuables, including portable GPS devices.
- Carry your purse and wallet securely, and keep your luggage and carry-on items in your sight at all times. Under security procedures, unattended bags and other items will be confiscated and may be destroyed.

SHOPPING AND DINING

- The Airports Authority has added convenient dining options at both Reagan National and Dulles International. Sit down and enjoy a meal before your flight or order something to bring with you on the airplane. Shopping and Dining guides for both Airports are posted on our website.

For Dulles International, click here: http://www.mwaa.com/dulles/shopping_dining_2/shopping

For Reagan National, click here: http://www.mwaa.com/reagan/shopping_dining_3/retail_restaurant_listings

FOR MORE INFORMATION

About Reagan National Airport, please call 703-417-8000.

About Dulles International Airport, please call 703-572-2700.

About both airports, visit the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority's website at www.mwaa.com

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

#