

Airline & Customs Travel Checklist

Brought to you by Life & Luggage with CLL
Travel Light, Carry Love, Keep the Rhythm

1. Pre-Flight & Tech

- Download your airline's official app (Delta, Lufthansa, United, etc.) for real-time updates on gate changes, delays, and boarding.

- Turn on notifications—apps are often faster than airport announcements.

Other useful apps:

- FlightAware or FlightRadar24 – track your plane before it arrives.
- Triplt or Apple/Google Wallet – keep boarding passes and reservations organized.
- Airport Apps – check terminal maps, food, and security wait times.

2. Documents & ID

- Passport / REAL ID – check expiration dates early.
- Boarding passes – digital and printed backups.
- Travel insurance, visas, and emergency contacts – stored offline or printed.
- Credit cards (no foreign transaction fees preferred).
- Frequent flyer numbers handy for upgrades and perks.

3. Airport Prep

- Weigh luggage at home to avoid counter repacking chaos.
- Check TSA liquid rules and pack toiletries in a quart-size bag.
- Slip-on shoes for smooth security checks.
- Check departure and arrival weather for delay possibilities.

4. Boarding & In-Flight

- Re-check gate numbers frequently; they love to change after you get comfy.
- Eat or grab snacks early- beats sprinting past food on an empty stomach.
- Charge devices and locate quiet corners before boarding.
- Download music, podcasts, or shows offline.
- Bring a pen, water bottle, compression socks, and small comforts for long flights.



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5. Landing & Customs

When filling out customs declaration forms, honesty is the fastest path through. Declare everything they ask about—even duty-free purchases. They already know more than you think, and undeclared goods can lead to delays or fines.



Traveler's Tale:

“Coming back from Germany, I bought a beer gift set, a can of Leberkäse, and two Frankonian salamis. I declared it all, half expecting a grilling (pun intended). Customs just glanced, pointed me toward the camera, and waved me through. No drama, no questions. Honesty really is the fast lane.”



Travel Snack Tip:

Frankfurt Airport sells Landjäger sausages both sealed and unsealed. I bought four, snacked on them during the flight, and—poof—no salami left to declare. Sealed is usually safer for customs, but enjoying them en route can simplify things too!



Special Note: Strict Biosecurity Countries

Countries like New Zealand NZ and Australia AU have extremely strict rules on bringing in:

- Meat & meat products
- Fresh produce (fruits, veggies, herbs, seeds)
- Leaf or plant products
- Animal by-products (cheese, honey, eggs, jerky)

Even a forgotten apple core can result in fines. When in doubt, declare it—or better yet, eat, gift, or toss before landing.



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6. Optional Power Traveler Moves

- Lounge access via credit cards or day passes—worth it on long travel days.
- Travel wipes & sanitizer—planes are flying petri dishes.
- TSA PreCheck / Global Entry / CLEAR for security sanity.
- Check in 24h early for seat changes and boarding upgrades.

Airport Lounges:

Even if you don't upgrade to Business Class, paying for lounge access—either directly or through certain credit cards—can be *well worth it*. Lounges usually offer buffets or light meals, comfy seating, clean bathrooms, and even showers. A little peace before a flight can go a long way.

YOUR NOTES

