

AUTISM AVIATORS

Guide for travelling

- Arrive at airport.
- Check in at the correct Airline desk:
 - o You will need your photo Identification if you are over 18 years old or are travelling outside of Canada,
 - o Boarding pass and bags and/or suitcases.
 - o You will be required to answer questions from the booking staff
 - o It is a good idea to keep these documents accessible until you are seated on the plane
- Keep a card with important contact numbers, place you will be staying at and an emergency contact that you can find easily.
- Attach the tags you are given to your luggage handle so that they can be seen clearly.
- Take your suitcase to the conveyor belt and follow the signs so your luggage can go on the plane.
- Keep your boarding pass safe and easy to find as you will need to show it to airport staff often.
- At the entrance of pre-board screening, if you identify as an Autism Aviator, you may proceed through the Priority Screening line, the security staff will need to scan your boarding pass before you enter the line.
- In the screening area, wait to be directed to a screening counter. You will be asked to put any hand baggage you have, metal objects, laptops and electronics in a tray so it can go through the X-ray machine. You will get these items back.
- While your tray of items is being X-rayed, you will be asked to step forward towards an officer, they are checking you are safe to travel. Walk slowly toward the screening officer when you are asked.
- If the officer asks you to stop and hold out your arms, do so and they will check you for anything you may have forgotten to put in the tray.



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- Sometimes an officer may ask you to have a full body scan in a special booth. If you don't think you can stand very still and have the scan you can ask to have a private search where two officers will feel all over your body to make sure you are not taking anything unsafe on to the plane.
- Sometimes an officer may need to go through your bags or objects to check them more closely.
- When you are told to do so, you can collect your items from the tray and make your way up to the boarding area.
- Look on your boarding pass and find the right gate number for you to board your plane.
- When the airline staff calls for your plane to board, you will go and show them your boarding pass and photo ID and they will show you where to go to get on the plane.
- You can board the plane, find your seat and ask the flight attendants for guidance on where to put your hand luggage, and then put your seatbelt on. If you need a bigger seatbelt, you can ask the flight attendant for an extender.
- Some airlines may provide entertainment on a small screen, you can plug your headphones into the plane's entertainment system to hear the movies being played, if that is an option on your flight.
- There is a tray in front of your seat, you can pull that down when the plane is in the air to use.
- There is a fan and light overhead on the plane, you can turn these on and adjust them.
- When people get off the plane, it may be best to sit and wait until the rush has gone before getting out of your seat, if you need more time.
- Your luggage may get delayed, but this doesn't happen often. You will get it back

Enjoy your flight and your trip. Bon voyage!

Autism Aviators program used with permission from Autism Nova Scotia and Halifax Stanfield International Airport

