

At the Airport

The ticket

Traditional airline tickets that we used to get from the airline company or travel agency are getting rarer and rarer. Nowadays the traveller can book a ticket, confirm the seat, check-in the baggage and even print out the boarding pass electronically from home.

Check-in

If you are travelling by air, it is important that you make a final check of the contents of your suitcase before you lock it. At the check-in you may be asked whether you have packed your bags yourself or if anyone has had access to your bags after you have packed them.



On the day of departure you should be at the airport well on time. If you have not done your check-in at home, you will go to the check-in counter which normally opens 2-3 hours before departure. Different airlines have different rules for the maximum weights of both your check-in and hand baggage. You may usually take one item of hand baggage onboard. For any excess baggage you will have to pay extra. The attendant at the check-in counter gives you your boarding pass. Many airlines also have self-service machines at the airport, where you can do your own check-in. The machine prints out your boarding pass and luggage tags. After this you will leave your bags at a baggage drop counter.



It is prohibited to carry any dangerous goods, such as

- * explosives
- * compressed gases (incl. aerosols)
- * flammable liquids
- * substances with a high oxygen content, e.g. peroxides and bleaching powder
- * toxic substances
- * radioactive substances
- * corrosive substances
- * magnetic, harmful or malodorous substances and irritants

Firearms, replicas of weapons, daggers, (flick)knives and other offensive looking articles should not be carried on your person or in your hand luggage.



It is not allowed to carry firearms, replicas of weapons, daggers, (flick) knives, scissors and other offensive looking articles on your person or in your hand luggage. There are special regulations for carrying cigarette lighters, liquids, cosmetics and medicine onboard, which you should be well aware of before going through the security check.



If you haven't got your foreign currency yet, it's time to find a place to exchange money. There is usually a bank or a Money Exchange at the airport. There may even be one in the transit hall, but you shouldn't rely on finding one there if I didn't know for sure.

After check-in you have to go through a security check, before you can enter the transit hall. At the security check you first need to present your boarding pass and maybe even your ID card or passport. Your hand baggage and jacket must be placed on a conveyer belt that takes them through an x-ray machine. Your computer must be taken out of its case and put on the belt separately. The same applies to your wallet, keys and mobile phone. Then you walk through a metal detector. If the detector beeps, you will be checked again. You may have forgotten some coins in your pocket or perhaps your belt buckle is metallic.

While you are waiting for your flight to depart you can buy souvenirs or presents in tax-free shops. Be sure to check on the monitors when your flight is boarding and at which gate. At bigger airports it may be a long way to the gate, so you should allow for enough time to get there. If you are travelling outside the Schengen area, you will go through passport control before getting to the departure gate.

At the Airport — Activities

1 Work in groups of four. You are at the Check-in counter. One is the attendant, the others line up to check-in their baggage.

- *Would you like a window seat or an aisle seat?*
- *Are you carrying any electronic equipment?*
- *Did you pack your own bags?*
- *Here is your boarding pass.*
- *The boarding time is ... the gate number is ... Have a nice flight.*

2 Look at the list of forbidden items and discuss: Why are these items prohibited? What might happen if you carry any of them on board? Why are e.g. knives only allowed in your check-in baggage?

3 Check the current exchange rate of the currency of your planned destination. How much would you get for SEK100?

4 Put the following words in the order that you encounter them when checking in at the airport:

Passport control Tax-free Security Check

Check-in Ticket Boarding

Boarding Card Luggage Check

Waiting Lounge Money Exchange

5 Tell your friend what you do. Start with He/she may not have quite the same order. Discuss the differences.

Phrase box

First I...

Then I...

After that I...