

PASSENGER TRAVEL ADVISORY

For immediate release – December 17, 2004

Tampa International Airport reminds Airport customers that air travel always increases over the holiday season. Airport customers are advised to allow more time during these peak travel times to make their airline connections.

During the holidays, Airport parking may be close to capacity. Therefore, those who can make alternate transportation plans, such as having a friend drop you off, using a taxi or a limo service instead of driving to the Airport, are encouraged to do so.

A new parking policy change was implemented on November 8, 2004, that changed parking procedures when the Long Term Garage is full. The parking rate is no longer reduced in the Short Term Garage when the Long Term Garage fills to capacity.

Heaviest travel is expected on Thursday, December 23, Friday, December 24 and Sunday, December 26 and again, Thursday, December 30, Friday, December 31 and Sunday, January 2. Airport customers are advised to allow more time during these peak travel times to make their airline connections.

Travel Tips:

Allow Sufficient Time. Plan to arrive at the airport two hours prior to scheduled departure time.

Off-site airline check-in via the internet. Boarding passes may be printed online and thereby minimizing or eliminating your time at the ticket counter. Check with each airline website for the details.

Don't Lock Checked Baggage. Leave baggage unlocked in case it needs to be inspected as part of the security procedures. Or, use TSA approved special locks.

Cell Phones. Identify someone in your stored telephone directory as a relative – spouse, parent or friend – not just a name, so that you can be contacted if you lose your phone.

Carry Your Film. Don't Pack It. Travelers should carry ALL film in their carry-on baggage. Equipment used to screen checked baggage will damage undeveloped film.

Pack Smart. Place medicine and valuables in carry-on baggage.

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Identify Your Baggage. Place identification tags inside and outside of all baggage. Don't forget laptop computers.

Limit Carry-Ons. Airlines are enforcing regulations on the size and limiting the number of carry-ons.

Wrap On Arrival. Travelers should wrap their gift packages upon arrival at their destination or ship the packages in advance. Wrapped gifts in both checked and carry-on baggage may need to be opened if further security inspection is required.

Handle Prohibited Items Properly. Everyone should know that firearms and large knives are prohibited at the passenger checkpoint. But pocketknives, pointed scissors, self-defense sprays and other potential weapons also are not allowed in the aircraft cabin. Please place these items in checked bags or leave them at home. Go to the TSA website at www.tsa.gov for a complete list of prohibited items.

Picking Up Passengers. The curbside Arrivals Drive is restricted to active loading of passengers and luggage. Unattended cars are subject to ticket or tow by traffic enforcement personnel. It is very convenient to park your vehicle in the Short Term Garage and meet your party in the main terminal building, third floor.

Visit Airport website. www.tampaairport.com – for parking information and to check airline departure and arrival times.

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