

# Will Rogers World Airport

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## **GET READY FOR TAKEOFF AND SPRING BREAK**

### **AVOID TRAVEL PROBLEMS WITH PLANNING**

Spring Break 2005 begins at the end of this week and thousands of Oklahoma college students, families and fun-seekers take to the skies for their end-of-winter getaways. Airlines at Will Rogers World Airport are predicting full flights beginning as early as Thursday afternoon. With a little planning and common sense, these enthusiastic travelers can head off potential travel problems and make their airport and flying experience faster and easier.



#### *Before Leaving Home*

Helping the process go smoothly starts prior to arriving at the airport. Many travelers unknowingly try to carry prohibited items through the security checkpoint, many of which can be put into checked baggage. Make a quick assessment of what is being packed before leaving home.

Be sure to consider objects that might be used for vacation activities such as golf clubs, fishing poles, wrenches and pliers for bike maintenance, these cannot be taken through the security checkpoint, but can be put in checked luggage. Lighters have now been added to the prohibited item list. TSA is providing a 45-day grace period to allow travelers to adjust to the new policy with a compliance date of April 14. A complete list of prohibited items can be found on the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) website at [www.tsatraveltips.us](http://www.tsatraveltips.us).

Also, be aware of the weight of packed luggage. Many airlines now charge additional fees for bags that over a certain weight limit. Check with the specific air carrier for weight restrictions.

### *Construction*

Construction continues in the terminal building. Extensive renovations to the existing building have necessitated re-routing pathways, many through construction tunnels. Travelers can familiarize themselves with the changes prior to coming to the airport by checking the airport website at [www.flyokc.com](http://www.flyokc.com). Maps will also be located throughout the terminal building.

### *Save Time*

Many airlines allow passengers who have booked their tickets online to print their boarding passes at home. If not checking luggage, travelers arriving at the airport can proceed directly to the gate. Or take advantage of curbside check-in, which allows travelers to check bags and obtain a boarding pass, often avoiding long lines at the ticket counters. The automated kiosks located at each ticket counter are also time savers.



### *Security Checkpoint*

Only two items are allowed – a carryon bag and one personal item such as a laptop or purse. Consolidate your smaller items as much as possible. Put items like pagers, cell phones and cameras in your carry-on bag or purse. Avoid wearing clothing, jewelry, or other accessories that contain metal as they will set off the metal detectors and require additional screening. Hidden items such as body piercings may also set off the metal detectors. Passengers are now required to remove their jackets before proceeding through the metal detector so wear appropriate clothing.

### *Don't Cut It Close*

One of the biggest mistakes travelers make nowadays is not allowing enough time. Just because a flight is early in the morning doesn't mean it won't be busy. In fact, that is one of the busiest times at the airport. Many airlines will give away a ticket if the passenger is not at the gate 30 minutes prior to departure. A good rule of thumb is to arrive one-and-half to two hours prior to departure which allows plenty of time to park, check bags, navigate construction and the security checkpoints. Missing your flight or losing your seat will definitely put a damper on spring break travel plans.

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