

Your First **International Trip**

AIRPORT & CUSTOMS GUIDE

Navigate the airport with confidence.
Know what to expect. Start your trip stress-free.



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BJGT TIP

This guide walks you through the airport journey from packing and check-in to immigration, customs, connections and arriving at your destination.

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STEP 01

Before You Leave Home

International airport days become much easier when your documents and essentials are organized before you ever reach the terminal.

- Confirm your passport is valid for the destination and travel dates.
- Confirm visa, electronic authorization and transit requirements for your itinerary.
- Make sure the name on your ticket matches your travel document.
- Save your flight, accommodation and transportation confirmations.
- Check airline baggage size, weight and item restrictions.
- Check current security rules for carry-on liquids and prohibited items.
- Keep essential medications, valuables and documents in your carry-on when appropriate.
- Arrange transportation to the airport and allow generous time for international departure.
- Charge your phone and portable power bank.
- Download your airline app and any useful offline travel information.

My travel-document check

Passport expiration: _____

Visa / authorization: _____

Airline confirmation: _____

BJGT TIP Entry and transit rules can change. Verify them with the destination government, your airline and other official sources rather than relying on old posts or screenshots.

At the Departure Airport

Most international departures follow the same basic flow, even though the exact process varies by airport and country.

1	CHECK IN	Confirm travel documents, receive boarding pass and check bags if needed.
2	SECURITY	Present required identification and follow the screening process.
3	FIND YOUR GATE	Use airport screens or the airline app and verify the gate again later.
4	WAIT + PREP	Fill water, eat, charge devices and keep an eye on boarding updates.
5	BOARD	Have your boarding pass and travel document ready when requested.

Words you'll see

DEPARTURES	Flights leaving the airport.
ARRIVALS	Flights arriving at the airport.
GATE	Where you board your flight.
CONCOURSE / TERMINAL	A section or building within the airport.
BOARDING TIME	When boarding begins. This is not the same as departure time.
FINAL CALL	Board immediately if this is your flight.

BJGT TIPDo not assume your gate will stay the same. Check the airport screens or airline app periodically, especially after a long layover.

Security Without the Panic

Security procedures vary by country and airport. The goal is simple: arrive prepared, follow posted instructions and give yourself time.

- Keep your required identification or travel document accessible.
- Follow the officer's instructions about electronics, liquids, shoes, jackets and bags.
- Do not pack prohibited items simply because they were allowed somewhere else.
- Keep liquids and other regulated carry-on items within current rules.
- Allow extra time if traveling with medical equipment, mobility devices or special items.
- Collect every item after screening before leaving the area.

Carry-on essentials

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ■ Passport / ID | ■ Valuables |
| ■ Wallet / cards | ■ One change of clothes |
| ■ Phone + charger | ■ Basic toiletries within rules |
| ■ Medications | ■ Travel documents |
| ■ Boarding information | ■ Destination address |

BJGT TIP Airport security rules are not universal. Follow the rules for the airport you are actually using, including during connections.

Connections + Layovers

A connection means your journey is not finished when the first plane lands. Your next steps depend on the airport, country and itinerary.

- Check the next flight's gate and boarding time as soon as practical.
- Follow signs for Connections, Transfers or Flight Connections.
- Determine whether you must pass through security again.
- Determine whether immigration or passport control occurs during the connection.
- Know whether checked baggage transfers automatically or must be collected and rechecked.
- Keep enough time for terminal changes, trains, buses or long walks.
- If delayed, check the airline app and speak with the airline when rebooking is needed.

My connection plan

Connection airport: _____

Layover length: _____

Next terminal / gate if known: _____

Bag transfer plan: _____

BJGT TIP International connections can involve immigration, security or baggage procedures you may not expect. Research the specific connection airport before departure.

Immigration / Passport Control

Immigration determines whether a traveler may enter a country. The process may involve an officer, an electronic gate, or both.

Have ready

- Passport
- Required visa or travel authorization
- Arrival or accommodation address if requested
- Return or onward travel information if requested
- Other documents required by the destination

Questions you may be asked

Questions vary, but officers may ask about the purpose of your visit, how long you are staying, where you are staying, or your onward plans.

BJGT TIP Answer immigration questions truthfully and directly. Do not joke about security, weapons, drugs, false documents or other serious matters at a border.

Know the difference

IMMIGRATION / PASSPORT CONTROL	CUSTOMS
Focuses on you and whether you may enter the country.	Focuses on goods and items you are bringing into the country.

Baggage + Customs

After immigration, many international arrivals continue to baggage claim and then customs. Procedures differ, so follow local signs and instructions.

- Check the baggage screen for your flight's carousel.
- Verify the luggage tag before leaving with a bag that looks like yours.
- Report missing or damaged checked baggage to the appropriate airline desk promptly.
- Complete any required customs declaration accurately.
- Declare items when the country's rules require it.
- Follow the correct customs channel or officer instructions.
- Keep receipts or documentation for regulated items when appropriate.

What may require special attention?

Countries set their own rules for food, plants, animal products, medication, alcohol, tobacco, currency, commercial goods and other items. Limits and declaration requirements vary.

BJGT TIP When you are unsure whether something must be declared, check the destination's official customs guidance before you travel. Never hide an item to avoid a declaration.

After customs

- Connect to your planned airport transportation.
- Confirm the destination address before getting into a taxi or rideshare.
- Let your trusted contact know you arrived if that is part of your plan.

You Made It.

The airport can feel intimidating when every step is unfamiliar. Once you understand the basic flow, it becomes a series of manageable steps.

DEPARTURE	Check in → Security → Gate → Board
ARRIVAL	Immigration → Baggage → Customs → Exit
CONNECTION	Follow transfer instructions → Complete required checks → Find next gate

You do not have to know everything.
You just need to know your next step.

The world gets less intimidating every time you experience more of it.

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A note from Black Joy Global Travel: Airport, airline, security, immigration, customs, health and entry procedures vary by country and can change. This guide is general educational information, not legal or immigration advice. Always verify current requirements with your airline, airports, destination government, U.S. Department of State, TSA or other applicable official authorities before travel.