



Security and Customs

Security and Customs

Security and customs are the next two stages at the airport. In **security**, they ensure you are safe to travel and in **customs** they ensure you have the legal documents to travel.

Security and Customs

At most modern airports, before you get to security you will need to scan your ticket.



Image:

<https://aviationvoice.com/technology-to-drive-2018s-airport-security-landscape-2-201801171007/>

Security and Customs

At security, there are very strict rules about the objects you can take on the aeroplane.

The size and weight of your **hand baggage** is also restricted and you may be asked to weigh or measure it so it follows airline regulations.

Hand Baggage → The bag or suitcase that you physically carry on to an aeroplane with you.



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Some of the general rules are;

Liquid → A substance that flows freely, e.g. water
Sharp → To have an edge that could pierce something, e.g. a knife

- ✎ Only 100ml containers of **liquid**
- ✎ All liquids to be in a clear plastic bag 20cm x 20cm (only one bag per person)
- ✎ No **sharp** objects, such as a corkscrew, scissors or knives
- ✎ No dangerous objects such as fireworks, matches or lighters

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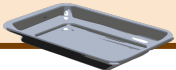
At security, you need to place all hand luggage in a **tray** and this will be passed through an X-ray machine to scan the items that will go on the aeroplane.



Image:

<https://www.thedailymeal.com/travel/things-you-didn-t-know-you-could-bring-through-airport-security/080817>

Tray → A big plastic box where you can place your items



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You are normally expected to **take off** any jackets or coats as well as shoes. You may be asked to remove your watch, jewellery, belt and anything metallic. You'll also be asked **to empty** your pockets.

To take off → To remove

To empty → To remove everything so there is nothing left



Image:

<https://www.futuretravelexperience.com/2016/03/dublin-air-port-introduces-parallel-loading-in-security-area/>

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You must place your mobile phone, laptop, any other electronic devices, your passport and ticket, umbrellas and your clear plastic bag of liquids in a separate tray.



Image:

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/travel/news/airport-security-plastic-trays-carry-13197120>

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Whilst your items are observed, you can walk through the **body scanner**. Sometimes you simply walk through and sometimes you must stop, place your hands in the air and they will complete a scan.



Body scanner → (as shown in the image). A large machine that uses radiation to examine a body

Image:

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/backscatter-machines-vs-millimeter-wave-scanners.htm>

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If they find something unusual in the body scan, you may be asked **to step aside** so they can carry out a more **thorough** search. In this case, you may be asked to raise your hands in the air and turn around.

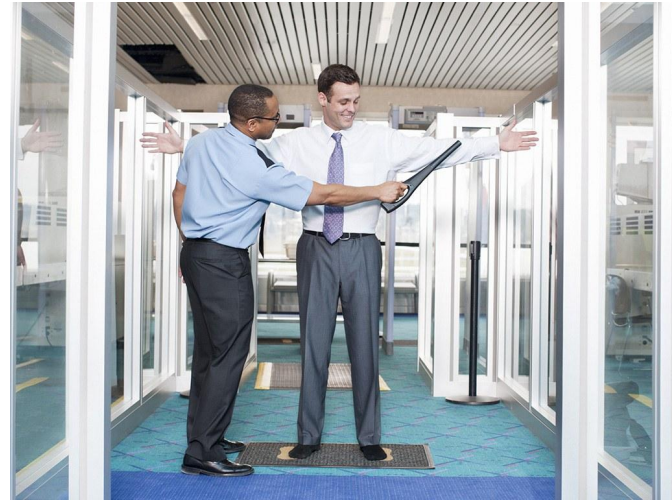


Image: <https://culturaltourconsultants.com/8875-2/>

*To step aside → To move to the side out of the way
Thorough → intensive, complete*

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Image:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6034127/Woman-84-handbag-stolen-airport-conveyor-belt-screened-security.html>

Conveyor belt → A continuous piece of rubber that transports items from one place to another (as shown in the image)

When you are cleared from the scan, you can collect your hand luggage, which will be at the end of the **conveyor belt**. Sometimes they may carry out a thorough search and ask you to take items out of your hand luggage.

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Finally, you can pack up your things, put your clothes on again then head through to customs.

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Customs is normally just **passport control**. Sometimes this is electronic and sometimes there are officers who manually check your documents.



Image:

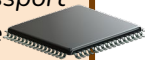
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/news/brexit-and-budget-cuts-could-mean-longer-passport-queues-airports-warn/>

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Make sure you know what kind of passport you have. If your passport has a **electronic chip**, you can go to the ePassport gates. If you are in your home country, there is normally a special **fast lane** too.

Electronic chip → A little electronic square inside a passport that can be recognised on a computer/electronic device

Fast lane → A queue that is very quick



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Image:

<https://www.ft.com/content/4d3bbdde-12be-11ea-a225-db2f231cfeae>

If you use the ePassport gates, you will be asked to place the passport facing down onto the scanner with your hand on top of it. Then you must look into the camera and the exit gate will open.

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Image:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/travel/5371681/us-passport-control-can-now-confiscate-tourists-phones/>

At the manual passport gate, you may be asked for your name, where you are travelling to and how long you are staying. You may need visas or other documents too.

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Finally, you've passed through security and customs and have a bit of time before you need to board the plane.