



TRI-CITIES

AIRPORT • PSC

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Tri-Cities Airport Offers Holiday Travel Tips

Pasco, WA – The travel period from Thursday, December 19, through Sunday, January 5, is expected to be one of the busiest travel seasons on record. The aviation industry association Airlines for America (A4A) anticipates that 47.5 million passengers will fly globally on U.S. airlines over the 18-day winter holiday travel period. At an average of 2.6 million passengers taking to the skies each day over the holidays, that’s an increase of 3 percent over the same period a year ago.

In order to help passengers’ journeys go as smoothly as possible, the Tri-Cities Airport (PSC) is sharing travel tips:

Avoid the Busiest Days. A4A says that the busiest air-travel days during the Christmas holiday will be December 20 and 21, and December 26 and 27, with December 20 being the single busiest travel day of the holiday period. If you can, try to plan your trip before or after these dates, or look for early-morning or late-night flights to avoid the crowds as much as possible.

Arrive Early. Lines may be longer and parking may be more scarce during the holiday season. Plan to arrive at PSC 90 minutes before your plane departs. This will give you enough time to find parking, check your bags, go through security, and find your gate.

Go with the Overflow. The airport anticipates that the long-term parking lot will fill to capacity this month. If this happens, follow signs to the overflow parking lot.

Think 3-1-1. When going through the security checkpoint, come prepared to follow the 3-1-1 rule for your liquids and gels: 3 ounces of liquid in a 1 quart bag, 1 bag per person. Higher quantities of breast milk and medicines are permitted but may require further inspection.

Know Which Holiday Items Can Travel in Your Carry-on. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has policies that affect holiday travel. Learn ahead of time which items you can bring on the plane or need to check in your luggage.

- **Wrapped gifts:** While you can travel with wrapped presents, if your gift triggers an alarm at the checkpoint, it may need to be unwrapped for TSA officers to inspect. Instead of wrapping, consider using a gift bag or a gift box (which allows officers to remove the item without needing to unwrap it) or wrap the gift upon your arrival at your destination.
- **Holiday foods:** Solids like cookies or ham can be carried onto the plane in your bag. But if you can spill it, spread it, spray it, pump it or pour it, then please pack anything over 3.4 ounces in your checked bag. This includes gravies, jams, and jellied cranberries.
- **Snow globes:** Snow globes are popular holiday gifts, but if you're traveling with a snow globe, it needs to contain 3.4 liquid ounces or less to be in your carry-on. TSA's rule of thumb is that if it is smaller than a tennis ball, it is probably 3.4 ounces or less.

Try PreCheck. Get through the security checkpoint faster and with less hassle by registering for the [TSA PreCheck program](#). The Tri-Cities Airport now has a dedicated PreCheck lane designed to expedite the security process for those in the program. It may be too late to help this year, but consider it before the next busy travel season.

Spread Holiday Cheer. Get into a festive spirit by taking your picture in front of the PSC holiday tree! Share your holiday photo by using #PSCholiday on Facebook.

About the Airport

Tri-Cities Airport (PSC) is the largest airport in the Southeastern Washington and Northeastern Oregon region and the third largest air carrier airport in the state of Washington. With connections to eight major hubs, the airport is served by Delta, Alaska, United and Allegiant airlines. More than 785,000 passengers traveled through PSC in 2018. For more information about the airport, visit flytricity.com or follow us on [Facebook](#).