



# Fly through before you take off.

## Top tips on how to lead the stampede for the plane.

Don't be at the mercy of the airport, or security, or the shuttle bus. There's a lot of the pre-plane process that you can control.

### Arrive early

We know it sound obvious, but there is no such thing as too early for a flight. Too late is easy. You just need to dither and not read the rest of these tips.

### Hurdle one: documents

You can usually print your boarding pass at home. Or you can download it onto your phone. Then all you have to do is drop the bag, wave passport and boarding card and you're through to airside.

Dedicate one pocket for the documents. One smooth move to show them, then back in the same pocket. All airports are stressful and confusing, but you don't need to be stressed and confused.

### Hurdle two: security

Sometimes you'll find about 300 people in front of you. Look to see whether the airport offers fast track security clearance. If they do, take it.

Put EVERYTHING in the jacket going through the scanner: coins, keys, mobile phone, belt, money clip, EVERYTHING. Beeping and frisking are not going to get you to the front of the queue so have NOTHING in your pockets.

### Hurdle three: duty free

It's not the bargain it used to be. Decide what you want and go straight for it. No good comes of browsing.

### Hurdle four: getting to the gate

Before you do anything else find out where it is. You may have a long walk or need to take a shuttle. The sooner you get to the gate, the further up the queue you'll be.

### Hurdle five: boarding

You're there in plenty of time. Cozy up to the people staffing the gate and mention the possibility of an upgrade. If you're there early enough and you're nice enough, you might wind up with the caviar-noshing classes.

### Useful links

Holiday Extras [www.holidayextras.co.uk](http://www.holidayextras.co.uk)  
[www.holidayextras.co.uk/fast-track.html](http://www.holidayextras.co.uk/fast-track.html)  
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