

# Let's Fly!



## A Photo Guidebook Tour Through Portland International Airport

The airport is a busy place with many people. There is nothing to worry about at the airport though, because this book teaches you how the airport works.





**How will  
you get to  
the airport?**

There are many ways to get to the airport. Some people take the MAX train. Some people take a taxi or a bus. Many people drive their cars. Some people get dropped off right at the door; others park in the parking lots and take a bus. A lot of people go to the airport, so don't be surprised by the crowds or all of the cars.



**Watch for cars and stay with your family or friends.**

The parking garage is very big. Don't be nervous though, people drive very carefully in the garage.



There are a lot of ways to go into the airport!

Here is the fun part! To get from the parking garage to the airport terminal, you might get to ride in an elevator. Or, you might cross a skybridge or walk in a tunnel.



Revolving doors are fun, but make sure you stay with your family or friends to be safe!

There are many different kinds of doors at the airport. Some you pull open and some open automatically; there are even revolving doors!



**What  
airline  
are you  
flying?**

When you go in the doors, you will be in the airport terminal. It is a big room with a lot of lights and sounds and people.

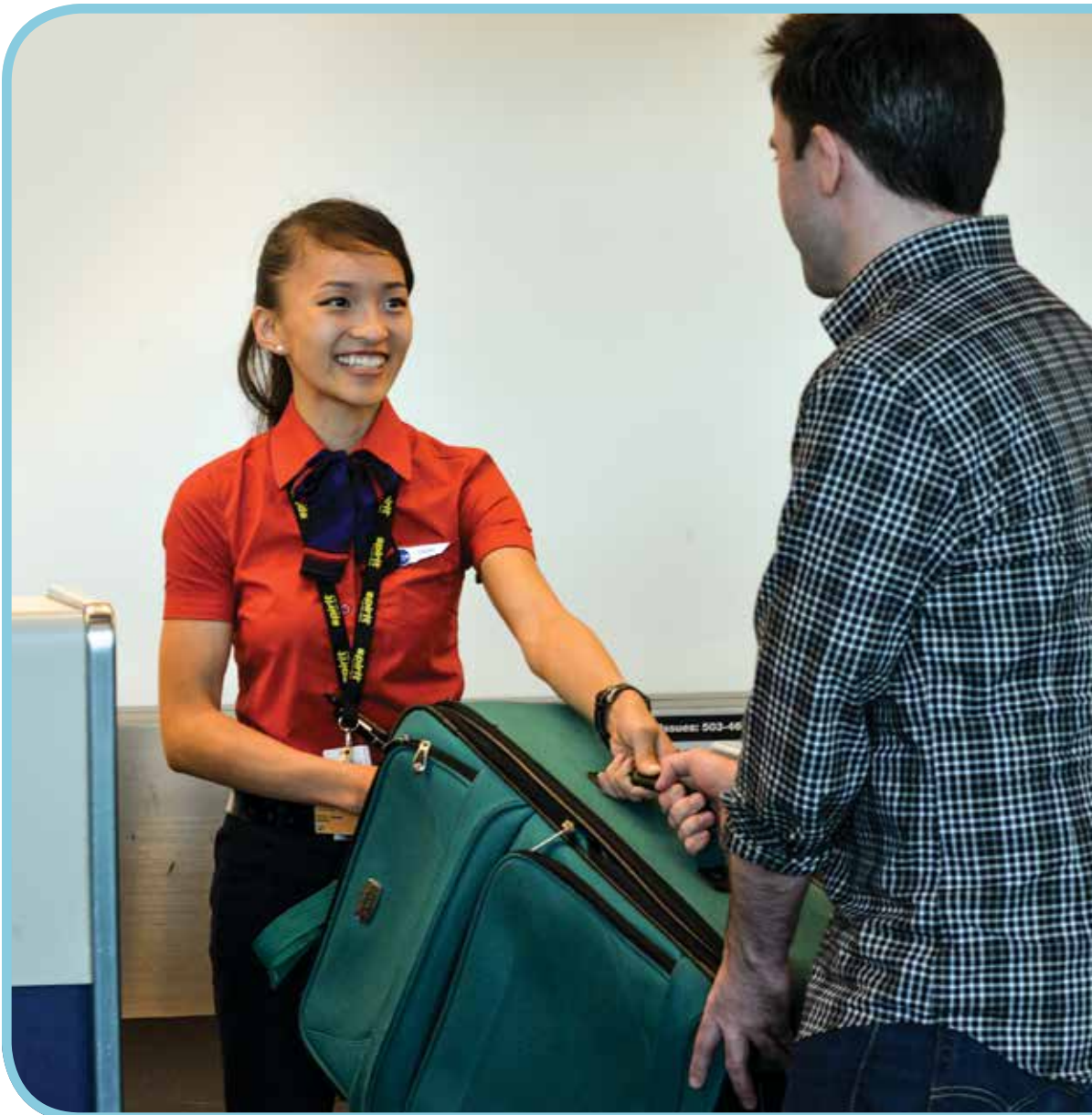
Some people check in for their flight at kiosks and print their boarding passes. But many people will be lining up at the ticket counters to get their tickets to ride in the airplanes or to check their bags. If you go to a ticket counter you may need to wait in a long line. There are a lot of different airlines. Each one has a ticket counter.



**This woman works at the airport. She wants to help make sure you have a good time at the airport.**

If you go to the ticket counter, a nice person who works for the airline will help you. You can tell the people who work at the airport because they wear a badge; some airport workers also wear a uniform.

If you need help, always go to a person in the airport wearing a badge. They are super nice and ready to help.



**This man is giving his bag to the friendly woman at the counter!**

If you have a big suitcase, you will give it to a helpful person who works for the airline. This person will take it and put it on the airplane. The airline does a good job taking care of your suitcase!

At the end of your trip, you will pick up your suitcase after the airline unloads it from the airplane. It is OK to give your luggage to the people who work at the airport.





**This girl would rather hear music so she is playing her favorite song.**

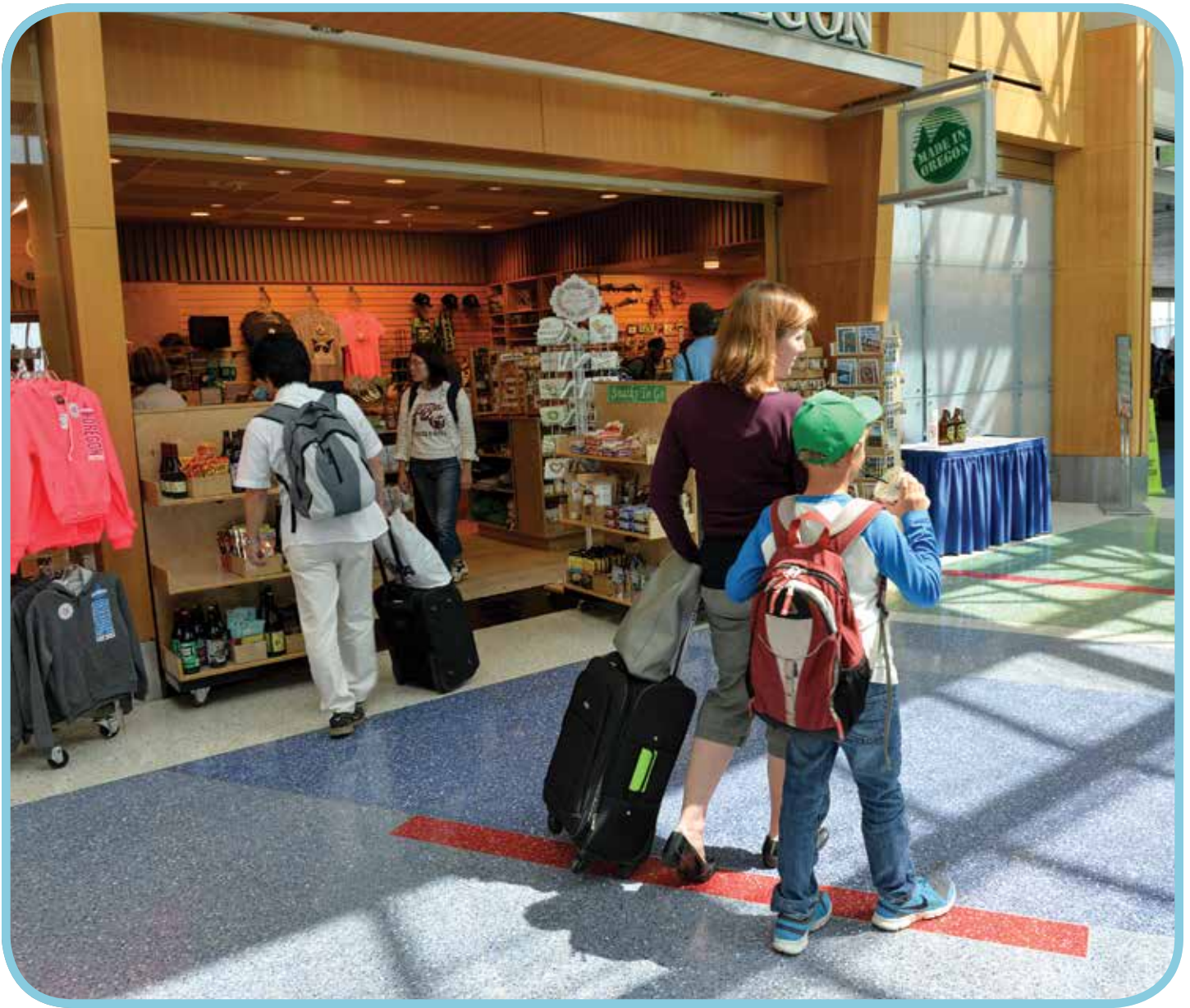
You can listen to music, too! If the noise at the airport bothers you, feel free to wear headphones. But remember to stay with your family or friends and listen when people are talking to you.



**Which  
is your  
concourse?**

Now that you've checked in, it is time to find your airplane. The airplanes are parked along a concourse. The concourse is like a long hallway that takes you to the airplanes. The concourses are named after a letter. Your airplane will be on Concourse A, B, C, D, or E.

Look for the signs that tell you where to find your concourse.



Do you know there are stores at the airport? There are a lot of fun and interesting things to look at in the stores.

Do you know there are restaurants at the airport, too? Some people eat at the airport. Some people don't. There may also be food available on the airplane.



This man needed a break so he is sitting down for a minute.

One nice thing about airports is that they have a lot of places to sit. If you need a break you can go sit and rest for a few minutes.

This is a great way to relax at the airport!



**Don't let people walking fast stress you out, just walk on the right.**

Some people walk fast at the airport. They need to be on time to get on their airplane. If you are walking slowly, walk on the right side. Let the fast people go by you.



**This is one of the friendly agents who wants to see your ticket.**

At the airport, you have to go through security. Security is important and a little bit complicated. Just watch what your family or friends are doing and do the same thing.

First, you get in line and the friendly security agent checks your ticket and your identification. To go through security you have to have a ticket and you sometimes have to have a picture I.D. (If you are not 18 years old yet, you don't need an I.D.) Someone in your group might carry your ticket, or maybe you will. Just be sure to keep it in a safe place. The nice agent may ask you a question about your trip. It is OK to tell the agent about your airplane ride.



**Don't worry!  
You will get all of your items back in just a few minutes.**

Next, you will get in line to have your backpack and pockets checked. In this line there will be bins for you to use. See what the other people are doing? They are taking everything out of their pockets and putting it in the bins.

To go past security means the people in uniform get to see what is in your pockets and in your backpack. They do this with everyone to help keep the airport safe.



If you are older than 12, you may have to take off your shoes, jacket and belt.

See this man? He also has a backpack. Inside his backpack is a computer. He takes the computer out and puts it into a bin. Everything else can stay in his backpack.

The man also puts his belt in the bin. And even his shoes!

Sometimes the people in uniform will let you keep your shoes and belt on; don't worry, they'll tell you what to do.





**Look around, everybody needs to be checked by security agents.**

After you put everything in the bin, it goes on a conveyor belt through a machine. Once your items go in the machine to be screened, you get to go through a different machine. The friendly security agent will use hand motions to signal when it is your turn to walk through the machine.

Either you get to walk through a machine that looks like an open door, or a nice agent will tell you to go in a machine that has windows.



**Just remember, it is the security agent's job to see what is in your pockets and in your backpack.**

If you go into the machine that has windows, make sure to put your feet on the yellow footprints. Put up your arms and the machine will turn on. It is pretty exciting, almost like being in a movie! Just do what the security agent says, or do what your family or friends do and you will be OK.

Once in a while, the machine will beep and a security agent will pat your arms and legs with his or her hands. Sometimes the agent will also wipe a cloth on the palms of your hands. Don't worry, it just takes a few seconds. If it makes you nervous, maybe one of your family or friends will do it first so you can see how it is done.



**This man put his belt and his shoes back on and now he is ready to go to his gate.**

The person in a uniform will let you know when you are all done and then you can grab your backpack! Don't forget to put everything back in your pockets now.

You are all done with security.



**Which  
is your  
gate?**

The airplane you are going to fly on is going to be at a gate. The gate has a letter and a number. This is the sign for gate C8.



**This woman was feeling stressed out so she is looking at a painting.**

Remember, if you need a break there are fun things to do at the airport. You can look at artwork.

There are also many musicians who play in different areas of the airport. The musicians have fun bringing music into the airport!



**Hold on  
to the  
handrail  
and have  
fun!**

The airport has moving sidewalks! These are fun to use, but remember, some people are in a hurry so stay to the right. People who are going fast walk on the left. People who are standing stay on the right.



Look for these signs to know what bathroom you use.

**Boys and men look for these signs.**

**Girls and women look for these signs.**

You may need to use the bathroom while you are at the airport. Since you are about to go on an airplane it is probably a good idea to use the bathroom. There are bathrooms on the airplane, but the bathrooms at the airport are bigger and easier to use.

Don't worry that the bathrooms are big and bright. This might be the biggest bathroom you ever use!

Make sure you wash your hands when you are done using the bathroom! You can use towels or a dryer to dry your hands. The dryer is loud, but it is fun to use.



This man knows he is going on a long airplane flight so he is having a drink.

If you are thirsty there are a lot of drinking fountains at the airport. Usually, they are close to the bathrooms.

You can also get a drink on the airplane.





These people are waiting at their gate for the airplane. One of the people who work for the airlines will announce when it is time to get on the airplane.



**Have a  
good  
time on  
your trip!**

Before you can get on the airplane you have to show your ticket and then walk down a long hallway.

This hallway connects to the airplane and can be kind of crowded. Don't worry! Just stay with your family or friends and you will be fine. You are almost on the plane!

Once you get on board, the nice people on the airplane will give you other instructions and can help you with any other questions you may have about flying on the airplane.

This guide was designed by the Port of Portland and written by Special Education Teacher Brett Bigham.

## About the Author

Brett Bigham is the first Special Education Teacher to be the Oregon State Teacher of the Year. He runs a job and skills program for Multnomah Education Service District and his county-level classroom takes students from the entire Portland Metro Area. Because Brett often serves students with Autism he has been creating a series of guidebooks to teach people with communication disorders how to access the community. Besides being Teacher of the Year, Brett was also named one of the NEA Foundation “Excellence in Education” awardees for 2015. He was also named Outstanding Special Education Teacher by the National Association of Special Education Teachers and was an OnPoint Prize Finalist. In addition, Brett was named a Neighborhood Hero by Bank of America and was given the 2014 Bob Speltz Community Service Award by the Q Center. Brett has a B.S. in Communications from Oregon State University and an M.S. in Special Education from Portland State University. As Teacher of the Year Brett has attended meetings at the White House, has met President Obama and Secretaries Hillary Clinton and Arnie Duncan as well as Oregon’s Senatorial and Congressional representatives.

## About the Port

Established in 1891 by the Oregon legislature, the Port today owns four marine terminals, three airports (Portland International, Hillsboro, and Troutdale) and five business parks. The mission of the Port is to enhance the region’s economy and quality of life by providing efficient cargo and air passenger access to national and global markets. The most recent economic impact study shows that the Port generated 27,000 jobs, \$4.6 billion in business revenue and more than \$164 million in state and local taxes.



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