



**For Immediate Release
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USTOA Advises: Know Baggage & Security Rules

The U.S. Tour Operators Association is advising vacationers to know airline baggage and security regulations before they travel. “With another record-breaking year for travel, airlines are increasingly enforcing their regulations, especially for checked baggage weight. Passengers need to know the requirements and limits if they are to avoid excess baggage fees,” says Bob Whitley USTOA President.

To assist travelers, USTOA has posted an Airline Baggage and Security Guideline page on its website: <http://www.ustoa.com>, (or www.ustoa.travel) with general information and helpful hints. Travelers will find the page in the “Smart Travel Planning” section. An online chart provides baggage allowances for both checked and carry-on luggage for various parts of the world. For instance, most domestic U.S. and transatlantic flights allow two checked pieces with a maximum linear measurement (height+width+depth) each of 62 inches. Maximum weight for coach class passengers is 50 lb. in the U.S., but may only be 44 lbs. for flights within the European Union and South America.

Carry-on baggage allowances are usually 45 linear inches, with maximum weight varying from 40 to 50 lbs., depending on the airline. While some parts of the world allow a personal item and an additional bag as carry-on, flights departing to or flying through the U.K. only permit one carry-on item.

A section on the USTOA Airline Baggage Allowance web page lists U.S. Transportation Security Administration guidelines for flights departing the U.S. and general information on flights originating at non-U.S. airports. In general, liquids limited to 3 ounces and packed in a one-quart plastic bag are allowed for most destinations worldwide.

Travelers can also find website links to the U.S. TSA as well as to representative airline sites on the Baggage Allowance page. “Baggage allowance and security regulations can change without notice, so it’s always best to check with the airline you are flying regarding the latest baggage and security requirements,” advises Bob Whitley, USTOA president.

About USTOA

USTOA's more than 130 member brands are responsible for the vacations of 11 million people yearly. To qualify for USTOA membership a company must meet the travel industry's toughest requirements, including participation in the USTOA Travelers Assistance Program. Among other things, the program requires each USTOA corporate member to set aside \$1 million in security to protect consumer payments in case the company goes out of business.

More information on USTOA as well as other helpful travel advice is available at www.ustoa.com or www.ustoa.travel. Or phone 1-800-GO-USTOA (468-7862).

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