

# TOURISM TIDBITS

WITH DR. KURT STAHURA



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## Tourism Tidbits #1 - Air Travel in the United States

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I must preface this piece by sharing that my wife and I have had tremendous luck with air travel within the United States during the summer of 2022. We traveled to California and our flights were efficient and pleasant. I also traveled to New Jersey by plane by myself and the experience was equally as pleasant. In both instances our flights were on time, there were no hassles and in the case of the California trip, we even had connecting flight with a gate within a stone's throw of our off ramp.

All travelers have been inundated with stories of long lines in airports, cancelled flights and lost luggage. The explanations provided by those in the travel industry revolve around a lack of personnel (pilots, flight attendants, baggage handlers, check-in professionals etc.).

Tip for travel ...

- Book early in the day so that if flights are consolidated and you are bumped, you will be able to catch the next flight (even if it is on another carrier). In other words, build a cushion into your trip.
- If one is taking a weekend trip, try to put all your belongings in a carryon bag. We all tend to pack more than we need for short excursions.
- When flying smaller carriers (Allegiant Air, Frontier etc.) fly on days that are likely to have more customers despite the fact that it seems counterintuitive.

- Leave plenty of time for checking in. If lines are going to be long due to fewer airport personnel working at security lanes prepare for that eventuality.
- TSA lines are becoming as crowded as many of the regular lines and dovetailing into fewer security lanes.
- Always have your phone with you. The airlines are often providing updates the night before and day of flights altering gates etc. Don't assume that your check-in the night before is locked in for your flight.
- Utilize the Kiosks and self-check platforms in an attempt to avoid lines.
- Be kind to those who are working at the airport. They are gridding it out on your behalf while others once in the field have chosen a different path.

Dr. Stahura completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (B.A.) and his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.