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Airport Expects a Rush of Travelers During Holiday Season

A Checklist of Things to Know Before You Go

BIRMINGHAM, AL (November 20, 2024) – Passenger traffic continues to soar at Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport (BHM). That trend is expected to be very evident during peak travel times around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Starting this weekend, Thanksgiving travelers will begin to pack into airport parking lots. While travelers at BHM rarely experience long lines at ticket counters or at the TSA Checkpoint, they may find wait times a bit longer than usual.

“We see it every year,” said Kim Hunt, VP of Communications for the Birmingham Airport Authority. “Travelers who have the tendency to wait until the last minute to arrive at the airport can find themselves cutting it too close. And the last thing we want is for someone to miss a flight because they didn’t plan to arrive early enough,” said Hunt.

Here are some tips to help take the “rush” out of holiday travel:

- Arrive at the airport 2 hours prior to your scheduled departure. This is particularly true if you plan to check bags at an airline ticket counter.
- Consider all parking options. The parking deck will be at or near capacity during peak travel days. The Economy lot is a great alternative. It’s located just east of the terminal. Shuttle buses run continuously. Valet parking is also available until it fills up.

- Make sure you do not have prohibited items in your carry-on bags. Travelers who bring firearms through the checkpoint face hefty federal fines. The only acceptable way to travel with a firearm of any kind is in a checked bag after declaring it to your airline and following all rules regarding packing and placing it in a locked case.
- Avoid bringing wrapped gifts. Security screening requirements may force TSA officers to unwrap gifts for inspection.
- The 3-1-1 rule is still enforced at the regular checkpoint lanes. Passengers can carry on liquids if they are 3.4 oz or less, and all placed in only (1) quart sized Ziplock bag.
- If you have specific questions about what you can and cannot pack or bring through security, you can find answers here: <https://www.tsa.gov/>

For more information, please contact Kim Hunt at khunt@flybhm.com.

About Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport

As Alabama's largest commercial airport, Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport has served as a gateway to the sky for 93 years. Governed by the Birmingham Airport Authority, the airport continues to be a catalyst for growth and economic development for the entire region. For more information, visit flybhm.com or follow BHM on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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