



Increased International Travel for “Holy Week”

Busy week for travel and shopping makes for busy week at airport

San Antonio, TX— The week before Easter marks a busy time at San Antonio International Airport (SAT) as well as the city’s shopping centers and visitor attractions. With airlines reporting high capacity loads the week of March 25-31, the week is particularly popular for visitors from Mexico who have traditionally made San Antonio a holiday and shopping destination. As reported this week by the Los Angeles Times, SAT saw a 132% increase in international travelers over the previous year. To meet the demand during “Holy Week” peak travel season, airlines have added flights to their normal weekly schedules. In addition, SAT traditionally sees a spike of 50-100% in private aircraft from Mexico arriving at the airport the week prior to Easter

For everyone traveling this holiday, SAT officials recommend the following tips to make for a smoother airport experience:

- **Arrive Early:** Allow 2 hours for the parking and check-in process on those days, particularly on flights departing before 7:00 a.m.
- **Keep your boarding pass and ID readily available:** Always have your boarding pass in hand and ready to present to TSA and airline personnel.
- **Pack Smart:** For the safety and security of the traveling public, TSA, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and/or airlines have prohibited certain items from being brought onto airplanes in carry-on and/or checked bags. To avoid the potential of additional screening, travelers should check the prohibited items list at www.tsa.gov.
- **Use TSA Approved Locks:** Screeners may have to open your bag during the screening process. If your bag is locked and TSA cannot open it through other means, the locks may have to be broken. TSA approved locks are recommended if you have to lock your bag.
- **3-1-1 for Carry-Ons:** Passengers should follow the 3-1-1 rule when packing their carry-ons. (3.4 ounce (100ml) bottle or less (by volume) ; 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin when going through security).
- **Dress the part:** Empty all personal effect from your pockets including wallet, phones and any pieces of paper. Try to avoid wearing metal in or on your clothing. Pack coins, keys, jewelry, belt buckles and other metal items in your carry-on bag.

Remove Your Shoes: The TSA requires most passengers to remove their shoes prior to the screening process. With the exception of those being 12 years or younger, 75 or older, members of the Military and those who are enrolled in the TSA Pre-Check and Global Entry programs.

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To innovatively manage our airports to provide a positive customer experience while supporting economic development.