

TSA Pre✓[®]

Your Complete 2025 Guide



- Everything you need to get TSA Pre✓
- Walkthrough for KTN, REAL ID, and approval
- Clear-step-by-step instructions
- Know what to expect at the airport
- Avoid delays and get through faster

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Always verify current requirements at tsa.gov.

TSA PreCheck: Your Complete Guide for 2025

Skip the long lines and transform your airport experience. This comprehensive guide shows you exactly how to get TSA PreCheck in 2025, avoid costly mistakes, and maximize your travel benefits.

20M+

Current active TSA PreCheck members

94%

Percentage of PreCheck passengers who wait less than 5 minutes

\$76.75

Lowest initial enrollment fee (IDEMIA provider)

5 years

Membership duration from approval date



What is TSA PreCheck?

TSA PreCheck is a government program that provides expedited security screening at U.S. airports for pre-approved, low-risk travelers. Unlike standard security lines, PreCheck members enjoy a streamlined experience that significantly reduces wait times and travel stress.




Faster Security Screening

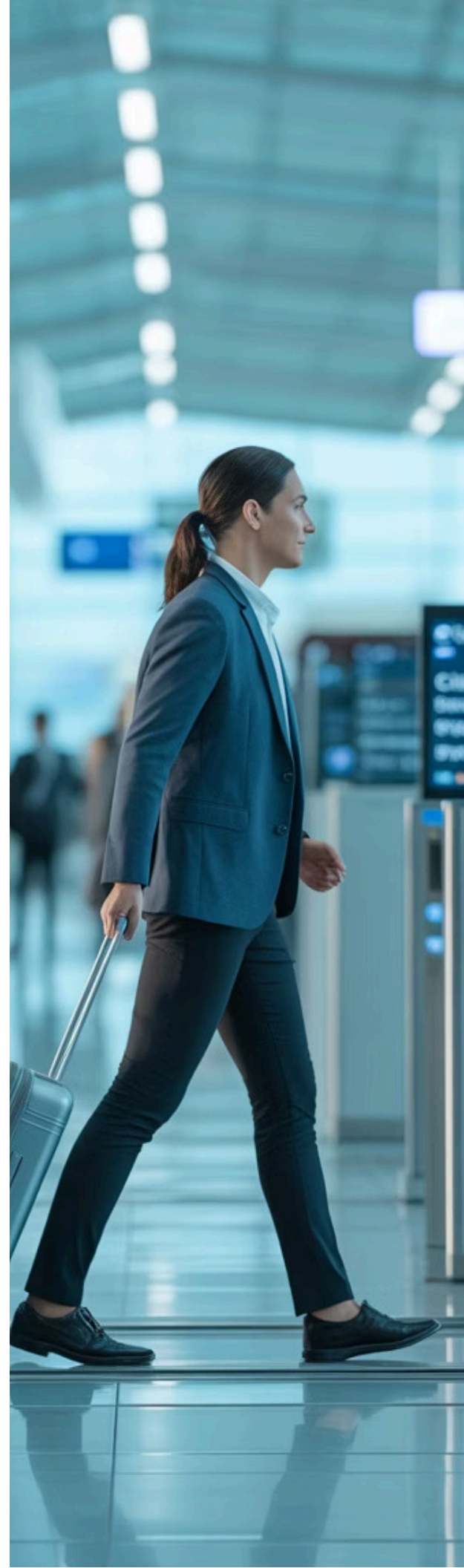
Keep shoes, belts, and light jackets on, and leave laptops and travel-sized liquids in your carry-on bags. Benefit from dedicated PreCheck lanes, with 94% of members waiting less than 5 minutes.



Long-Term Value

Enjoy a 5-year membership validity that works at over 200 participating airports and 80+ participating airlines, usable for both domestic and international departing flights.

 **Important Note:** TSA PreCheck does not guarantee expedited screening every time. Members may still be subject to standard screening or random additional security checks for security reasons.



Critical 2025 Update: REAL ID Requirement

May 7, 2025 Enforcement Deadline

Starting **May 7, 2025**, all travelers age 18 and older must present REAL ID-compliant identification or an acceptable alternative to board domestic flights. **TSA PreCheck membership does NOT exempt you from this requirement.**



REAL ID Driver's License/State ID:

- Look for a **star marking (★)** in the upper portion of your license
- Must be unexpired
- Issued by your state's DMV after meeting federal standards



Acceptable Alternatives to REAL ID:

- U.S. Passport (book or card)
- U.S. Military ID
- DHS Trusted Traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI)
- Tribal identification cards
- Foreign passport with valid U.S. visa



Action Required

If your current driver's license does not have a star marking and you don't have an acceptable alternative, **visit your state DMV immediately** to upgrade to a REAL ID-compliant license. Processing times vary by state, so don't wait until the deadline approaches.



Eligibility Requirements

Who Can Apply



Citizenship/Residency Status:

- U.S. citizens
- U.S. nationals
- Lawful permanent residents



Basic Requirements:

- Pass a criminal background check
- Provide fingerprints at enrollment appointment
- Submit to a security threat assessment
- Have no disqualifying criminal offenses

Disqualifying Criminal Offenses

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Permanent Disqualifying Offenses

(regardless of when they occurred):

- Espionage, terrorism, murder
- Crimes involving transportation security incidents
- Serious felonies related to explosives
- Aggravated sexual abuse or rape
- Kidnapping, extortion, or robbery (armed/felony unarmed)

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Interim Disqualifying Offenses

(if convicted within 7 years OR released from incarceration within 5 years):

- Violations related to firearms or weapons
- Crimes of dishonesty, fraud, or misrepresentation (excluding welfare fraud/bad checks)
- Smuggling or immigration violations
- Offenses related to controlled substances
- Arson or assault with intent to kill

What WON'T Disqualify You:

- Bankruptcy
- Civil judgments
- Most traffic violations
- Minor misdemeanors unrelated to transportation security

For a complete list of disqualifying offenses, please refer to official TSA resources.

After Your Appointment

Approval Timeline

Typical Processing:

- **3-5 days:** Most standard applications
- **Up to 60 days:** Applications requiring additional review
- **Email notification:** You'll receive updates on your application status

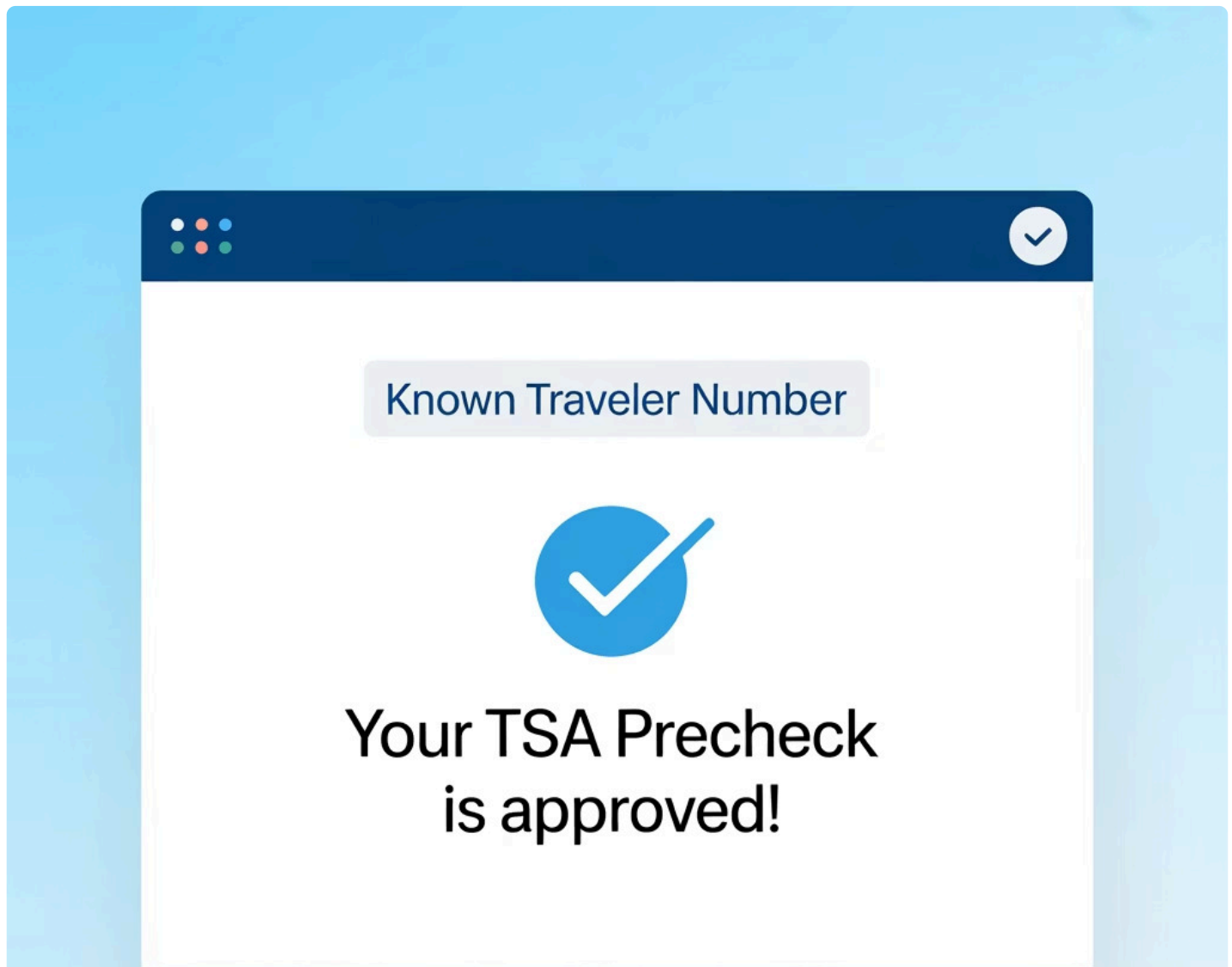
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What Affects Processing Time:

- Completeness of application
- Background check complexity
- Current application volume
- Need for additional documentation

Receiving Your Known Traveler Number (KTN)



Using TSA PreCheck

Adding KTN to Flight Reservations

Every Time You Book:

- Enter your 9-digit KTN in the "Known Traveler Number" field
- Use the exact legal name from your PreCheck application
- Double-check spelling and number accuracy

Airline Profiles:

- Save KTN in your frequent flyer profile when possible
- Verify it appears correctly on each booking
- Update immediately if you change names

What to Expect at the Airport

PreCheck Lane Access:

- Look for "TSA PreCheck" signage
- Show boarding pass with PreCheck indicator
- Present valid ID (REAL ID compliant after May 7, 2025)

Expedited Screening Process:

- Keep shoes, belts, light jackets on
- Leave laptops and liquids in carry-on bags
- Walk through metal detector (not full-body scanner typically)
- Collect belongings and proceed to gate

The screenshot shows the Skybound Airways website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for "Flights", "Hotels", and "Cars", along with a "Sign in" button. The main heading is "Known Traveler Number" with a subtext "Enter your KTN → to expedite security screening,". Below this, there is a form with two input fields: "Known traveler number" and "First/last name?". The "Known traveler number" field contains the text "KTN alkomithee ta die vpaie aatie eacurity". Below the form, there is a section titled "Known Traveler KTN" with the text "Enter your KTN to expedite security screening." and a "Need help?" button.

⊗ Important Reminders:





- All standard prohibited items rules still apply
- Large liquids (over 3.4 oz) still prohibited
- Sharp objects, firearms, explosives still banned
- Maintain calm, cooperative demeanor

Common Mistakes to Avoid





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Application Errors

Name Inconsistencies:

-  Using nicknames or abbreviations
-  Use full legal name exactly as on ID documents
-  Different names on application vs. flight bookings
-  Consistent name usage across all platforms





Payment Mistakes:

-  Expecting to pay online for initial applications
-  Bring accepted payment methods to appointment
-  Bringing cash or personal checks
-  Credit cards, money orders, certified checks only





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Booking and Travel Errors

KTN Management:

-  Forgetting to add KTN to reservations
-  Add KTN to every flight booking
-  Assuming PreCheck appears automatically
-  Verify PreCheck indicator on boarding pass





Expectation Management:

-  Expecting guaranteed expedited screening
-  Understanding random additional screening may occur
-  Bringing prohibited items to PreCheck lanes
-  Following all standard security regulations

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Membership Management

Renewal and Updates:

-  Letting membership expire unexpectedly
-  Renew up to 6 months before expiration
-  Failing to update name changes
-  Update immediately after legal name changes

Renewal Process

When to Renew



Timeline:

- Membership valid for exactly 5 years from approval
- Can begin renewal process 6 months before expiration
- Recommended to renew 3-4 months early to avoid lapses

Renewal Options

Online Renewal (Recommended):

- Most convenient and cost-effective
- Complete at enrollment provider's website
- No additional appointment required
- Processing typically within 24-48 hours

In-Person Renewal:

- Available if preferred or required for updates
- Schedule appointment same as initial enrollment
- May be required for certain name or status changes
- Slightly higher fees than online option

Renewal Fees by Provider:

Provider	Online Renewal	In-Person Renewal
IDEMIA	\$58.75	\$66.75
TelosID	\$70.00	\$70.00
CLEAR	\$68.95	\$77.95

Special Situations



Military Personnel and Families

Active Duty Military:

- **FREE TSA PreCheck** using DOD ID number
- Use your Common Access Card (CAC) number as KTN
- No separate application required
- Includes all standard PreCheck benefits

Military Spouses and Dependents:

- Not automatically eligible for free benefits
- **NEW for 2025:** Enrollment discounts for active duty spouses
- Can apply through standard process with potential fee reductions
- Check with enrollment providers for current military discounts

Gold Star Families:

- **NEW for 2025:** Waived enrollment fees
- Includes spouses, parents, children, and siblings of fallen service members
- Contact enrollment



Traveling with Children

Children 12 and Under:

- Can accompany enrolled adults in PreCheck lanes
- No separate KTN required
- PreCheck indicator not required on child's boarding pass
- Must be traveling with enrolled adult

Children 13-17:

- Can use PreCheck lanes with enrolled adults only if:
 - On same airline reservation
 - PreCheck indicator appears on their boarding pass
 - Leave KTN field blank if child doesn't have own enrollment

Frequent Young Travelers:

- Consider separate enrollment for children who travel alone regularly
- Unaccompanied minors benefit from consistent expedited screening



Name Changes

When to Update:

- Marriage or divorce
- Legal name change
- Adoption
- Court-ordered name changes

How to Update:

- Contact your enrollment provider immediately
- Provide legal documentation of name change
- May require in-person appointment
- Update all travel profiles and bookings accordingly

Alternative and Complementary Programs



Global Entry

Overview:

- Costs \$120 for 5-year membership
- **Automatically includes all TSA PreCheck benefits**
- Expedites U.S. customs processing for international arrivals
- Best for frequent international travelers

Additional Benefits:

- Faster re-entry to U.S. from abroad
- Access to automated kiosks at major airports
- No additional forms for customs declarations
- Mobile Passport app integration

Application Process:

- More extensive background check
- Conditional approval before



CLEAR

Overview:

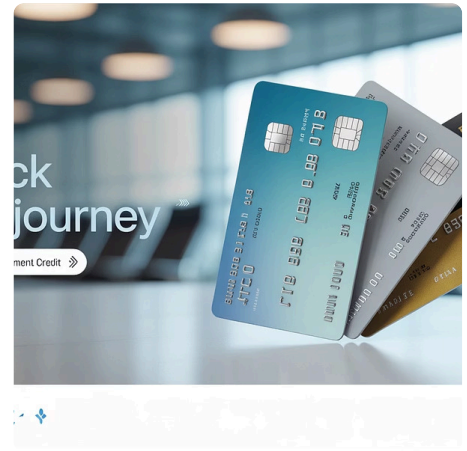
- Private program costing \$209 annually
- **Complements TSA PreCheck** (doesn't replace it)
- Uses biometrics (face, eyes, fingerprints) for identity verification
- Bypasses initial ID check line

How It Works:

- Scan biometrics at CLEAR kiosk
- CLEAR agent escorts you to front of security line
- Still go through standard or PreCheck physical screening
- Significant time savings when combined with PreCheck

Family Benefits:

- Children under 18 can accompany enrolled adult for free



Credit Card Benefits

Fee Reimbursements: Many premium travel credit cards offer statement credits for TSA PreCheck or Global Entry fees:

Typical Coverage:

- \$85-\$120 credit every 4-5 years
- Some offer annual reimbursements
- May cover family member enrollments
- Check specific card terms and conditions

Popular Cards with Benefits:

- Chase Sapphire Reserve
- American Express Platinum cards
- Capital One Venture X
- Various airline-branded premium cards

Troubleshooting Common Issues

PreCheck Not Appearing on Boarding Pass



Immediate Actions:

1. Verify KTN was entered correctly during booking
2. Confirm name on reservation matches PreCheck application exactly
3. Contact airline customer service before arriving at airport
4. Check that membership hasn't expired



Prevention:

- Save KTN in airline frequent flyer profiles
- Double-check information during online check-in
- Set calendar reminders for membership renewal
- Keep backup documentation of membership



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I use TSA PreCheck for international flights?

A: Yes, for departing flights from the U.S. However, it doesn't help with security in other countries or U.S. customs upon return.

Q: What happens if I miss my enrollment appointment?

A: You can reschedule online or by phone. Missing without notice may require rebooking with potential delays.

Q: Can I transfer my PreCheck benefits to family members?

A: No, TSA PreCheck is individual and non-transferable. Each traveler needs their own enrollment.

Q: Does PreCheck work at all airports?

A: PreCheck is available at 200+ airports with participating airlines. Check tsa.gov for current list.

Q: What if my background check reveals old charges I forgot about?

A: Be honest during application. Minor old offenses may not disqualify you, but dishonesty will.

Q: Can I expedite my application processing?

A: No, there's no way to expedite the background check process. Plan accordingly for travel needs.

Official Resources and Contact Information

Primary Contacts



TSA PreCheck Program:

- Website: tsa.gov/precheck
- Customer Service: 1-855-347-8371
- Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-11pm ET; Weekends 9am-8pm ET

Enrollment Providers:

IDEMIA:

- Website: enrollment.identogo.com
- Phone: 1-855-347-8371
- Lowest enrollment fees

TelosID:

- Website: idemias.com/precheck
- Phone: 1-855-347-8371
- Standard enrollment option

CLEAR:

- Website: clearme.com
- Phone: 1-855-253-2701
- Additional biometric services available

Additional Resources

Official Government Sites:

- TSA Main Site: tsa.gov
- DHS Trusted Traveler: dhs.gov/trusted-traveler-programs
- REAL ID Information: dhs.gov/real-id

Mobile Apps:

- MyTSA (official TSA app)
- TSA PreCheck enrollment provider apps
- Individual airline apps for KTN management

Action Checklist

1

Before Applying

- Verify eligibility requirements
- Gather required identification documents
- Check REAL ID compliance or obtain acceptable alternative
- Research enrollment center locations and appointment availability
- Determine preferred enrollment provider based on cost and convenience

2

During Application Process

- Complete online application at tsa.gov/precheck only
- Schedule appointment within 2 weeks of completing online application
- Bring original or certified copies of required documents
- Arrive 10 minutes early for appointment
- Bring acceptable payment method (credit card recommended)

3

After Approval

- Save KTN in secure location
- Add KTN to all airline frequent flyer profiles
- Set calendar reminder for renewal 6 months before expiration
- Test PreCheck access on first flight
- Keep membership confirmation email accessible

4

For Each Trip

- Verify KTN is included in flight reservation
- Confirm PreCheck indicator appears on boarding pass
- Check acceptable ID for travel date (REAL ID compliance after May 7, 2025)
- Arrive at airport with extra time for potential additional screening

Conclusion

TSA PreCheck represents one of the best investments frequent travelers can make, offering consistent time savings, reduced stress, and enhanced travel experiences for just \$76.75-\$85 over five years. The program's high approval rate and extensive airport coverage make it accessible and valuable for most eligible travelers.

The key to success with TSA PreCheck lies in proper application preparation, understanding the requirements, and maintaining consistent name usage across all travel bookings. With the 2025 REAL ID deadline approaching, now is an ideal time to ensure both your expedited screening enrollment and identification documents meet current federal requirements.

Remember that TSA PreCheck is just one component of a comprehensive travel strategy. Consider your international travel patterns when deciding between TSA PreCheck and Global Entry, and explore credit card benefits that can offset enrollment costs.

✅ **Ready to get started?** Visit tsa.gov/precheck today to begin your application and transform your airport experience for the next five years.

Disclaimer

This guide is current as of 2025. For the most up-to-date information, always refer to official government sources at tsa.gov. GovClarity is not affiliated with the Transportation Security Administration or any government agency.