

TIR Travel Notes

February 8, 2020

Documentation

Global Entry

Global Entry is a program run by the US Customs and Border Protection service that gives expedited immigration clearance to pre-approved US travelers (and citizens of select other countries) returning to US airports from abroad.

What are the benefits of Global Entry? What does Global Entry include?

Global Entry allows you to skip the lines at US Customs when you reenter the US. You don't have to fill out the customs form (you click a few buttons on the kiosk) and you don't have to wait to have your passport scrutinized, so you save time in several ways. Global Entry includes the ability to skip customs lines and use a kiosk instead and you'll have access to expedited entry benefits in other countries. Plus, you'll get [TSA PreCheck](#) for use in the US.

Which countries accept global entry? There are Global Entry kiosks located in:

- UAE: Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH)
- Aruba: Aruba: Queen Beatrix International Airport (AUA)
- Bermuda: Bermuda International Airport (BDA)
- Canada: Calgary International Airport (YYC), Edmonton International Airport (YEG), Halifax Stanfield International Airport (YHZ), Montreal Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport (YUL), Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport (YOW), Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ), Vancouver International Airport (YVR), Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport (YWG) Ireland: Dublin Airport (DUB), Shannon Airport (SNN) Bahamas: Grand Bahamas International Airport (FPO), Nassau - Sir Lynden Pindling International Airport (NAS)

How long does Global Entry membership last? Global Entry membership expires after 5 yrs.

Who is eligible for Global Entry?

US citizens, US lawful permanent residents, and citizens of the following countries are eligible for Global Entry membership: Argentina, India, Colombia, the UK, Germany, Panama, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Mexico.

How much does Global Entry cost?

Applying for Global Entry costs \$100. If approved, it lasts for five years.

How long does it take to get Global Entry?

Processing time for Global Entry vary by applicant, but on average you can expect your application to be processed for Global Entry within 11 weeks.

Can I use Global Entry without my card?

Yes, you can use Global Entry without your card. You just need your passport to access Global Entry on one of the kiosks when you enter the customs area. However, it's not a bad idea to have your card with you, just in case. Additionally, if you're crossing a land border from Mexico or Canada to the US, having your Global Entry card can significantly speed up the process.

Which credit cards reimburse for Global Entry?

- AAdvantage® Aviator™ Silver World Elite Mastercard®
- Bank of America® Premium Rewards® credit card
- Barclays Arrival® Premier World Elite Mastercard®
- The Business Platinum® Card from American Express
- Capital One® Venture® Rewards Credit Card
- Chase Sapphire Reserve®
- Citi Prestige® Card
- Expedia®+ Voyager Card from Citi
- IHG® Rewards Club Premier Credit Card
- Mastercard® Gold Card™
- PenFed Pathfinder Rewards American Express Card
- The Platinum Card® from American Express
- Ritz-Carlton Rewards Credit Card
- Marriott Bonvoy Brilliant™ American Express® Card
- UnitedSM Explorer Business Card
- U.S. Bank Altitude Reserve
- U.S. Bank FlexPerks® Gold American Express® Card

Transportation

Airline Details

Airlines agree to share costs because it is profitable to do so.

Consortiums: have each adopted unique rates and charges models and methodologies that rely on a number of cost centers and cost allocation methodologies that best suit the business requirements for equitable allocation of costs to the participating **airlines** at their location. **Consortiums** are also typically responsible for invoicing **consortium** customers and collecting **consortium** fees and charges from these customers.

Alliances: is an aviation industry arrangement between two or more **airlines** agreeing to cooperate on a substantial level. **Alliances** may provide marketing branding to facilitate travelers making inter-**airline** codeshare¹connections within countries. This branding may involve unified aircraft liveries of member aircraft. Airline alliances also allow bag interlining (you can check your bag with Delta and it'll be checked through to your connecting flight with Air France, for example), and they allow you to use your points accumulated on one airline to travel on an allied airline. Codeshare allows two or more airlines to sell tickets for the same flight.

SkyTeam alliance members

- Aeroflot
- Aerolíneas Argentinas
- Aeromexico
- Air Europa
- Air France
- Alitalia
- China Airlines
- China Eastern
- China Southern
- Czech Airlines
- Delta Air Lines
- Kenya Airways
- KLM
- Korean Air
- Middle East Airlines
- Saudia
- TAROM
- Vietnam Airlines
- Xiamen Air

Oneworld Alliance Members

- American Airlines
- American Eagle
- British Airways
- BA Cityflyer
- British Airways (BA) Limited
- Comair
- OpenSkies
- SUN-AIR of Scandinavia
- Cathay Pacific
- Cathay Dragon
- Finnair
- Nordic Regional Airlines
- Iberia
- Iberia Regional Air Nostrum
- Iberia Express
- Japan Airlines
- J-AIR
- Japan Transocean Air
- LATAM
- LATAM Airlines Argentina
- LATAM Airlines Brazil
- LATAM Airlines Colombia
- LATAM Airlines Ecuador
- LATAM Airlines Express
- LATAM Airlines Peru
- Malaysia Airlines
- Qantas
- QantasLink
- Jetconnect
- Qatar Airways
- Royal Jordanian
- S7 Airlines
- Globus, LLC
- SriLankan Airlines

Star Alliance Members

- Adria Airways JP
- Aegean Airlines A3
- Air Canada AC
- Air China CA
- Air New Zealand NZ
- ANA NH
- Asiana Airlines OZ
- Austrian OS
- Avianca AV
- Brussels Airlines SN
- Copa Airlines CM
- Croatia Airlines OU
- EGYPTAIR MS
- Ethiopian Airlines ET
- EVA Air BR
- LOT Polish Airlines LO
- Lufthansa LH
- Scandinavian Airlines SK
- Shenzhen Airlines ZH
- Singapore Airlines SQ
- South African Airways SA
- SWISS LX
- TAM Airlines JJ
- TAP Portugal TP
- THAI TG
- Turkish Airlines TK
- United UA
- US Airways US

Who Runs The Show (And a bunch of codes)

Code	Full Name	What Function
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization	Formed in 1947 under the auspices of the <u>United Nations</u> , and it established <u>Flight Information Regions (FIRs)</u> for controlling air traffic and making airport identification simple and clear. The forerunner of ICAO was called the International Commission for Air Navigation (ICAN). It held its first convention in 1903 in Berlin, Germany, but no agreements were reached. In 1912 the first radio callsigns for use by aircraft were allocated.
IATA	International Air Transport Association	IATA airline designators are used to identify an airline for commercial purposes in reservations, timetables, tickets, tariffs, air waybills and in telecommunications.
BTIC	Baggage Tag Issuer Code (BTIC)	Baggage tag issuer codes, combined

		with the tag serial number , are used to identify each piece of checked luggage through all baggage handling processes. They help provide a unique identifier during the complete journey. This unique identifier forms the basis of what is known as the “ License Plate ”.
PNR	Passenger Name Record This is created by the person making the booking	Document containing all the information about your reservation. This record has a short life and disappears after flight(s) are finished.
	Record Locator Number	Typically a 6 or 7 alphanumeric code used to find the PNR. Examples: RMT33W, KZVGX5, IIRCYC. Airline locator numbers have many names (confirmation numbers, reservation numbers, booking codes, and record locator numbers, to name a few), but they are simply just the numbers issued by the airlines to uniquely identify each reservation.

Note: Each airline defines their record locator on the web

Airline Flight Information

Subject	Web Site	Comments
Air Flight Schedules	Matrixitasoftware.Com <i>Type this exactly</i>	Flight search, very complete with no bias; not for purchasing tickets. Use this exact web site.
Air Flight Schedules	Kayak.com	Simple and fast results
Aircraft Seating	SeatGuru.Com	Seating information by airline & aircraft model with comments
Current Flight Information	Flightstats.com	Details of individual flights. <i>Need to create free account</i>

Baggage Handling

Unfortunately, there is no "usually" in this scenario. Luggage transfer is only *possible* if there is a baggage interlining agreement, and only *available* if there is a specific policy allowing it. For example,

some airlines allow intra-alliance through-check on separate tickets, some only allow it on same airline, and some disallow it altogether.

It is always preferable to have both flights ticketed on the same PNR, which may not be possible by buying directly, but may be possible by using a travel agent. If both/multiple flights are on one PNR, this allows additional luggage transfer interlining opportunities that otherwise wouldn't be possible.

What happens to my checked baggage when I change planes?

When you purchase a connecting flight, checked baggage is usually forwarded to your final destination, and will change planes when you do. The check-in agent will usually ask if you want your luggage checked through to your last stop, ask if they don't to be sure. You'll also receive boarding passes for both flights when you first check-in, so all you will need to do is find your gate at your connecting airport and your bags will automatically follow.

When you purchase a layover flight (this assumes you will stay overnight), you will need to claim your bags when you land at your layover destination. Then recheck them the next day when you continue your flight(s).

If you happen to purchase an itinerary where multiple carriers are involved, ask the check-in agent if your baggage will transfer. In some cases if you purchased multiple tickets that are not all on the same carrier you may need to recheck your baggage. To be certain, call the airlines you are traveling on and double check.

Frequent Flyer Programs

Airlines award points that can be converted to frequent flyer miles (1 point converts to one frequent flyer mile). Points can be earned and applied in multiple ways:

Seat miles – You sit you earn

- Fly on an airline for which you have an established frequent flyer I.D. number. Obtaining an airline frequent flyer number is free for the asking.
- Fly on an Alliance Partner & provide ticketing agent with your freq. flyer I.D. number. This way you accumulate all your points under one number.

Miles by Spending – Using a credit card

Many credit cards have programs that award points for purchasing almost anything. Points often vary by various category purchases such as gas stations, travel, and general items. Typically the points earned can be applied to reduce the payment balance on the card.

If the card is sponsored by an **airline**, the points can be converted into frequent flyer miles in place of a cash amount to lower the credit card payment. Airlines often grant greater points for purchase of tickets on their airline.

No matter how you earn the points they accumulate and can be applied all or in part to pay for a ticket.

Flight Segments

Tickets for premium seating are more valuable because they earn flight segments in addition to seat miles. Flight segments contribute towards getting seat upgrades and other benefits.

The Art Of The Taxi

Taxi is a universal term in almost every language. European systems are typically well defined. Almost all taxis are company owned and drivers are company employees. Meters or a fixed price are used. Because traffic from an airport to central city locations is significant, fixed pricing is often used (nighttime rates are higher). Many taxis are now equipped to process credit card payment via a Wi-Fi connection.

South American countries are typically far less sophisticated.
I categorize them into four groups.

Group 1 Legitimate Full Service Taxi Company.

1. Has a web presence
2. Can be contacted by telephone or internet
3. Licensed by Municipality
4. Company owned vehicle with name on car; insured
5. Driver is company employee
6. Can arrange for airport pickup
7. Driver meets you in the terminal at an arranged spot

Group 2 Legitimate Taxi company

1. May or not have web presence
2. Licensed by Municipality
3. Company owned vehicle with name on car; insured
4. Driver is company employee
5. Waits in Taxi cue line
6. Dispatcher directs passenger to appropriate taxi or taxi driver

Group 3 Taxi for hire

1. Lacks web presence
2. Independent driver with unknown vehicle ownership

3. Probable significant source of income
4. Unknown insurance coverage
5. No company affiliation
6. Waits outside terminal & hustles customers
7. No meter, price is negotiated

Group 4 Part Time Taxi

1. Lacks web presence
2. Independent driver with unknown vehicle ownership
3. Unknown insurance coverage
4. No company affiliation
5. Probable part time job (often after work)
6. Looks for a passenger almost any place.
7. No meter, price is negotiated
8. Least trustworthy

Navigation

Subject	Web Site	Comments
Maps from global to local	GoogleMaps.com	Provides maps which can be filtered
Route finding	Rome2Rio.com	Use for specific routes, directions & cost

Accommodations

Subject	Web Site	Comments
Hotel site	https://www.hotels.com	Awards a free night after 10 uses
	https://www.trivago.com	Competitive pricing
	https://www.kayak.com	Competitive pricing

Language

Subject	Web Site	Comments
Language acquisition	http://www.duolingo.com	Many languages, free with ads, reasonable pay for non- ad version.
Amazon has free & low cost kindle	dictionaries for Spanish, French,	Italian, German & others