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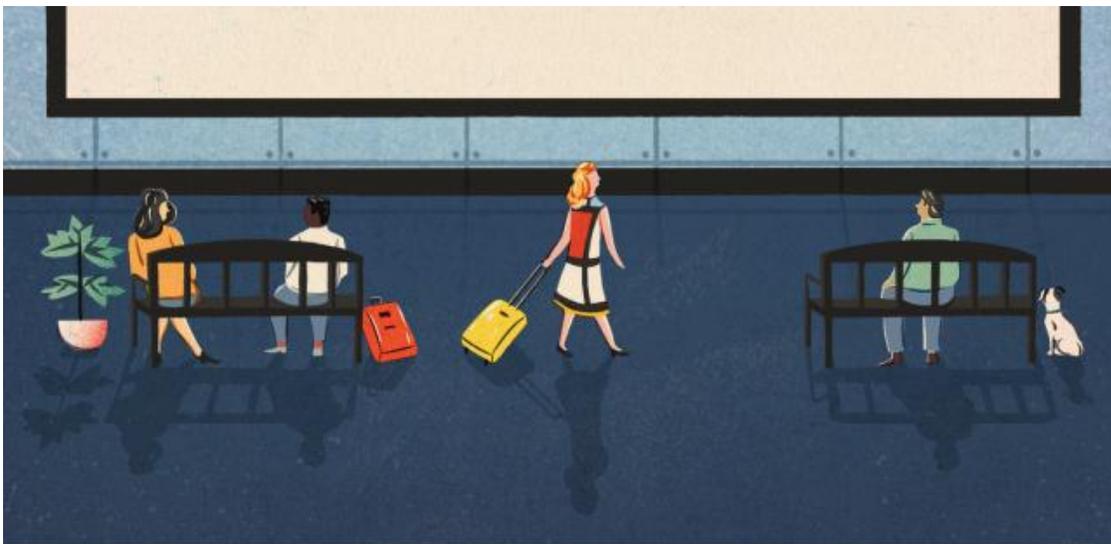
Seattle Met

Sea-Tac Airport Secrets

Tips and tricks for making your terminal time bearable—and, dare we say it, educational

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By **Harriet Baskas**



1. Hidden Art

Sea-Tac's museum-worthy contemporary art collection includes works by Louise Nevelson, Robert Rauschenberg, and Frank Stella, not to mention regional hotshots like Trimpin, whose multimedia kinetic sculpture *On Monkeys, Matter and the King* is on Concourse A. There's art everywhere, including the baggage claim area and in some restrooms—download a tour map at portseattle.org/sea-tac/passenger-services/airport-art.

2. Tune In & Turn Off

Wi-Fi is free throughout the airport; the Quiet Zone (Concourse B, Gate 4) has powered seats, but no TV noises or overhead announcements. Find more than a dozen rocking chairs by the giant window in the Central Terminal and a meditation room on the mezzanine level above Checkpoint 3.

3. Food Forever

Anthony's Restaurant (Central Terminal) is the highest grossing sit-down restaurant at any U.S. airport. All airport food venues, including Ivar's Seafood Bar, are open for breakfast.

4. Shopping Sells

While *Sleepless in Seattle* sleepwear is still a top seller at Sea-Tac, sexy is gaining: and in 2012 more than 20,000 copies of the erotic page-turner *50 Shades of Grey*—also set in our fair gray city—were sold at Sea-Tac. And because of the airport’s “street pricing” policy, the food and retail prices match those at the same vendors in town.

5. Lost is Found

Last year the Sea-Tac Lost and Found department logged 30,000 items, including 1,105 laptops and 1,220 cellphones—and 40 percent of them were returned to owners. After 30 days, unclaimed items are donated to charity, so hightail it to the mezzanine level of the Main Terminal or file a lost item report at portseattle.org/sea-tac/passenger-services immediately.

6. Burn Before Boarding

Work out while you wait: It’s a half-mile from the Central Terminal to the end of Concourse A. Walk the full length of Concourses A, B, C, and D and you’ll have traveled over two miles.

7. Kids Play Free

There’s an aviation-themed play area at the Concourse B entrance; nearby, kids can search for bronze fish in the terrazzo “stream” that meanders along the Concourse B floor. Talking fountains (well, they play a recorded gurgle) are in Concourses B, C, and D.

8. Fly with Fido

Dogs find relief at either end of the Main Terminal; the south pet area is outside and parklike, with a yellow painted steel sculpture by Robert Maki at its center. There’s an indoor pet area with artificial grass and a red fire hydrant postsecurity to the Concourse C entrance.

9. No Sleep Till Takeoff

Most restaurant concessions open by 5am, but 24-hour options include the presecurity Starbucks in the Main Terminal, the Starbucks kiosk in the Central Terminal, Alki Bakery in baggage claim and, in the Central Terminal, Qdoba and Dilettante Chocolate.

10. Local Beats

That’s Macklemore, Sir Mix-a-Lot, and other local musicians voicing the safety and public service messages on the airport’s overhead announcements. Regional music is also played overhead and on screens throughout Sea-Tac; tune into the airport’s own multichannel web player via the Wi-Fi landing page or portseattle.org/sea-tac.

11. Fix Everything

If something’s wrong, Ken’s Baggage and Frozen Food Storage (in baggage claim, between carousels 12 and 13) can likely help. The bouquet of services includes stroller and infant car-seat rentals, a notary, copy services, packaging material and pet kennel sales, and tool rentals to jump a car battery or open a locked car door. —*Harriet Baskas*, stuckattheairport.com blogger

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