

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Over 27 million fliers expected over the Thanksgiving holiday:

Expert provides holiday travel tips for busy travelers

**ARLINGTON, Va.** – It's beginning to look a lot like...a busy travel season. According to statistics released Monday from the Air Transport Association, domestic carriers expect over 27 million air passengers worldwide in the 12 day-period beginning November 16. A four percent increase over last year's estimated number of travelers, this is great news for the travel industry. But for the traveler? Well, not so much.

According to James C. Samans, "It's no secret that Thanksgiving is the most traveled holiday of the year. Roads will be congested with traffic – and so will the skies. Flights are almost always oversold during the holidays, and this year is bound to be no different. However, there are measures you can take to make your travel easier."

And Samans, aka "The Spontaneous Tourist" would know. The author of *Spontaneous Tourism: The Busy Person's Guide to Travel* (CrystalOrb LLC, \$14.95, ISBN: 978-0-9791897-0-8) Samans travels over 200,000 miles each year.

He offers the following tips:

**Fly early. Very early.** Even around the holidays, people don't like to wake up earlier than they have to. Most travelers on the day before Thanksgiving will plan to take afternoon flights. Some will leave around 10:00 a.m. Far fewer will opt for the flight that leaves at 6:30 a.m. That means *you* should be on that flight, because if there *is* a problem for any reason, you can get it straightened out before the mob arrives in the afternoon

**Limit your luggage.** Bags get lost at the airport every day. Want to guess what happens to the odds of your bag being one of them when the amount of baggage increases to four times its usual quantity and the people handling it get extremely bitter about their working conditions? You got it: they go up. Don't pack more than you need--and ideally, fit everything into a carry-on.

**Get inside the airport as quickly as possible.** Taking a taxi reduces parking time to zero. If that's not possible, park in a daily garage, as opposed to an off-site economy lot where you'll have to wait for the bus.

**Get checked in fast.** If you have elite status with the airline's frequent flyer program or are traveling First Class, there's usually a special (shorter) line for check-in. You can also check in online with many airlines.

**Use the self check-in.** Most airlines have self-serve check-in kiosks located away from their main check-in counters for people who only have carry-on bags. But if you check your bags at curbside, which many airlines still offer for around \$2 per bag, you can use one of those kiosks and be on your way with little or no waiting.

According to Samans, "Remember, few problems get better when you ignore them. Plan ahead, travel smart, and have a wonderful time this Thanksgiving."

James C. Samans travels more than 200,000 miles each year. Outside of his roles as auditor, reservist, author and Spontaneous Tourist, Samans offers presentations to colleges and organizations on the importance of travel in the twenty-first century. CrystalOrb LLC is an independent book publisher headquartered in Virginia. *Spontaneous Tourism: The Busy Person's Guide to Travel* is available in better bookstores nationwide and through online retailers. Members of the news media wishing to receive a review copy or additional information are kindly asked to contact Maryglenn McCombs by phone – (615) 297-9875, or by email – [maryglenn@maryglenn.com](mailto:maryglenn@maryglenn.com)

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