

Safety & Travel tips

For Transgender Travellers

Backpack's assistance team can provide general safety advice for travellers and emergency assistance if you need help. We're available 24/7:

+1 603-952-2689 | mail@oncallinternational.com | www.oncallinternational.com/chat/direct

Body-Pat Down Canadian Airports

According to the CATSA website, a physical search is always conducted in the most professional and respectful manner possible. While a screening officer of the same gender as the passenger typically conducts any required searches, CATSA realizes that some members of the transgender community may not be comfortable with this process. To address this concern, transgender passengers (including persons who are in the process of transitioning) can request that:

- The entire search be conducted by either a male or a female screening officer (unless the requested gender is not available) or;
- A split-search be conducted (i.e. a female screening officer searches one half or part of the body and a male screening officer searches the other half or part of the body).

Passengers are not required to reveal that they are transgender or in the process of transitioning in order to request these options. Passengers can also request that their physical search be conducted in a private room. Those who choose this option may bring a witness of their choice. A witness for the screening officer will also be present (another screening officer or an independent third-party witness such as an airline representative). You may request that this witness be male or female.

Airport Body Scanners

These devices are used to scan the contours of the human body to look for things under a person's clothing that might be dangerous items. Objects such as prosthetics, binding garments, or even paper or change left in a pocket will commonly register as anomalies requiring further screening. Often this consists of a limited pat-down of the area(s) where an anomaly was detected, however it can potentially involve a complete pat-down.

You may opt out of scans at any time, but if you do opt out of screening, you will be required to undergo a thorough pat-down.



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Immigration & Airport Security

Travelers should be aware of ID and screening procedures at each airport they intend to travel through. Carry supporting documents and know your rights during security checks in each country.

Passport Considerations

If your passport has an "X" gender marker, check if your destination recognizes it. You may still be asked to provide binary gender information.

Use Airline & Airport Technology

Consider using e-tickets, online check-ins, and self-serve kiosks in order to reduce the number of times you are required to show your identification to airport personnel.

Dress

Self-expression is important but dressing modestly may help avoid issues at security and check-in.

Helpful resources

<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/lgbt-travel>

<https://www.iglta.org/destinations/travel-guides/lgbtq-safety-guide/>

<https://www.wysetc.org/advocacy/travel-safety-lgbtq-travellers/>

