Smoking Policies in the 35 Busiest U.S. Airports  
April 3, 2017

This list describes the smoking policies of the 35 busiest U.S. airports. Airports are ranked according to the number of total volume of passenger traffic. As of January 2, 2017, 29 of the top 35 U.S. airports are 100% smokefree indoors. Additionally, 23 of the top 35 U.S. airports do not permit the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) indoors.

For more information, check out our airports resource page.

1. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) – E-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking is permitted in 13 smoking rooms throughout the airport, as well as in selected food and beverage areas, which have increased in recent years. The airport plans to convert 9 of the smoking rooms into cigar shops that allow smoking. As of Internal tobacco industry documents show that many of these rooms were designed, constructed, and financed by Philip Morris front groups as part of a sophisticated airport strategy to protect millions of dollars in annual profits by enabling product consumption. Promoting the social acceptability of smoking was also an important objective for the tobacco industry in the Hartsfield Airport: construction of the smoking rooms was completed in time for the 1996 Summer Olympics, held in Atlanta. This drew millions of passengers from around the world through Hartsfield and past its newly built smoking lounges.

2. Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking is permitted in three outdoor smoking areas located past security gates at the Tom Bradley International Terminal, Terminal 2, and Terminal 7.

3. Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Designated smoking areas are located outside of terminals.

4. Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport (DFW) – Completely smokefree indoors. DFW had allowed smoking in private clubs, including the American Airways Admirals Clubs in Terminals A and D. Designated smoking areas are located outside of terminals.

5. John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Designated smoking areas are located outside of terminals.

6. Denver International Airport (DEN) – E-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. A smoking lounge is located in the Timberline Steaks & Grill. In 2012, three previous smoking lounges closed that had been located in two Aviator’s Clubs and the Mesa Verde Restaurant. The Timberline lounge will remain until its lease expires in 2018.

7. San Francisco International (SFO) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Designated smoking areas are located outside of terminals at least 20 feet from entrances.

8. Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (CLT) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking not permitted within 100 feet of doorways.

9. McCarran International Airport (LAS) in Las Vegas – Smoking is permitted in the Budweiser Racing Track Lounge in the Esplanade Pre-Security area, enclosed slot-machine lounges (B, C, D,
and E Gates), and designated outdoor areas near ticketing and baggage claim. The airport was smokefree indoors from 12/2006 until 8/2010 by Nevada law. Smoking is permitted in the bar because it stopped serving food, and Nevada law stipulates that smoking is permitted in bars that do not serve food. Smoking is permitted in enclosed slot-machine lounges because they have been designated as gaming floors, which are exempt from Nevada law.

10. Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport (PHX) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Designated smoking areas are located outside of terminals.

11. Miami International Airport (MIA) – E-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking is permitted in an "open air" atrium, which has four walls and a roof with a gap at the roofline, that is attached to the airport’s TGI Fridays restaurant.

12. George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) in Houston – Completely smokefree indoors. Designated smoking areas are located outside of terminals at least 25 feet away from entrances.

13. Seattle Tacoma International Airport (SEA) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking is allowed only in two outdoor locations, at North and South ends of Lower Drive.

14. Orlando International Airport (MCO) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors.

15. Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Designated smoking areas are located outside of terminals.

16. Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP) – Completely smokefree indoors. Designated smoking areas are located outside of terminals.

17. Logan International Airport (BOS) in Boston – Completely smokefree indoors. Designated smoking areas are located outside of terminals.

18. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors.

19. Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking not allowed within 20 feet of entrances.

20. La Guardia Airport in New York (LGA) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking allowed in designated smoking areas located outside of terminals.


22. Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking allowed in designated smoking areas located outside of terminals.

23. Reagan-Washington National Airport (DCA) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking not allowed within 10 feet of entrances.

24. Chicago Midway Airport (MDW) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking allowed in designated smoking areas located outside of terminals.
25. Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking not allowed within 25 feet of entrances.

26. Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) – Smoking rooms are located near gates B38, B75, C4 and D30.

27. San Diego International Airport (SAN) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking not allowed within 20 feet of entrances.

28. Honolulu International Airport (HNL) – Completely smokefree indoors. Smoking allowed in designated smoking areas located outside of terminals.

29. Tampa International Airport (TPA) – Completely smokefree indoors. Smoking allowed outside of terminals, and past security on a smoking patio outside each terminal.

30. Portland (OR) International Airport (PDX) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors. Smoking allowed in two designated smoking areas located outside of terminals.

31. Dallas Love Field Airport (DAL) – Completely smokefree indoors. Smoking allowed in designated smoking areas located outside of terminals.

32. Lambert-St. Louis International Airport (STL) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors.

33. William P. Hobby Airport in Houston (HOU) – Completely smokefree indoors. Designated smoking areas are located outside of terminals at least 25 feet away from entrances.

34. Austin-Bergstrom International (AUS) – Completely smokefree indoors and e-cigarette use is not permitted indoors.

35. Nashville International Airport (BNA) – Smoking is permitted in two Graycliff Boutique & Lounge (with purchase) locations: on Concourse B near Gate B10 and on Concourse C near Gate C10.

Source: Telephone interviews, online smokefree policies, and email correspondence conducted by ANR 2003-2017.

*FAA 2015 Passenger Enplanement Statistics from Air Carrier Activity Information System

May be reprinted with appropriate credit to the American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation.

© Copyright 1998 – 2017 American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation. All rights reserved.

[LS-37]