

SHABBAT: AIRPLANES

WHEN TO LEAVE BY AIRPLANE BEFORE SHABBAT

Flying before Shabbat for Business

You may leave until sunset on Friday if you are flying for business, but you must be VERY careful to avoid doing any melacha while transiting Shabbat in flight!

Flying before Shabbat and Flight Delayed

SITUATION You are flying for business on Friday and the flight is delayed. The flight will leave after sunset.

WHAT TO DO

You may stay on the airplane.

NOTE If you are flying for pleasure, you must get off the plane before sunset (if possible).

SHABBAT: FLYING FOR BUSINESS

Flying through Shabbat for Business

If you fly through Shabbat (permitted for business only), you must keep even Shabbat d'rabanan while flying over the area of the earth that is in Shabbat.

If you fly east (such as from Asia to the US, across the Pacific) after Shabbat is over, you will re-enter Shabbat and may not do melacha on the airplane. Say the Shabbat prayers and kiddush at the appropriate local time where you are flying.

SHABBAT: FLYING FOR PLEASURE

How Much Time To Allow When Flying for Pleasure

You must not travel during any part of Shabbat if you are flying for pleasure. You must therefore leave with enough time to land and get to an accommodation before local Shabbat starts at your destination.

SHABBAT: LANDING

Shabbat: Landing at Connected Jetway

If you land before local sunset on Saturday and the jetway is connected to the terminal building, you may disembark but you must stay in the terminal building until Shabbat is over.

Shabbat: Landing at Unconnected Jetway

If the jetway is a ladder or not connected to the terminal, you must stay on the plane until after dark.

Shabbat: Police Orders To Leave Airport

If you land at an airport on Shabbat and the police or other authority orders you to leave, you may do so.

Shabbat: Taking Luggage from Airport

If you are ordered to take your bags outside of the airport or the building after landing on Shabbat, a non-Jew should take them for you.