

shuttle to and from the airport. Are they accessible? All good questions to ask before your arrival. All US cities that have a public transportation system must provide paratransit. A paratransit is a public transportation system that is accessible to the disabled. Also remember, most major car rental companies provide "hand controls" for the driver licensed to use them.



## Finding an accessible Hotel

Probably one of the most frustrating experiences in traveling is finding accessible accommodations. Each room is different. Each hotel/motel chain is different. Your definition of "accessible" is not the same as the next person's. It is your job to check out the accessibility of each facility at which you are lodging. Call the hotel directly to get accessibility information. A central reservation office person has more than likely never been to the facility in question, let alone are they qualified to determine accessibility. Speak to the manager or a maintenance

person. They are more likely to be able to answer specific questions about your needs.

The bottom line is for you to do your research well ahead of time. You know what is best for you - what is acceptable and what is not. Be specific in your questioning. Ask open-ended questions, not something that can be answered "yes" or "no."

We wish you the best in your travels and hope that you return safe, relaxed and satisfied with your journey.

*You can download the Department of Transportation's regulations for people with disabilities ([http://www.tsa/dot.gov/travconsumers/tips\\_disabilities.shtm](http://www.tsa/dot.gov/travconsumers/tips_disabilities.shtm)) and carry a copy with you when traveling to help educate security personnel.*

*This is an Equal Opportunity Program*

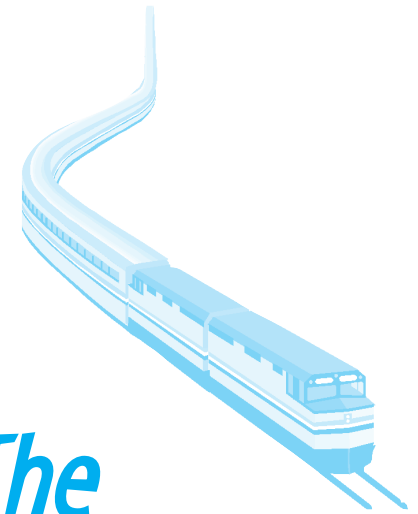


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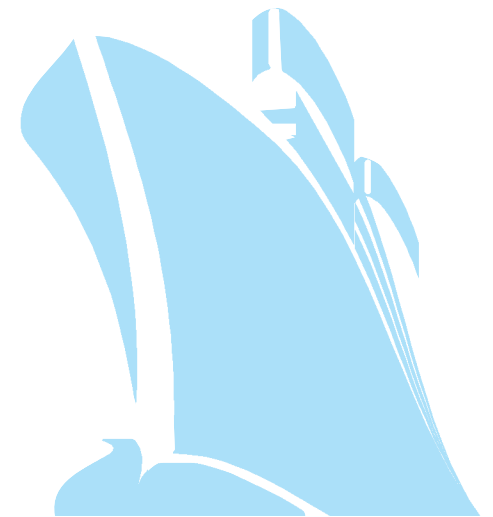
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# The Disabled Traveler



*Produced by employees with disabilities at Mays Mission*

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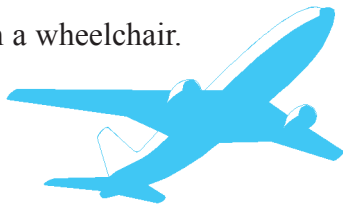
Winter, spring, summer or fall, almost everyone enjoys and looks forward to the opportunity to get away from their everyday surroundings. Whether it's a weekend getaway or a 3-week vacation, we all enjoy time away from our day-to-day activities to relax and enjoy ourselves in a totally different setting.

Travel for a person with a disability often needs some special attention and well-developed planning. With plenty of advanced notice and strategic research, disabled travelers may be able to get to their destination and have a very enjoyable stay.

We have put together this brochure to offer some helpful hints to hopefully assist you in your travel.

## *Wheelchairs and Flying the Friendly Skies*

Make your reservations as far in advance as possible. Inform the reservationist that you travel with a wheelchair. Advise them if you are unable to walk so that arrangements can be made for lifting assistance into your seat. Aisle bulkhead seats



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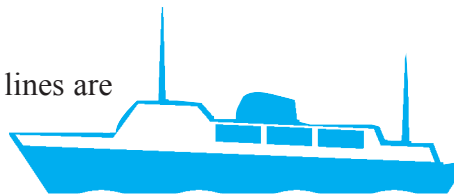
are usually the shortest distance to travel and easiest to get in to sit. If you are traveling with a powered chair or scooter, it is best to have gel or foam filled batteries. Ground crews are required to remove acid filled batteries and put them in a special container. Always gate-check your manual wheelchair and ask the flight attendant to have it brought to the jet-way upon arrival. By all means, identify your equipment with nametags.

## *Traveling with Oxygen*

The FAA requires a statement of need from your physician. You cannot board the plane with your own oxygen equipment - you must use oxygen supplied by the airline, for a fee. Regulations vary with each carrier. Requests for airline oxygen vary from 48 hours to 7 days. Airlines do not provide "in terminal" oxygen. Therefore, it may be necessary to arrange for a vendor to provide a tank upon arrival. Most airlines will allow you to carry an empty container on board or with checked luggage.

## *Cruises*

Cruise lines are becoming friendlier



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to travelers with disabilities. Many ships are accommodating the disabled with accessible rooms. Remember that, what is accessible to one is not always accessible to another. While the ships are becoming more accessible, shore excursions and ports of call may not share the advantages. Stops along the way may be in shallow water, where passengers are transported to shore via small boats. Not only may this be an inconvenience, it is up to the captain to determine safe conditions. Rough seas or bad weather may cause the disabled traveler to spend the allotted time still aboard ship. Remember, too, that you will have to arrange for your own transportation upon reaching your destination.



## *Transportation*

Accessible transportation in an unfamiliar city can be challenging. Research public transportation well in advance. Is there a taxi, bus or paratransit system in the city? Do hotels and motels provide a courtesy car or