



## Appleton Airport predicts busy holiday & winter travel season

*Plan now to save on prime-time flights*

(APPLETON, WIS.) Oct. 20, 2026—The window is open now if you want to save on holiday travel. According to leaders at Appleton International Airport (ATW), October is the best time to book flights for Thanksgiving and Christmas to take advantage of lower airfares.

Airfare prices can change for many reasons, but there are ways to save on air travel. The primary way to save is to book early as the lowest prices tend to occur about a month before the travel date. "Travelers can also save by being flexible on travel days," said Airport Director Abe Weber. "Find flights that leave several days before Thanksgiving and return mid-week to avoid the rush."

According to Weber, the Thanksgiving travel season is predicted to be the airport's busiest time of year. This year ATW is projecting an increase of almost 4% in passenger seats for the month of November.

"We are already experiencing a passenger increases and we're likely to break the 1-million passenger mark by the end of October," Weber said. In 2025 ATW broke the 1-million passenger mark shortly after Thanksgiving.

"We will have a fourth security lane open in time for the holiday travel season to help make that busy time less of a hassle," Weber said. "We do remind travelers to apply for TSA PreCheck before you travel so you can go through a dedicated security line get to your gate faster." TSA PreCheck requires a \$78 fee and is available at the Appleton airport.

Getting from the parking lot to the gate is even faster for travelers using the Express Park valet services for parking. "The valet option in Express Park is the same daily rate as our long-term parking, but you get to drop your car at the front door of the airport and save time," Weber said. Other ATW services that make air travel more convenient are:

- Express Bag Check allows American, Delta and United passengers who already have a boarding pass to check their bags without waiting in line.
- Express Coat Check is a free service for all travelers that allows you to leave your coat behind if you're traveling to warm weather destinations.

### NOT TOO EARLY TO PLAN WINTER GETAWAYS

If booking a warm weather getaway is on your list for 2027, it's not too early to plan. In the new year, ATW will have 4 airlines flying to 12 warm weather destinations. Allegiant alone has 160 flights in January leaving/arriving from ATW versus 103 flights offered in 2024--that's a 55% increase in available seats to destinations in Florida, Arizona, Las Vegas and elsewhere. **Allegiant** nonstop seasonal routes from ATW include:

- Seven Florida destinations including Fort Myers, Punta Gorda, Sarasota, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, Orlando, and Sanford.
- Service to Gulf Shores, Alabama

- Service to Las Vegas
- Service to Savannah, starting in March thru Summer

Other carriers at ATW report similar projected increases from January-March. Looking ahead to January through March of 2027, Appleton International Airport is seeing continued growth in scheduled flights. Allegiant is leading the way with a 9.6% increase in flights, followed by United Airlines at 5.6% and Delta Air Lines at 2.5%.

“In all cases, travelers can find savings when flying mid-week,” Weber said. “But the range and number of warm weather flights will give northeast Wisconsin residents choices they’ve never had before when starting their vacations at ATW.”

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### **About Appleton International Airport**

Appleton International Airport connects our community to the world through American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, and Allegiant Air. In addition to offering nonstop service to 22 destinations, Appleton Airport connects to 13 major international airport hubs from which travelers can fly to almost anywhere in the world. Using Appleton Airport, travelers can safely and more conveniently get to their destination and home again, leaving them more time for what really matters. Appleton International Airport is the third largest airport in Wisconsin according to arrivals and departures. Visit [atwairport.com](http://atwairport.com) to learn more.