

THE HIDDEN CODES OF THE BOARDING PASS

How closely did you check the letters and numbers on your boarding pass?

The obvious details include the passenger's name, seat, destination, terminal, boarding gate, and flight number. However, you may be amazed at how much additional information can be discovered on your boarding pass.

Bar code

One of the most recognizable things on your boarding pass is the bar code. It is often scanned at the gate and helps speed up the boarding process. The scanner also saves the information, allowing gate agents and the plane's crew to easily determine how many people have boarded, what seats have been taken, and how many pieces of baggage have been checked.

PRN: your unique identifier

A six-digit alphanumeric code appears on your boarding pass. That is your PNR, or Passenger Name Reference, often known as your record locator or reservation code. This randomly generated sequence identifies you as a unique passenger—just in case someone else on your flight shares your exact first and last name. Among other things, this PNR contains information about your meal preferences and specific requests. One of the key reasons you should not discard your boarding pass in a public trash can is because someone may be able to obtain your information by utilizing your reservation number or bar code.



Security code

Having the code “SSSS” (Secondary Security Screening Selection) on your boarding pass marks you as a higher security risk, which means you’ve been pre-selected for additional security screening. While the criteria for selection aren’t entirely clear, a traveler can either be selected randomly or due to red flags, such as an inconsistent behavior with previous purchasing patterns, such as paying cash for a flight or buying a series of one-way tickets.

Sequence

This is the order in which you checked in for your flight. For example, if your sequence number is 066, you are the 66th passenger to check in.

Did you know that some boarding cards may indicate the boarding door, indicating whether you should board the plane from the front or back?

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