



What to Do If Subjected to a Turban Pat Down:

A Guide for Sikh Air Travelers

Background

The Sikh Coalition has learned that Sikh air travelers are being subjected to heightened screening for their turbans at U.S. airports. The following is a guide for Sikh air travelers on how to respond to a request for a turban pat-down.

We would encourage you to bring this guide with you to the airport.

Guide for Responding to a Request for a Turban Pat-Down

1. Please be calm, courteous, and polite throughout the process.
2. Politely ask the screener if your turban can be checked with a wand instead of patted down.
3. If the screener still insists on patting down your turban, politely explain that you are a Sikh, that your turban is a religious article of faith, and that you do not want it touched. You may also hand the screener a copy of the attached [brochure on Sikhs and Sikh practices](#).
4. If the screener still insists that your turban be patted down, and you would like to board your flight, ask to be taken to a private screening area for the pat-down. Every Sikh has the right to request that a secondary screening of his/her turban be done outside of public view.
5. Record the screener's name and badge number.
6. ****Please take 5 minutes to document your experience at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=QFXU1wyhs3BwYqL5s_2fblZg_3d_3d or call (212) 655-3095, ext. 80 to report and document the incident.**
7. We would advise all Sikhs who could be subject to these new screening procedures to arrive at the airport 20 minutes earlier than usual in order to deal with these additional screening requirements.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the Sikh Coalition at (212) 655-3095.