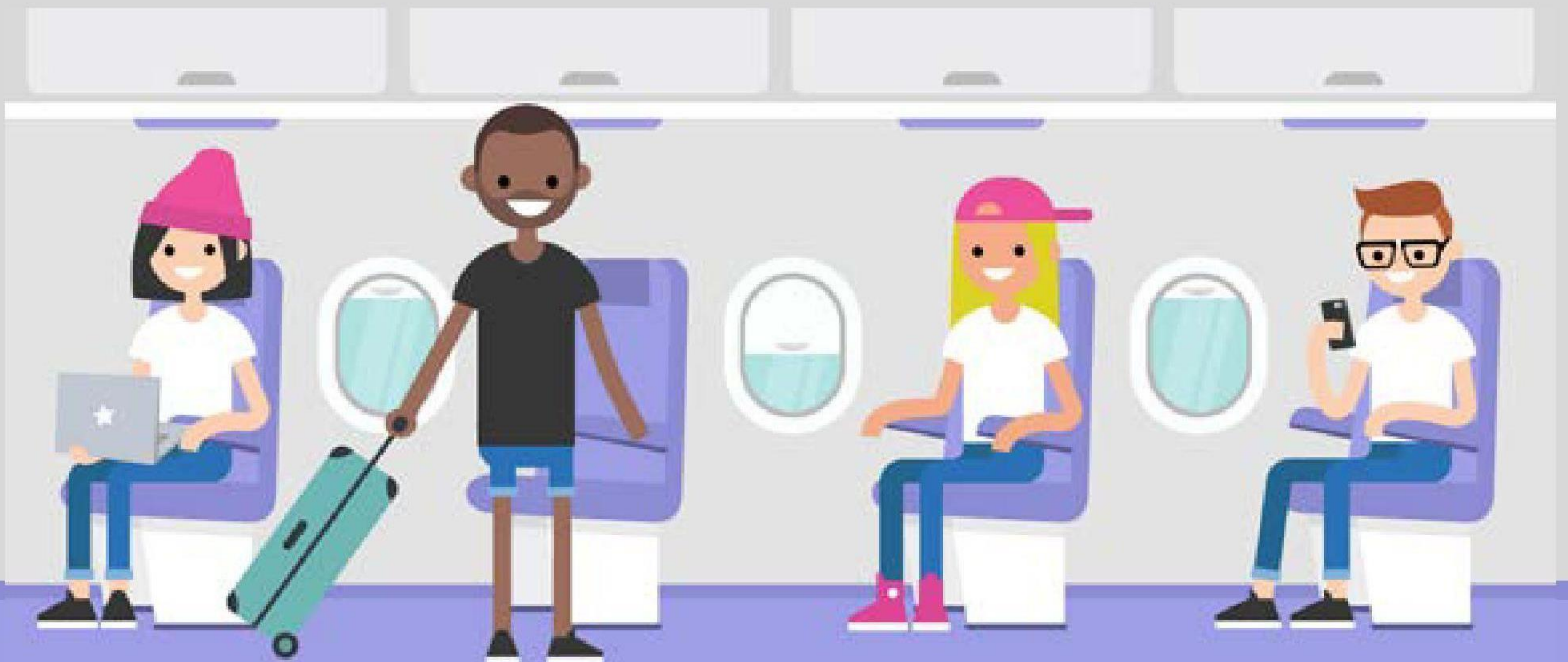


FLIGHT AIR-TIQUETTE

HOW TO BE A MORE COURTEOUS FLYER

In the battle for the armrest, the middle seat reigns supreme. If you're sitting in the hot seat right now, you've probably already staked your claim.



✘ “Whether you’re a frequent traveller, or are eagerly awaiting your first trip on a plane, there are some unwritten rules that apply to air travel you may not be aware of,” says Nicky Potgieter, Flight Centre Travel Group Leisure Marketing Leader.

“The most common pet peeves cited by travellers include reclining one’s seat the whole way, hogging the overhead compartments and selfishly nabbing the arm rests. In the tiny confines of an aircraft, respect for personal space certainly makes the difference between a pleasant or an unpleasant flight.”

We took to Facebook and asked some frequent travellers for their tips on how to be a more courteous air traveller.

#1 CHECK BEFORE RECLINING YOUR SEAT

One of the most common complaints cited by frequent travellers was a failure to warn the passenger behind you that

you’re about to recline your seat. Greg Forbes bemoans the damage done to laptops when a passenger reclines without checking whether the passenger behind them is working. Teresa Richardson adds: “How about straightening your seat during meal times to consider the person sitting behind you?”

#2 BE NICE TO THE CREW

Eliza Sautner’s advice is to give the flight attendants a bag of sweets when you board, but perhaps more doable is Craig Thomas’ suggestion of treating airline employees with respect. “You do not get to own the seat or the right to treat ground staff or cabin crew as servants. Courtesy to crew goes a long way – none of us are too important to remember basic manners.” Keri Riley further suggests emptying all the rubbish in your seat pocket during the flight. “This saves the cleaning crew a few minutes after landing.”