



# Allison Wright, Travel Artist

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## FASHIONBEANS

## Fashion Beans: Flight Attendants Share The 8 Things They Wish Passengers Would Stop Doing

Even the most seasoned of travelers make mistakes sometimes.

Nothing brings people together like complaining about air travel. The cramped spaces. The overpriced airport drinks. The shared, deep-seated fear of sudden death.

Whether you're commiserating with the stranger sitting next to you about the hours-long flight ahead or commenting on your friend Jenny's Facebook post that you, too, are terrible at abiding by the baggage guidelines, you can rest assured that empathy is available to you even if solutions aren't.

But what if they *are*? What if you've been so blinded by your own suffering that you've failed to see how you might make things go a bit more smoothly for everyone involved if only you followed the instructions of those people whose job it is to oversee your plane ride, cater to your plane desires, and field your plane complaints?

We mined the internet for the private yearnings and annoyances of flight attendants. Here are the eight things they wish passengers would, *please*, stop doing on airplanes.

### Taking Your Pants Off...? And Other Questionable Behaviors :

On Dec. 28, 2016, Los Angeles-based comedian and actor Kumail Nanjiani went to Twitter to deliver a "Tweet storm" outlining the story of his five-and-a-half-hour-long flight a couple days before, during which one passenger decided to remove his pants and sit in his boxers with his feet propped up on either side of the in-flight television screen installed in front of him.

Nanjiani tweeted, "After 4 hours, a flight attendant finally said 'Could you please put your feet down? People are walking through here.' 40 second stare down." Five minutes later, the man "thrusts one foot back up like a fist raised against an unjust sky."

Nanjiani also noted that the passenger would "slam his fist on the armrest" any time he didn't immediately get a flight attendant's attention.

Other questionable behaviors include elaborate and performative yoga poses and public masturbation (though it's worth noting that those engaging in the former may just be bored or have back problems, while those engaging in the latter are actually sexual offenders).

### Using The Aisle Like It's Your Kid's Pack And Play :

This does happen, according to one post on the Instagram account [passengershaming](#). The picture features a tired young baby wearing only sweatpants and what appears to be...one tightly fit kids jammie top? His eyes are half-closed as he lounges—half-laying, half-sprawled—in the aisle, both hands waving as he opens his lips to let out a whiny cry.

The caption reads, "Oopsie! I swear I didn't mean to run over your baby with the 250lb beverage cart - my bad. Let me comp you a free drink!" One of the hashtags that follows is [#cabincrewlife](#). The image is so outrageous that many people have called for parents to be held accountable for where their children sit, so as they don't get injured.

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We've never been on a flight like this, but we want to believe that this is real thing that could have happened, because it would mean that this young baby is a real lounge king in the making!

## **Pretending You're At Whole Foods :**

On most shorter flights, your options for complimentary food and drink are pretty clear, mainly because they're listed clearly in the inflight menu. Typically the flight attendant will come around asking what you want to drink and offering a snack (or two!).

If it's a longer trek, like an international flight, those options may expand to full meals, of which you'll have a couple of options to choose from. (Vegetarians, you may only have one.)

If you're willing to actually shell out some cash money for your fare, your options will expand, but they're still limited to the inflight menu. Apparently it's these inflight-menu-only restrictions that cause some passengers some real bafflement.

"Don't get picky with airplane food," advises one flight attendant, who said we could refer to him in this article as JumpseatPhilosopher ("in case I go back to my blogging," he explained). "It's not a buffet. We can't run around the corner and get you something else." Sounds fair.

## **Being Obstinate :**

Flight attendants know a thing or two about flights. As one Reddit user, PickleB, wrote last year, "I'm not just some power hungry turd." PickleB hates that people argue with their instructions, "as if it's my personal preference."

PickleB told a story of one woman who argued about having to put her purse under the seat in front of her, citing "how expensive, and handmade, and Italian her purse was." She was unwilling to comply until PickleB threatened to kick her off the flight.

PickleB writes: "I always very sweetly explain that it's a federal aviation regulation, and sometimes even then, people argue. Why? They want to know. And that's fair. So I tell them, 'If we need to evacuate the aircraft, your purse could get caught on an armrest and slow not only you down, but all of the people behind you.' ...

You'll live without your laptop for twenty minutes." Flight attendants (and federal aviation regulations) are there for a reason. Listen to them.

## **Acting Like You've Never Ordered A Coffee In Your Everloving Life :**

If you've been on a flight even once, specifically a morning flight, you already know one of the most important questions that will be asked of you: Would you like cream or sugar in your coffee?

You probably know that because the question has been seared into your brain through constant repetition, like the chorus of a song you're not really into but can't quit singing: "Would you like cream or sugar?" Pause. "Would you like cream or sugar?" Pause. "Would you like cream or sugar?" And so on.

We get it. We are but fragile humans, creatures of habit and conformity. It's how we were socialized—follow the rules! If the person ahead of you (and the person in front of that person) waited patiently to be asked both, "What would you like to drink?" and then, after saying coffee, "Would you like cream or sugar?," isn't it proper that you should also wait?

No, gentle reader. "Know how you take your coffee," JumpSeatPhilosopher says, "and tell us that when you order." This, as one flight attendant tells *Business Insider*, is so that "I don't have to ask for the millionth time." (Then again, maybe just skip the coffee altogether.)

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## **Treating Flight Attendants Like 19th Century Servants :**

It apparently bears repeating that flight attendants are human beings. Passengers should be mindful of treating them as such. It really is the small things that can mean the difference between a flight attendant feeling seen and respected, or, on the other hand, like a 19th-century servant in Victorian England.

"I wish passengers would acknowledge the crew when they board," an attendant tells *Business Insider*.

"It's amazing how many passengers will not say 'please' or 'thank you,'" another FA tells *BI*. "Oftentimes they will barely look up at you. It's very very rude and probably my biggest pet peeve. I'm here to offer you something[.] Please acknowledge me."

One attendant mentions that some passengers also behave as if they should be treated better than others on the aircraft. "Just because you're in business or first class does not make you royalty!" the attendant says. "...[T]he guy in the back also paid for a ticket and deserves my time as well."

## **Getting Physical With The Flight Attendants :**

This should go without saying, but a flight attendant is a busy worker who is just trying to do his or her job, which includes seeing to the needs of dozens of passengers in a confined space, all while hurtling through the air at about 600 mph and an altitude of 35,000 feet.

Needless to say, there's a lot going on.

Just as you, certainly, wouldn't grab your server or—heaven forbid—snap to get their attention at a restaurant, you shouldn't poke, prod, tug on, or snap at a flight attendant to get their attention.

"'Excuse me, miss!' works every time," one flight attendant tells *Business Insider*.

If the standard of human decency isn't enough to compel you to not touch your flight attendant, perhaps the threat of being tackled by your pilot (which really happened to one drunk passenger on an American Airlines flight) will do the trick.

## **Walking Around Without Shoes :**

This one may hit close to home for those among you who have been on an overnight flight and too miserably tired or tranquilized with complimentary Baileys Irish Cream to care about lacing up your footwear every time you need to relieve yourself.

But a particularly graphic statement in *Business Insider* may have you rethinking your tested willpower.

One flight attendant pleads with passengers, "Please, please, please—stop walking into the restroom barefoot, or even with socks on. Would you ever walk into a public restroom barefoot? No. Thank you, sir, for mopping up the pee on the floor with your socks." Yikes! What an image.

If you do have an overnight flight and refuse to envelop your feet in anything but softness, bring along some house shoes that you can toss into a grocery bag after the flight, and wash as soon as possible...maybe with a little bleach.