# Turkey introduces fines for passengers standing too early after plane lands



Air travel etiquette, particularly concerning the practice of standing up prematurely upon landing, has become a focal point for airlines and regulatory bodies alike. This ongoing discussion traces back to 1903 when Wilbur Wright ceded his seat to his brother Orville for the first powered flight, highlighting manners and consideration even in the nascent days of aviation. However, as air travel grows increasingly stressful, it appears that basic decorum is often lost in the scramble for efficiency.

Recently, the Turkish Directorate General of Civil Aviation took a notable step by introducing compliance measures aimed at curbing passengers who stand up too early after landing. The regulations specifically discourage any movement in the aisle or unbuckling of seat belts before the aircraft has come to a complete stop and reached its designated parking position. This initiative comes amid rising concerns over safety and the need for orderly disembarkation processes, which have been significantly disrupted by the so-called “aisle lice” phenomenon—passengers who stand before it is their turn, adding an average of eight minutes to deplaning time. Such behaviour has reportedly surged by 47% since January 2025, underscoring a growing impatience among travellers.

Under these newly implemented rules, non-compliance can lead to monetary penalties, with fines amounting to 2,603 Turkish lira (approximately £50) being highlighted. These measures not only aim to maintain safety but also to address passenger complaints regarding disembarkation delays. While these fines have prompted discussions about travel manners, this crackdown also reflects a broader trend seen globally, particularly following the surge in unruly behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the U.S., for instance, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has long enforced strict policies concerning passenger conduct in an effort to mitigate disruptions and promote safety.

The issue of etiquette on flights extends beyond waiting for the right moment to disembark. Commonly agreed-upon rules include wearing appropriate footwear for the duration of the flight and the division of seating etiquette whereby the middle seat passenger enjoys control of both armrests. The question of whether to recline one’s seat further complicates matters, often leading to disputes that can escalate into confrontations, as exemplified by a case last year when Cathay Pacific issued a ban on a couple for harassing a passenger whose reclining seat had infringed on their space.

Despite the discomforts of air travel, many passengers still advocate for courtesy during flights. The adage “manners cost nothing, unlike business class” resonates with frequent fliers who argue that good etiquette not only enhances individual travel experiences but also contributes to communal harmony aboard flights. A shift towards accountability, as seen with the Turkish aviation regulations, may elevate awareness of these manners but also highlights a pressing need for mutual respect in crowded, high-stress environments.

In conclusion, the evolving landscape of air travel etiquette reflects broader societal shifts and the increasing complexity of modern flying. While the Turkish regulations work towards curbing disruptive behaviour, they also serve as a reminder that patience and consideration are essential virtues amid the challenges of air travel today.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2025/may/28/stand-up-too-early-plane-50-pounds), [[4]](https://www.mightytravels.com/2025/04/flight-etiquette-new-study-shows-aisle-lice-behavior-adds-8-minutes-to-average-deplaning-time/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2025/may/28/stand-up-too-early-plane-50-pounds), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/768810fad6419fc24846c21c735c1426), [[5]](https://www.dundarsir.com/en/insights/significant-amendments-to-the-turkish-civil-aviation-law-229)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/authorities-raise-fines-for-aviation-safety-violations-204284), [[6]](https://raillynews.com/2024/07/ulastirmada-yeni-duzenlemeler-meclisten-gecti/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://thepointsguy.com/guide/is-it-rude-to-stand-up-when-plane-lands/), [[5]](https://www.dundarsir.com/en/insights/significant-amendments-to-the-turkish-civil-aviation-law-229)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2025/may/28/stand-up-too-early-plane-50-pounds> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/768810fad6419fc24846c21c735c1426> - Turkey has introduced new aviation regulations to penalise airline passengers who unbuckle their seat belts, enter the aisle, or open overhead compartments before the aircraft has come to a complete stop and reached its final parking position. Issued by the Turkish Directorate of Civil Aviation, the updated rules mandate airlines to revise in-flight safety announcements to include warnings about potential fines for such misbehaviour, which could reach up to $70. These changes aim to address growing safety concerns and passenger complaints. The authority stated that premature movement in the cabin endangers passenger and baggage safety and disrupts the orderly and safe disembarkation process. While such behaviour is commonly frowned upon worldwide, Turkey's move to implement direct financial penalties has drawn attention. There have been no reports of penalties being enforced yet. This crackdown aligns with global trends of addressing unruly passenger behaviour, which spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic. Aviation agencies emphasise the importance of remaining seated with seat belts fastened while the plane is in motion to prevent injuries, supported by examples such as the FAA’s strict enforcement policies in the U.S.
3. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/authorities-raise-fines-for-aviation-safety-violations-204284> - On January 2, 2025, Turkish authorities announced increased fines for aviation safety violations. The revised penalties target passengers, aviation personnel, and organisations, including training centres, maintenance companies, balloon operators, and UAV pilots. Passengers engaging in disruptive behaviour, such as smoking on board, arguing with cabin crew or other travellers, or interfering with flight operations, will face fines of 19,668 Turkish liras. Those resisting security checks or obstructing personnel at airport checkpoints will be fined 26,226 liras. The move aims to strengthen the monitoring of passengers and personnel whose actions compromise aviation security.
4. <https://www.mightytravels.com/2025/04/flight-etiquette-new-study-shows-aisle-lice-behavior-adds-8-minutes-to-average-deplaning-time/> - A recent study reveals that 'aisle lice' behaviour—passengers standing up before the plane has reached the gate—adds an average of eight minutes to the deplaning process. Gate agents have reported a 47% increase in such incidents since January 2025. This growing impatience among travellers exacerbates the already irritating issue of so-called 'aisle lice' behaviour. While these early standers might think they are getting a jump start, they really just contribute to the general airport chaos. Such conduct not only disrupts the deplaning process but adds to the overall inefficiencies that plague air travel these days. It seems a reminder about basic travel manners is becoming ever more crucial.
5. <https://www.dundarsir.com/en/insights/significant-amendments-to-the-turkish-civil-aviation-law-229> - Significant amendments to the Turkish Civil Aviation Law have been implemented, granting the General Directorate of Civil Aviation (GDCA) authority over foreign commercial air operators conducting civil aviation operations in Turkey. The GDCA can now request alterations of non-conformities, implement requirements specified in the law, and cease activities in terms of non-conformities as a result of inspections. Additionally, aviation safety measures have been tightened, and administrative fines have been increased. Passengers who refuse pat-down searches will be denied admission to airports or aircraft, and any prohibited items may be confiscated by security personnel. The amendments aim to ensure that administrative fines are more effective and proportionate.
6. <https://raillynews.com/2024/07/ulastirmada-yeni-duzenlemeler-meclisten-gecti/> - New regulations in transportation have been passed by the Turkish Grand National Assembly, increasing administrative fines for violations of authority and obligations in civil aviation. Commercial air operators failing to obtain necessary permits, report changes in tariffs, or register Turkish civil aircraft will face fines ranging from 10,000 to 500,000 liras. Those who do not comply with the regulations of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation will also face fines of up to 500,000 liras. The amendments aim to strengthen the monitoring of passengers and personnel whose actions compromise aviation security.
7. <https://thepointsguy.com/guide/is-it-rude-to-stand-up-when-plane-lands/> - The article discusses the etiquette of standing up when a plane lands. While it's not unsafe to stand once the plane is parked at the gate, experts advise passengers to remain seated until it's their turn to deplane. This practice ensures the aisles stay clear and prevents unnecessary delays. Additionally, standing too soon can disrupt the deplaning process, affecting the smooth passenger flow. Passengers are encouraged to wait for their row to be called before standing up and getting their bags from the overhead compartment to avoid congestion in the aisle and delay the disembarkation process for everyone.