

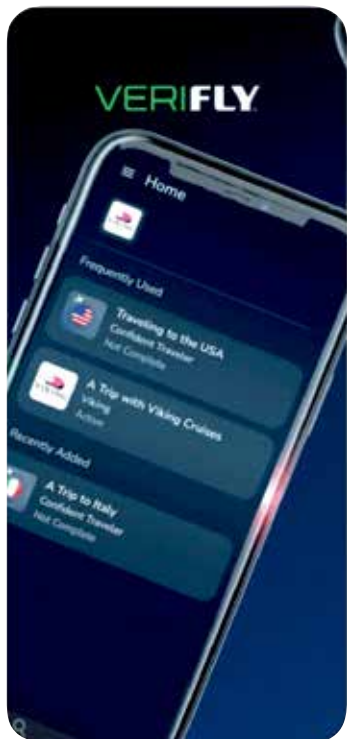
Travel Time WITH CHASE & BUD

DO YOU ENJOY WAITING IN A LINE? ALL ABOUT VERIFLY

One of the major stressors in flying these days is making sure you have all the official documents required not only to get out of the USA, but also to get into the country of your destination. We all know about passports and visas. Most of us know about Global Entry which does wonders speeding returning US citizens through the Customs and Border Patrol system.

But once I booked our American Airlines tickets for our London trip, I started getting messages from the airline to sign up for VeriFLY—an app that would collect and organize all necessary documents and make our check-in process smooth and speedy on both sides of the pond.

I consider myself fairly tech-savvy, but was nervous about relying on my phone for critical documents. What if I lost my phone or it got stolen? Suppose the charge ran out and I couldn't find a place to charge it? Ultimately, I decided a watch and wait approach was better for our first trip abroad in two years.



It wasn't until our return flight from London to Charlotte that I thought about VeriFLY again. We arrived at Heathrow's American Airline terminal and the lines at check-in counters stretched for seeming miles. There was even a line to wait to get into line. But there were several check-in stations with agents at the ready and just one or two folks in line! **All were marked VeriFLY Check-in Only.**

That got my attention.

What is this and how does it work?

First, the idea is simple, if a bit big-brotherish. The app is used to collect required documentation for users—and to digitally store and verify the information for some (not all!) airlines, countries and even a cruise ship line. Once your info is loaded and

verified, you get an approved Pass (watch for the green checkmark). In theory, your check-in will be faster than you imagined. You'll be through security and sipping a glass of wine at an airport pub while others are still waiting in dreary lines!

How does it work? First, you set up your account. Start by downloading the app onto your phone or tablet and following the steps. This includes taking a selfie which and then scanning documents—everything you would expect (passport etc.).

The next step is telling the app where you are going, when and what airline you are flying. As of now, VeriFLY is used by American Airlines, British Airways, Japan Airlines, Aer Lingus, and a couple of Caribbean carriers. So if you're flying on any of those airlines to almost any destination—Europe, the Caribbean—taking the time to load up the app can be worth it.

One of the best things about the app is that they monitor entry/exit requirements for their various destinations and will alert you via the app that you need, for example, a Passenger Locator Form for the UK. They walk you through the process, capturing document scans, bar codes, QR codes and more for your destination.

They do also have some handy additional features. You can add travel companions to your account. You can set up several "trips" to several destinations and the app will keep track of all the requirements and documents for everyone in your party, COVID-19 tests, vaccine cards visas and country-specific entry forms. And because the whole premise is destination-driven, your information is organized by destination "A Trip to UK" or wherever.

Is it perfect? No. Is it particularly user-friendly and instantaneous? Not so much. You can't set it up in the cab on the way to the airport and expect it to work—you need a few hours for the information to be reviewed and loaded and your Pass to be approved. Taking a selfie that will work requires some fiddling and you have to get used to scanning documents and codes.

But my suspicion is that this type of app will become the way of the future. In some ways, it was probably always going to be—it just got a nudge from the pandemic.

BOW PARKS & REC SAFESITTER CLASSES



Safe@Home

Monday, March 21, 2022 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM at the Bow Municipal Building

Designed to prepare students entering grades 4-6 to be safe when they are home alone. Students learn how to practice safe habits, how to prevent unsafe situations, and what to do when faced with dangers such as power failures or weather emergencies. Student also learn a system to help them assess and respond to injuries and illnesses. **\$45 Bow Resident | \$50 Non-resident**

SafeSitter® Essentials

Monday, March 28, 2022 from 4:30 - 7:00 PM at the Bow Municipal Building

Designed for students entering grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Students learn life-savings skills such as how to rescue someone who's choking, and helpful information like what to do if there's severe weather. The lessons are filled with fun activities and role-playing exercises. Student even get to use CPR manikins to practice choking rescue! **\$75 Bow Resident | \$80 Non-resident**

Register at Bow Parks and Recreation.

For information call 223-3920 or email parksandrec@bownh.gov