

# Travel Time WITH CHASE BINDER | PRECLEARANCE CUSTOMS

## ENTRY TO U.S. CUSTOMS FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY

**Question:** how can you enter the U.S. while you're still hundreds, or even thousands, of miles away from the U.S.? **Answer:** when you're in one of six countries around the globe that have what's called preclearance customs facilities at their own airports.

Bud and I first discovered this a few years ago on a trip to Aruba. After enjoying a couple of weeks of beaches, pools and casinos we arrived at Oranjestad's Queen Beatrix Airport and were prepared for the long haul back to New Hampshire—Caribbean-style airport departure protocols, long lines for passport and customs in Philly with even longer ones to collect and re-check our luggage for the connection to Manchester. Always with the fear that we wouldn't make our onward flight. Ugh!

But we were surprised to see signs that claimed to be US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) right at the Aruban airport. Wow, we thought. Can this be true? What does it mean? Turns out that Queen Beatrix Airport does indeed have a preclearance facility. Right on-site we went through US Passport Control, Customs, and checked our bags through to Manchester—just as though we were connecting on a domestic flight in the USA. No waiting, collecting, and re-checking bags or stress in Philly!

Just last year we found the same type of preclearance facility at Nassau's Lynden Pindling International Airport on our return trip from the Bahamas to Miami. Talk about easy and convenient!

Turns out that this efficiency is exactly what the US government had in mind when they started the program back in 1952 at Canada's Toronto airport. They wanted to reduce congestion and facilitate inbound travel especially at airports with no CBP facilities. The program now comes under



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the auspices of the US Department of Homeland Security and includes airports in Aruba, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Ireland, and the United Arab Emirates. Canada started with the one airport and now has expanded to eight major airports—and also a seaport and railway station.

One main goal of the program was to facilitate foreign arrivals at US airports without CBP facilities. Most major U.S. airports now have them, though, with the exceptions of New York's LaGuardia and DC's Reagan International.

Bud and I got a sense of how important this is on a return flight from Sint Maarten one year. Our flight from Sint Maarten was delayed and the pilot said that because we wouldn't arrive in Philly until after the CBP closed for the night, we couldn't go at all. The airline had to put us up

overnight at a local hotel and we had to fly home the next day. If we had been flying from Aruba, it would not have been a problem—we'd be arriving back in the US as domestic travelers. So even if your US destination does have a CBP, there can reasons (aside from avoiding congestion) to appreciate preclearance.

Of course, not every foreign airport can just open a CBP facility. Legal agreements must be executed, and the host airport must meet significant physical and security standards, making sure that pre-cleared passengers are kept in a secure area with adequate comforts like food, restrooms, and shopping. This requires large investments and inspections, and there needs to be enough traffic to make it worthwhile both for the US and the host country.

Preclearance facilities are also available to non-citizens. Friends who often visit from the UK take a quick half-hour flight from their home just north of London over to Dublin and go through CBP control there. This bypasses the often-congested arrival process in Boston—a real benefit.

## BSC TRYOUTS

Bow Soccer Club tryouts for the Fall 2024 season will be held on May 14th and 15th at the NH Sportsdome in Goffstown. Please register on our website by May 6th.

**MAY 14TH & 15TH**

**10 A TOWER LN,  
GOFFSTOWN, NH 03045**

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Visit our Website to Learn More & Register  
www.bowsoccerclub.com

## Flags Across Dunbarton

For only \$40, Scouts (and/or their parents) will place a U.S. Flag on your property in Dunbarton near the street end of your driveway at least three days prior to each of the following holidays:

**Memorial Day, Flag Day through Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day through 9/11 and Veterans Day.**

The flag and pole will be removed approximately 3 or more days after each holiday and reinstalled prior to the next holiday. The ground stake for mounting the flag and pole will remain in place for the duration of the season. Weather may sometimes alter the schedule.

Proceeds to benefit Scouts BSA Troops 75 (boys unit & girls unit).

Be sure to select "Right side" or "Left side" when ordering. This refers to the side of the driveway the flag will be placed on when facing the house/property from the street. Also include any information about underground utilities, sprinklers or other information in the area in the space below.

Order your flag today online via the link below or mail this form along with payment (made out to "TROOP 75") to:

**Troop 75 - Flags Across Dunbarton**  
39 Foote Road, Bow, NH 03304

Picture above is an approximate representation of the 3' x 5' flag, pole, and ground stake.

### Sign Up Today

<https://bowscouts.square.site>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you hear about us: \_\_\_\_\_

**Side of Driveway** Circle 1 → **Left Right**  
(This refers to the side of the driveway the flag will be placed on when facing the house/property from the street.)

**Additional Placement Information:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(underground utilities, sprinklers or other info)