

## Aisle Chairs

For wheelchair travelers who can not walk, the aisle chair is a familiar friend. The aisle chair is a skinny, narrow, seat on wheels used to usher passengers down the aircraft aisle to their seat.

Many airlines have designed "knock down" or "fold down" arm rests throughout the fuselage of their aircraft to decrease the requests from every wheelchair traveler wanting a "bulk head seat." Most airlines have twenty or more requests for each "bulk head seat." Unaccompanied children, premier fliers, seven-foot tall basketball players, older passengers with small bladders, and wheelchair travelers request these seats. "Knock down" armrests help ease the requests for bulkhead seating.

You can not always expect your airlines to store your wheelchair in the aircraft cabin. Every airline is required by law to store your wheelchair in the aircraft cabin (providing space is available) but what happens when two or three wheelchair travelers are onboard the same flight? When we travel with five or six wheelchairs in our groups onboard the same flights we do not choose whose wheelchair remains in the cabin and whose travels in the belly of the plane. The answer is simple...everyone gate checks their wheelchair and everyone's wheelchair rides in the belly of the plane.

Traveling with your wheelchair on an aircraft is a cooperative event. You can not expect any airline to handle your wheelchair with extreme care, or to perform every task correctly. The job of the airline is the safe transport of passengers. The job of the wheelchair passenger is to properly prepare their wheelchair for flight. Hopefully, by following our simple suggestions your wheelchair will arrive safely too.

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