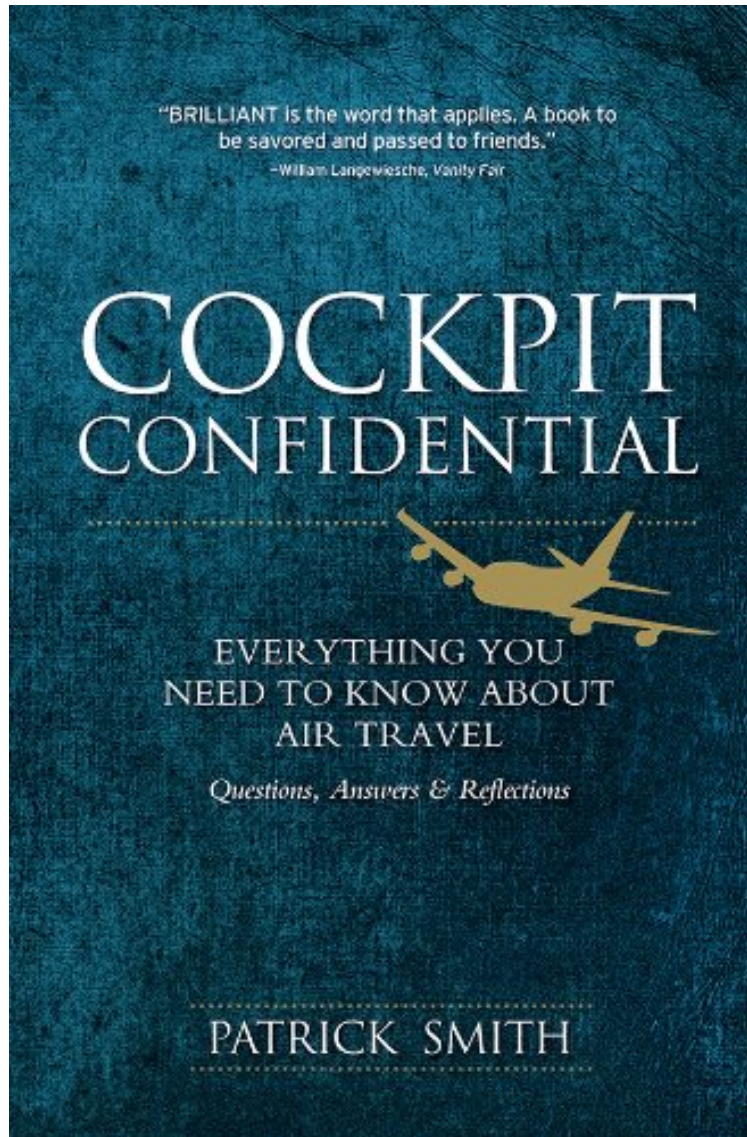


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Cockpit Confidential: Everything You Need to Know About Air Travel: Questions, Answers, and Reflections

Patrick Smith

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Patrick Smith : Cockpit Confidential: Everything You Need to Know About Air Travel: Questions, Answers, and Reflections before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cockpit Confidential: Everything You Need to Know About Air Travel: Questions, Answers, and Reflections:

47 of 49 people found the following review helpful. For the real airplane lovers...By Jill MeyerAre you a nervous flyer? Are you someone who'd rather drive than fly? Are you someone who doesn't get excited looking at the lights of

planes as they line up in the night sky outside a busy airport, coming in for a landing, one after the other? On the other hand, do you know what the terms "OAG", "triple 7", and "Runway Two-niner" refer to? If you're the latter and not the former, you'll enjoy Patrick Smith's new book, "Cockpit Confidential". Patrick Smith - the name "Smith" is a nom-de-plume - is an airline pilot and blogger, who operates out of Boston. He used to blog for SALON magazine but I'm not sure he still writes for them. In any case, he has his own website, askthepilot.com, and this new book. His previous one, "Ask the Pilot: Everything You Need to Know About Flying", was published in 2004. Smith has been been a pilot and in love with all forms of air travel since, as a child living in Boston, he'd sit on the Revere beach and watch in awe as planes landed at nearby Logan Airport. He grew up to make a living as first a pilot for a commuter carrier - flying up and down the Atlantic seaboard and all around New England - and then he "graduated" to flying cargo jets for a freight airline. Finally, he's now flying for an international passenger airline. (I think it might be Delta, from what I've been able to glean from his writing. Or, if not, American.) He has been subjected to layoffs during his career and is quite honest about how he - and other pilots - struggle with the on-going airline politics and economic ups-and-down that make a pilot's career somewhat haphazard. Okay, Patrick Smith and I are airline fanatics. And, probably so are most people reading this review. Most of us fly a lot - Smith is lucky that he gets paid to do so - and we like to see new places. We're also fascinated by the arcane of the airline industry - old tickets from the 1940's and clips from newsreels of passengers boarding a plane in the 1950's outfitted in suits and ties and hats. We know what local airlines were swallowed up by what larger airlines, and we know airport codes. Patrick Smith is talking to US in his book. We "get" him, and he "gets" us. His new book talks about his own, long love of flying. He writes about how difficult it is to "catch on" in the airline industry, and how that industry has weathered crashes - both physical and economic - and the changing requirements of the TSA. Smith doesn't like the TSA - who does? - and is not shy in giving some recommendations which might not please the politically-correct among us. Looking at the September 11th terrorist attacks in particular, he talks about how the TSA and other government groups reacted by imposing the wrong "rules" in the hopes of making airplane travel "safer". "Safer" than what? Smith recounts the many terror attacks and hijackings of airplanes and airports in the 1970's and 1980's that we've seem to have forgotten. Is the taking away of a butter knife from the flight bag of pilot Patrick Smith by over-zealous TSA officials going to make the plane and the passengers Smith is going to fly be any "safer"? Hell, no. And what about those stupid restrictions on 4oz of toothpaste and mouthwash? Good lord, it's half the battle of flying today just getting through TSA security. Author/pilot Patrick Smith covers Sept 11th and many other subjects in his new book. It's not a book most readers will be particularly interested in, but for those of us who read his blog, look-in-awe at his YouTube videos of night-landings at JFK taken from the cockpit, and enjoy flying and the history of flying, this book's for us. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A very good book for people that are afraid of flying or want to know more about flying. By Daisy S For me, I purchased this bok for two reasons:***** I have a huge fear of flying....yes, I have taken over 20 flights before, but 5 of them had slight turbulence and 2 had moderate to almost severe turbulence. This scared me so much that I have not been on a plane in the last couple of years! Since I read this book during stressful circumstances, I did find this book helpful. It is overall a very good book that was written by an airline pilot. What I really like about this book is the fact that it is in Question and Answer form. And also that it is in a conversational manner. I felt like I was sitting across the table from Patrick Smith asking him questions. There were many of my questions answered in the book...about lightening'so effects on a plane, wind shear, take-offs and landings and more! The reason that I rate this book 4 stars is because I would have liked to see more details, especially about flying in bad weather, while this was covered, it could have used more details. So 4 stars it is. Good read! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Demystifies the Magic (and Misery) of Flying By Cathryn Conroy By chance, I started reading this book by commercial airline pilot Patrick Smith in the airport in Baltimore as we were getting ready to board a flight to Boston. I kept reading it on the plane. And then I decided that I would ONLY read it in airports and on planes. Luckily, I flew a lot this year. So on flights to Atlanta, Columbus and Cincinnati, this book was open on my Kindle. It was a real kick to read while flying. I learned about various parts of the plane and could look at the window to see some of them. I learned about turbulence as the plane was doing a little do-si-do in the air. I learned about the colors of the uniforms worn by the crew. I learned about the total inanity and uselessness of much of airport security while waiting in line to be screened. If you fly even once a year, this is a book worth reading as it demystifies what for most of us is a combination of magic and misery.

A New York Times bestseller For millions of people, travel by air is a confounding, uncomfortable, and even fearful experience. Patrick Smith, airline pilot and author of the web's popular Ask the Pilot feature, separates the fact from fallacy and tells you everything you need to know...bull; How planes fly, and a revealing look at the men and women who fly them bull; Straight talk on turbulence, pilot training, and safety bull; The real story on congestion, delays, and the dysfunction of the modern airport bull; The myths and misconceptions of cabin air and cockpit automation bull; Terrorism in perspective, and a provocative look at security bull; Airfares, seating woes, and the pitfalls of airline customer service bull; The colors and cultures of the airlines we love to hate Cockpit Confidential covers not only the nuts and bolts of flying, but also the grand theater of air travel, from airport architecture to inflight service to

the excitement of travel abroad. It's a thoughtful, funny, at times deeply personal look into the strange and misunderstood world of commercial flying. It's the ideal book for frequent flyers, nervous passengers, and global travelers. Refreshed and vastly expanded from the original Ask the Pilot, with approximately 75 percent new material.

"Smith paints an unflinching portrait of modern air travel with several fresh and unexpected insights." ---Publishers Weekly "Brilliant...A book to be savored and passed to friends."-- William Langewiesche, Vanity Fair "Nobody covers the airline experience like Patrick Smith. He brings balance and clarity to a subject all too often over-hyped. And, he's a damned good writer."-- Clive Irving, Conde Nast Traveler "I wish I could fold up Patrick Smith and put him in my suitcase. He seems to know everything worth knowing about flying."-- Stephen Dubner, coauthor of Freakonomics "Patrick Smith is extraordinarily knowledgeable about modern aviation, and communicates beautifully in English, not in pilot-ese. The ideal seatmate, companion, writer and explainer."-- Alex Beam, Boston Globe "A brilliant writer, Patrick Smith provides a laugh-a-page tour of a misunderstood industry -- a journey into the world of aviation, stripped of the mumbo-jumbo and filled with humor and insight."-- Christine Negroni, aviation correspondent and author of Flying Lessons "Patrick Smith doesn't just know everything about air travel, he possesses a rare knack for explaining it in lucid and witty prose."-- Barbara Peterson, Conde Nast Traveler "Patrick Smith is one of the best writers around, period, which certainly makes him by far the best writer ever to have earned a commercial pilot's license. A soaring accomplishment, indispensable for anyone who travels by air, which means everyone."-- James Kaplan "Wonderful"-- Rudy Maxa "Patrick Smith manages to demystify the experience and remind us of the magic of aviation. Also he has a great sense of humor -- which is critical when you are wedged into seat 14D on a regional jet."-- Chris Bohjalian "Brilliantly down to earth and reassuring."-- Cath Urquhart, The Times (London) "What a pleasure it is reading Patrick Smith's surprisingly elegant explanations and commentary. The world needs somebody writing E.B. White simple and sensible about a topic everyone has a question about."-- Berke Breathed About the Author Patrick Smith is an airline pilot and the creator of the popular Web site askthepilot.com. His Ask the Pilot column ran regularly on salon.com from 2002 until 2012. He has appeared frequently on television and radio, including on PBS, the Discovery Channel, CNN, the BBC, and National Public Radio. Patrick lives near Boston. Charlie Thurston has appeared on stages across the country, including Trinity Repertory Company, Arden Theatre Company, Baltimore Center Stage, Intiman Theater, Chautauqua Theater Company, and Riverside Theatre. Charlie holds an MFA in acting from Brown University/Trinity Rep.