

Here comes the summer travel crunch

By Chris McGinnis, San Francisco Chronicle

Memorial Day marks the start of the busy peak travel season, and it looks like this summer will be one of the busiest ever at airports, on the road and at hotels.

The Transportation Security Administration, which processed more than 239 million airline passengers and crew from Memorial Day to Labor Day last year, said it expects to see that number rise to 243 million this summer. To keep the lines moving, TSA has added more than 600 officers to its checkpoint staff since January and said it will add 1,000 more by the peak summer crunch, when it will be processing 2.6 million travelers per day.

To save money on airfare during peak season, you must be flexible. Fridays and Saturdays in July and August now outrank Thanksgiving as the busiest air travel days of the year.

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