

Carrying a Bowie Knife on a Flight

Contributed by DylanSabot
Saturday, 20 February 2010

Unless one is on a private plane, it's probably against the law and airline policy to carry a weapon in the crew or passenger areas. A Bowie knife is not something that can be carried on because it serves another function, such as a nail file or a book of matches. A Bowie is a weapon by design and has been so since the first one was manufactured. Carrying weapons on planes can be done, but with some special accommodations.

by DylanSabot

Unless one is on a private plane, it's probably against the law and airline policy to carry a weapon in the crew or passenger areas. A Bowie knife is not something that can be carried on because it serves another function, such as a nail file or a book of matches. A Bowie is a weapon by design and has been so since the first one was manufactured. Carrying weapons on planes can be done, but with some special accommodations.

A Bowie knife requires special accommodations when one is flying. No airline will allow one to carry a blade or such dimensions onto an airplane. It can, however, be taken in one's luggage. The relevant issue is access. The airlines are fine with transporting such items in a cargo hold but will not transport them in areas where travelers could access them in transit. The luggage must be packed in a way that is up to airline standards, as well.

The Bowie knife will have to be sheathed. An open blade is not allowed in the luggage. This is common sense, anyway, as an open blade would obviously damage the items around it if the luggage were handled roughly. The knife will also have to be securely packed in a bag, not transported loosely. If these requirements prove to be burdensome, one can always ship their knife and get it at their destination.

In the luggage, the knife must be sheathed securely. This is usually no problem where Bowie knives are concerned as they are sheath knives by design. It's a good idea to wrap or box the knife within the luggage, as well. Even though a sheath protects the blade, the hand guard and handle still might snag on clothing or other items and cause damage or be damaged. Make sure the knife cannot slide out of the sheath, in any regard, and count on the luggage being handled a bit roughly from time to time by baggage handlers.

Bowie knives are illegal in some places, so make sure to check ahead before shipping them anywhere. If there are no problems, shipping is a good and inexpensive alternative to taking luggage on an airplane. One simply ground ships their knife ahead of them and picks it up at the destination. For those who don't want to have any trouble carrying a weapon, this is oftentimes far preferable. These knives cost very little to ship.

About the Author:

Dylan Sabot is the owner of an online bowie knives store featuring hunting knives.