

Connection & Disruption Planner

Calculate usable connection time

A schedule gap is not the time available to walk between gates.

Write the scheduled arrival and the next departure in local time. Then identify boarding closure, deplaning, any border or security process, terminal transport, assistance waiting and the distance to the new gate. Some of these overlap; others happen one after another. Make the sequence explicit.

1. Confirm whether the booking is one protected itinerary or separate tickets. Ask the provider what happens if the first flight is late.
2. Check the transfer route on the airport's official map, including accessible paths.
3. Subtract the next flight's boarding deadline and the tasks that must happen before reaching it.
4. Compare a later connection or nonstop before committing to a tight option.

No universal minimum

A published minimum connection time is not a personal comfort guarantee. Your own processing and assistance needs may require a different itinerary.

Worked example: a 100-minute connection

Fictional planning figures. Replace every assumption with your route’s information.

Step	Minutes
Scheduled gap between flights	100
Next boarding closes before departure	20
Time left before boarding closure	80
Deplaning estimate	15
Transfer / walking estimate	25
Assistance handoff estimate	15
Unallocated planning margin	25

The margin is $100 - 20 - 15 - 25 - 15 = 25$ minutes. If the first flight arrives 30 minutes late, that margin is gone. Border control or another security check is not included in this example; add them if required. Do not count an estimate as a service guarantee.

Our missing step in this example

Our reason to accept or reject this connection