



HIGH TRAVEL NUMBERS HAVE RETURNED

AVL IS NEAR PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS

Way back in 2018, AVL held a huge celebration. We had exceeded **one million annual passengers** for the first time ever (1.1 million). *It took 57 years to achieve this huge milestone.*

Then, just one year later in 2019, AVL celebrated a 43% increase in annual passengers – 1.6 million – a growth year unlike any most U.S. airports had ever experienced. **Big news for AVL >**

And amazingly, even after the rough few years we've all experienced, AVL is nearly back to the high 2019 levels. A few highlights:

- **Record summer 2021 – highest number of passengers ever served in one summer**
- **Record October 2021 (and record month for AVL - 4% higher than October 2019)**
- **Holiday travel numbers on par with 2019**

More normal passenger numbers began to return in May 2021 and have skyrocketed since. Even with a slower first five months of 2021, we anticipate ending this year well ahead of 2018, and we are on our way back to 2019 numbers (official numbers will be available in January 2022).

AVL's robust recovery is good news for the region. As an economic anchor organization in western North Carolina, the airport's success is an indicator of the strength of our region.

Thank you for flying local, and we look forward to a great 2022.



AVL IS COMMITTED TO HEALTHY TRAVEL

FIRST NC AIRPORT TO ACHIEVE ACI HEALTH ACCREDITATION

Now nearly two years into the global pandemic, busy travel levels have returned in our region. However, this doesn't mean that the way we travel has returned to pre-pandemic practices.

We were the first airport in North Carolina to achieve a global health accreditation from Airports Council International, and we remain committed to proven measures that promote health and safety in the airport. As we prepare to enter 2022, here is a reminder of what to continue to expect as you travel to and through AVL:

- **MASKS** – All people entering the airport must wear a mask over their nose and mouth, a federal mandate in place through March 18, 2022. The mask must be worn in all areas of the airport and aboard aircraft, except very briefly when taking bites or sipping a beverage. "Gator-style" face coverings and masks with vents are not approved for use in air travel. At AVL, we offer complimentary masks at our Guest Services desk for those who may need them. Also, some medical experts are recommending that air travelers upgrade to surgical masks or N-95s or KN-95s to better prevent the spread of the highly contagious

Omicron variant. We encourage you to do your research so you are prepared.

- **ENHANCED CLEANING** – We continue to employ stringent disinfection strategies, especially in highly populated public areas. Our dedicated housekeeping team uses electrostatic sprayers to efficiently and effectively disinfect large areas multiple times each day.
- **ACRYLIC SHIELDS** – Acrylic shields can still be found throughout the airport at public counters.
- **HAND SANITIZING STATIONS** are located throughout the terminal.

Thank you for doing your part as we welcome you to the airport for your next trip!



CELL PHONE LOT TEMPORARILY CLOSED

NEW LOT WILL OPEN IN 2022

As many of you return to the airport, you have noticed that our Cell Phone Lot (the complimentary lot for meeters and greeters to use as they await arriving passengers) is no longer in service. We know this is a great customer amenity!

We had to close the lot to make way for a much-needed aircraft apron expansion project. Good news, though – the closure is temporary. We will soon begin work on constructing a new Cell Phone Lot that will be ready in 2022 (date to be determined).

In the meantime, please remember that our Hourly Lot (closest to the terminal) is intended for use by meeters and greeters, and can be utilized for a nominal \$1 per half hour (up to four hours).

[MORE
INFO](#)



WHAT'S YOUR TRAVEL RESOLUTION?

THE NEW YEAR IS A GREAT TIME TO PLAN

You know that feeling you get when you have a fabulous trip “on the books?” It’s like anticipation, impatience and joy all bundled up together – a feeling that only great travel experiences can evoke. Does a word even exist that fully captures this special travel-sparked emotion? Maybe we can create a new word...

[WHAT'S YOUR WORD? SEND US A
SUGGESTION](#)



AVL has more nonstop destinations and daily connections to international hubs than ever before. It's easy to plan a trip to or from AVL – all you need to do is start dreaming. Where will you go next?

[BOOK A TRIP](#)



[VISIT FLYAVL.COM](http://FLYAVL.COM)



DECEMBER 2021

Copyright © 2021. All Rights Reserved.