

PEOPLE
PLACES

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Check In

From takeoff to touchdown: **Check In**. This DW Transtel series looks at the people who ensure a smooth and comfortable flight every time we step aboard an aircraft. We accompany them as they meet day-to-day challenges in areas such as security, safety, logistics and training. Integrity and discipline play a key role and contribute to the mystique that still surrounds air crews and aviation.

01 Top Speed Turnaround – The Ground Staff High-Fliers

The jumbo has landed and the clock is ticking. The ground staff have just thirty minutes to clean the aircraft, fill it with fuel and check it over. In addition, it has to be unloaded and loaded before the next passengers can take off. It's a herculean task but one that's all in a day's work for airport ground staff.

02 A Career as Pilot – The Long Way to the Cockpit

Simon Nagel is about to fulfil a lifelong dream. The 21-year-old is doing two year's pilot training. Having just completed six months of theoretical study, he's now at the flight training center in Phoenix, Arizona, where he'll get his first opportunity to fly a real plane.

03 Air Traffic Control – The Aviation Security Academy

The Academy for Aviation Security in Langen, Germany, is one of the world's leading training facilities for air traffic controllers. Its computer-simulated control tower looks like a huge computer game and cost several million euros. Mastering this equipment is a key step on the way to ensuring the safety of real planes, passengers and crews.

04 Fear of Flying – Finding Help

For many people, flying is a horrific experience – they get clammy hands and blurred vision and feel panic as they imagine the worst happening during their flight. But professional help is at hand for those with a fear of flying.

05 Fire on the Runway – Frankfurt Airport's Firefighters at Work

An aircraft has just taken off, then comes a call from the cockpit: the pilot says there are engine problems and he's turning round to make an emergency landing. The airport fire fighters are called out. Within just three minutes, a fire engine is next to the runway, ready for action.

06 Helicopter Pilot – A Dream Job

Susanne Tewes is a student at the Bundeswehr's aviation school. With each helicopter boasting more than 700 HP, a speed of 260 kilometers per hour and a steel body weighing more than 1,420 kilos, it requires intensive training to fly one. Every day brings a new challenge for the 27-year-old, whether it be her first flight over the Alps or a new manoeuvre in the flight simulator.