

FACTS ABOUT COSMIC RAYS AND AIRPLANES

COSMIC RAYS AFFECT HUMANS

- Cosmic rays penetrate aircraft walls with ease.
- They pose a health risk to astronauts, pilots, flight attendants and frequent flyers.

The average 100,000 mile frequent flyer receives the whole-body equivalent of approximately

20

chest X-rays.



1

Cosmic rays in airplanes mainly come from exploding stars many light years away.

2

Cosmic radiation inside a passenger jet is typically 40 times stronger than on the ground below.

3

On the ground, the atmosphere blocks cosmic rays similar to a 13-foot layer of concrete. The higher you fly, the thinner the shield becomes.

4

Cosmic rays hit Earth from all directions; they are just as bad during the day as they are at night.

5

Pilots are classified as occupational radiation workers by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

Be a Rad Savvy Traveler.

Find out everything you need to know for radiation-informed travel at Rads on a Plane.

