

Because it has no reserved seating, Southwest Airlines allows people in wheelchairs to board first. On a recent SW flight out of Chicago, we observed a fragile-looking senior gentleman being wheeled to the aircraft entrance, where an attendant helped him slowly to a seat. When the flight landed in Los Angeles, the man walked briskly off the plane and into the terminal. When he saw the angry stares from other passengers, he stopped, lifted his arms heavenward and exclaimed, "Thank the Lord! It's a miracle! Look what California air does for my arthritis!"

Warning: Don't try the same scam next time you fly SW. The airline requires a written note on a doctor's prescription form explaining your physical limitations, and requests early boarding. SW is under no obligation, but usually will accept it.

