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It's **hard to avoid traveling** over **the holidays** but the experience I had last week really **takes the cake**.

I flew back to Tucson, Arizona, to be with my wife's family, as we do every Christmas. I got to the airport an hour and a half before my flight, which I thought would be **plenty** of time. When I got there, though, I saw that the **security line** was **out the door**. Because it was the holidays, people were traveling with a lot of extra **packages**. It took **twice as long** as it normally would to get to the **front** of the line. When I finally got to the **gate**, I found out that my flight had been oversold. The gate **agent** was looking for people to voluntarily **give up their seats** for a later flight **in exchange for** a \$100 travel **voucher**. If she didn't get enough volunteers, she would have to **bump people from the flight**. Luckily, several people **took her up on the offer** and the rest of us **boarded**.

What a **hassle**! I love the holidays but I don't