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San Diego International Airport Offers Tips for Holiday Travel

SAN DIEGO – December 20, 2022 – [San Diego International Airport](#) (SAN) wants those who will be traveling during the holiday season to be prepared before they arrive at the airport. Due to the [New T1](#) project, much of the airport's campus is under construction. SAN is offering the following travel tips:

Plan ahead and arrive early when traveling to the airport.

- Don't cut it close—Plan to arrive two hours before flight departures for domestic and international flights.
- Due to construction, passengers should expect increased traffic and changes to airport roadways. Times in which the traveling public will see the most congestion include 4 a.m. to 6:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
- According to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), peak screening hours at the checkpoints are typically between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Passengers could see extended wait times of up to an hour.
- If returning a vehicle to the Rental Car Center, allow additional travel time. Free shuttle buses run 24 hours per day between the Rental Car Center and airport terminals.
- Make sure to check [where the airlines are located](#)—Terminal 1 or Terminal 2.

Parking is limited and reservations are strongly recommended.

- The Terminal 1 Parking Lot is permanently closed. As a result, on-airport parking is limited to the Terminal 2 Parking Plaza or Curbside Valet at Terminal 1 or Terminal 2.
- It is strongly recommended passengers reserve parking at Terminal 2 Parking Plaza or Curbside Valet as much in advance as possible at san.org/parking.
- The Terminal Loop Shuttle efficiently transports passengers between both terminals. Curbside pick-up is available every 10 minutes.

There are more ways than ever to get to the airport using public transit.

- Take the COASTER to Santa Fe Depot train station in Downtown San Diego or take the MTS Trolley to Old Town Station.
- MTS's [Route 992](#) stops at Terminals 1 and 2 and operates between 5 a.m. and midnight, every 15 minutes on weekdays and every 30 minutes on weekends and holidays.
- Try the free [San Diego Flyer](#), a convenient electric shuttle service connecting the Old Town Transit Center and the airport.

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Let someone else do the driving.

- Taxi, Lyft, Uber, shuttles, or other airport-permitted commercial transportation options are great ways to get to and from SAN. Please note a new, temporary, ground-level crosswalk with a traffic light and crossing signal replaced the bridge to connect pedestrians from Terminal 1 to the Terminal 1 ground transportation island.
- Have friends or family provide rides.

Picking someone up? Use the Cell Phone Lot.

- Utilizing the Cell Phone Lot at the Terminal 2 West Parking Lot on McCain Road is a great way to avoid circling the airport and further congesting terminal roadways. The Cell Phone Lot is free and a convenient place to wait for arriving passengers. To get back to Baggage Claim to pick up passengers, follow detour signage to Terminal 1 or Terminal 2.

Once at the airport, sit back and shop, dine, and relax!

- Shops and restaurants inside the terminals are open to provide travel necessities, meals, snacks, and more, however, availability and hours may vary. Visit san.org/Shop-Dine-Relax for hours and locations.
- Recharge or relax before flights at airline lounges or day spas. Visit san.org/Shop-Dine-Relax for hours and locations.
- SAN has options to suit every passenger, including [eco-friendly and sustainable](#) stores and food.

ABOUT SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SAN)

Owned and operated by San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (Airport Authority), [San Diego International Airport \(SAN\)](#) is one of the busiest single-runway commercial service airports in the world and the third-busiest airport in California. SAN contributes nearly \$12 billion in economic activity for the region by connecting the world to San Diego and San Diego to the world. In November 2021, the Airport Authority began construction on the [New T1](#) which includes the replacement of the current Terminal 1, improvements to the airfield, improved transportation connectivity to the airport, and a new administration building. The New T1 program's total project budget is \$3.4 billion and is estimated to create between 15,000 to 20,000 construction-related jobs. For more information about the New T1 please visit newt1.com. For more information about SAN please visit san.org.

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