

General Information

Airport Information: 650-821-8211
Airport Website: www.sfoairport.com
Ground Transportation: 817-1717 (Bay Area only, no area code required)
Lost & Found: 650-821-7014
Parking: 650-821-7900
Police (Non-Emergency): 650-821-7111
US Customs: 650-624-7200
US Immigration and Naturalization Service: 650-837-2800

Overview

This is fog city. Airports and fog don't usually mix well, and San Francisco International Airport (SFO) is no exception. With just a couple of closely spaced runways, the airport is particularly prone to weather-related delays. Still, SFO served just over 41 million passengers in 2000, making it the 5th largest airport in the U.S. and the 9th largest in the world. The two most popular destinations remain Los Angeles, with 80 flights daily, and New York, with 42 flights per day. While other local airports have been giving SFO some stiff competition for those and other destinations, recent improvements might help it win back passengers. The newly remodeled international terminal, for one, has earned rave reviews with its ultra-stylish design and art-filled space, and the BART connection to SFO has eased the commute for thousands of travelers.

Mayor Brown and others want to give SFO another boost with new runways to ease congestion and delays, but the now six-year old runway expansion plan has been delayed. The new runways would fill in 1.5 square miles of open water in the bay—a prospect that has environmentalists worried (think churning mud, lots of nasty chemicals, dying fish). For now, the economic downturn and the resulting reduction in air traffic have the expansion on hold, but discussion is expected to heat up again when air travel increases.

How to Get There—Driving

So you really want to drive to the airport? You probably don't want to do it during the morning rush hour, at least not without giving yourself plenty of extra time. Traffic is generally a lot more manageable than it used to be, particularly since the bursting of the dot-com bubble took a lot of commuters off the road. If you're driving from San Francisco, take 101 S and get off at the SF International Airport exit. If you're coming along Highway 380, travel east to the

101 S exit towards San Jose. Take the SF International Airport exit.

How to Get There—Mass Transit

There are really three options for public transportation, and the best option for you will depend on where you're going and how much baggage you have. SamTrans runs a few bus routes out of SFO, including the KX Express bus, which provides service between San Francisco, SFO, and Palo Alto. You'd better be traveling light though, because the KX doesn't allow luggage! Route 292 is a local bus that makes many stops in the communities between San Francisco, SFO, and San Mateo. Route 397 runs an overnight "owl" service between San Francisco, SFO, and Palo Alto. Route 193 operates on a limited schedule between the Stonestown Galleria in San Francisco, Daly City BART Station, and SFO. KX Express will set you back \$3.50, while the local buses cost \$1.25.

Caltrain runs a service from Millbrae Station to Fourth & King Streets (\$2.25) and free shuttles run between the station and the airport approximately every 20-30 minutes except on weekends. BART also offers a cross-platform transfer at Millbrae.

BART is probably going to be the most effective and efficient way of transferring you and your luggage to San Francisco International Airport. The yellow line runs all the way into SFO. It's amazing that it took them until 2003 to finally get BART into SFO, but hey, it was worth the wait.

How to Get There—Really

If you'd rather not drive and you don't relish the prospect of lugging your bags to the nearest BART station or bus stop, there are a number of shuttle services that can get you to SFO from the city for around \$20 (a bargain compared to the typical cab fare). Most shuttles will pick you up at your front door in plenty of time to make your flight, but you'll share your ride with 2 to 3 others. See Shuttles, page 210.

Parking

For domestic flights, if you're leaving from Terminal 1, park in Sections A/B, B, or C. Terminal 2 flights should head to Section D, and if you're going from Terminal 3, park in Sections E, F, or F/G. Rates for parking are \$1 per 12 minutes, \$28 maximum for the first 24 hours, and \$35 maximum per additional 24 hours.

Transit • San Francisco Int'l Airport (SFO)

Parking *continued*

If your destination is abroad, use Garage A for Air France, AirTran, Alaska Airlines (Mexico flights), British Airways, Cathay Pacific, China Airlines, Japan Airlines, KLM, Korean Air, LACSA, Northwest (International), Philippine Airlines, TACA, and Virgin Atlantic. Garage G serves AirChina, ANA, Asiana, EVA, Lufthansa, Mexicana, Singapore Airlines, and United (International). Parking costs \$1 per 12 minutes and \$22 per 24-hour period.

For two hours of free parking in any terminal garage, you need to spend \$20 at participating shops and restaurants in the International Terminal to have your ticket validated. You can also print out discount parking coupons via the airport website at www.flysfo.com.

If your budget doesn't cover long-term parking in the domestic lots, an alternative is the cheaper long-term lot located off the U.S. 101/San Bruno Avenue-East exit. You can park there for up to 30 days and a free shuttle service will take you to and from the terminals every 5 minutes. Parking is \$1 for each 12 minutes, \$13 for 24 hours through day 7 and \$11 per 24 hours thereafter. The website offers a "7th day free" coupon, so if you'll be there for a week, print it out and take it with you. If the long-term lot happens to be full, get a voucher to park right at the terminals for the same long-term rate!

Terminal 1

Air Canada
Alaska (domestic & Canada)
America West
ATA
Continental
Delta
Frontier
Hawaiian
Horizon
Mesa
Midwest Express
Northwest (domestic)
Sun Country
US Airways

Terminal 3

American
United Airlines (domestic)

Cabs

Typical fare from the airport to Cow Palace is around \$29, downtown will set you back roughly \$37, and the Wharf will be around \$44.

Rental Cars

Alamo	650-875-8403
Avis	650-877-6777
Budget	650-877-0998
Dollar	650-244-4131
Enterprise	650-697-9200
Hertz	650-876-1745
National	650-616-3000
Thrifty	650-259-1313

Hotels

- **La Quinta Inn** • 20 Airport Blvd • San Francisco • 650-583-2223
- **Radisson San Francisco Airport** • 5000 Sierra Point Pkwy • San Francisco • 415-467-4400
- **Sheraton Gateway** • 600 Airport Blvd • Burlingame • 650-340-8500
- **Summerfield Suites by Wyndham** • 1350 Huntington Ave • San Bruno • 650-588-0770
- **Clarion San Francisco Airport** • 401 East Millbrae Ave • Millbrae • 650-692-6363
- **Ramada Airport** • 245 S Airport Blvd • San Francisco • 650-873-3550
- **Hampton Inn Airport** • 300 Gateway Blvd • San Francisco • 650-876-0200
- **Best Western Grosvenor Hotel** • 380 S Airport Blvd • San Francisco • 650-873-3200
- **Travelodge Airport** • 326 S Airport Blvd • San Francisco • 650-583-9600
- **Holiday Inn San Francisco** • 275 S Airport Blvd • 877-877-3342
- **Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport** • 1333 Bayshore Hwy • Burlingame • 650-347-1234

International Terminal

Air China	KLM
Air France	Korean Air
AirTran	LACSA
Alaska (Mexico)	Lufthansa
All Nippon	Mexicana
Asiana	Northwest (international)
ATA (Mexico)	Philippine Airlines
British Airways	Singapore Airlines
Cathay Pacific	TACA
China Airlines	United Airlines (international)
Eva Air	Virgin Atlantic
Japan Airlines	

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