

TRANSPORTATION

Despite being in the middle of a desert, Las Vegas is a surprisingly easy city to reach, whether you're driving across the California-Nevada border or flying into McCarran International Airport. Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

How you move around Sin City says a lot about who you are. High rollers cruise the Strip in cherry-red convertibles or stretch Hummer limos. Low rollers hop on double-decker public buses, the modern monorail and free trams (avoid the slow trolleys, though). For pedestrians, the Strip has movable walkways and elevated crosswalks. Don't jaywalk – more people are injured while crossing the street than in auto accidents. Gridlock along the Strip and the freeways around Las Vegas makes driving a chore, although free self-parking and valet services are available almost everywhere. Taxis are plentiful, too.

AIR

Airfares to Las Vegas are frequently discounted, especially during slow periods like summer (June, July and August) and late November through January (except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays).

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

For domestic flights, [Farecast](http://www.farecast.com) (www.farecast.com) can help find the least expensive dates on which to fly. Carefully compare deals being advertised by discount travel booking websites like [Orbitz](http://www.orbitz.com) (www.orbitz.com) and [Priceline](http://www.priceline.com) (www.priceline.com) with the lowest airfares offered online by the airlines themselves. [SideStep](http://www.sidestep.com) (www.sidestep.com) is a handy meta-search engine that compares myriad available airfares. For students, [STA Travel](http://www.sta.com) (www.sta.com) sometimes offers cheaper fares.

Vacation packages offered by discount travel booking websites, airlines and casino-hotel resorts that include flights, hotel rooms and/or rental cars may save you some serious cash, but only if you know exactly where you

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

FLYING & CLIMATE CHANGE

Pretty much every form of motorized travel generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

CARBON OFFSET SCHEMES

[Climatecare.org](http://climatecare.org) and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travelers to offset the level of greenhouse gases they are responsible for with financial contributions to sustainable travel schemes that reduce global warming – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, support the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

want to stay. Otherwise, you might get stuck at a budget chain motel near the airport.

All-inclusive bus tours for students and twentysomethings that stop along the way in Las Vegas include party-hardy **Contiki Holidays** (☎ 866-266-8454; www.contiki.com), with departures from Los Angeles, and **Green Tortoise Adventure Travel** (☎ 415-956-7500, 800-867-8647; www.green.tortoise.com), an ecoconscious outdoor-oriented company based out of San Francisco.

Airlines

Airlines serving Las Vegas' McCarran International Airport:

Air Canada (☎ 888-247-2262; www.aircanada.com)

Air Transat (☎ 877-872-6728; www.airtransat.com)

AirTran Airways (☎ 800-247-8726; www.airtran.com)

Alaska Airlines (☎ 800-252-7522; www.alaskaair.com)

Aloha Airlines (☎ 800-367-5250; www.alohaairlines.com)

American Airlines (☎ 800-433-7300; www.aa.com)

ATA Airlines (☎ 800-435-9282; www.ata.com)

British Midland Airways (☎ 800-788-0555; www.flybmi.com)

Continental Airlines (☎ 800-523-3273; www.continental.com)

Delta Air Lines (☎ 800-221-1212; www.delta.com)

Frontier Airlines (☎ 800-432-1359; www.frontierairlines.com)

Hawaiian Airlines (☎ 800-367-5320; www.hawaiianair.com)

JetBlue Airways (☎ 800-538-2583; www.jetblue.com)

MAXjet (☎ 888-435-9629; www.maxjet.com)

Midwest Airlines (☎ 800-452-2022; www.midwestairlines.com)

Northwest Airlines (☎ 800-225-2525; www.nwa.com)

Southwest Airlines (☎ 800-435-9792; www.southwest.com)

Spirit Airlines (☎ 800-772-7117; www.spiritair.com)

Sun Country Airlines (☎ 800-359-6786; www.suncountry.com)

Ted Airlines (☎ 800-225-5833; www.flyted.com)

United Airlines (☎ 800-864-8331; www.united.com)

US Airways/America West Airlines (☎ 800-428-4322; www.usairways.com)

Virgin America (☎ 877-359-8474; www.virginamerica.com)

Virgin Atlantic (☎ 800-821-5438; www.virgin-atlantic.com)

WestJet Airlines (☎ 800-538-5696; www.westjet.com)

If you're arriving in the USA on a flight that isn't nonstop, you usually must clear customs first at a gateway airport (eg New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Honolulu), then board another flight to Las Vegas.

Airport

Just a crashpoot from the South Strip, **McCarran International Airport** (LAS; Map pp50-1; ☎ 702-261-5211; www.mccarran.com; 5757 Wayne Newton Blvd) is among the USA's 10 busiest airports. Security lines are notoriously slow, but self-service check-in and luggage drop-off kiosks at the airport and at select off-Strip locations, such as the airport rental-car center and the city's convention center, can ease check-in headaches. For arriving passengers, advance check-in kiosks are available for a few Strip hotels, but skip them if lines are long. Most domestic flights use Terminal 1; international, charter and some domestic flights use Terminal 2. A free, wheelchair-accessible tram links outlying gates.

McCarran offers free wi-fi internet access; ATMs, a currency exchange booth and full-service bank; first-aid and police stations; a lost-and-found office; a post office; and tourist information desks. Left-luggage lockers are unavailable post-9/11. Airport diversions include free art installations and historical aviation displays, slot machines with terrible odds, a kids' play area and a **24 Hour Fitness** (☎ 702-261-3971; day pass \$10) club offering massage services.

Short-term metered airport parking costs 25¢ per 10 minutes (change machines are available). Long-term garage parking costs \$12 per day. The uncovered long-term parking lot at Terminal 2 costs \$8 per day. A remote long-term economy parking lot (\$6 per day) off Flight Path Ave is accessible from I-215, Russell Rd or Paradise Rd – just follow the signs. A free airport shuttle bus leaves the economy lot approximately every 10 to 15 minutes, but you should allow an extra 30 minutes to arrive at the airport, just to be safe.

BUS

All of the following local and long-distance bus services are wheelchair-accessible.

Citizens Area Transit (CAT; ☎ 702-228-7433, 800-228-3911; www.catride.com) operates city and suburban bus routes usually from 5am to 2am daily, with the double-decker Deuce buses running 24/7 along the Strip and to downtown. The regular fare is \$1.25 per ride, except on Deuce buses