

TRANSPORTATION

Back during the Gold Rush, prospectors would run, gallop and swim to get to San Francisco pronto. But since those days the city has mellowed out, and now being in a rush seems very un-San Francisco. Dude, this isn't Los Angeles or New York. When San Franciscans don't have somewhere else to be right quick – and even when they do – most people walk, bike or take Muni instead of a car or cab. Those slackers are smart: this is the best way to take in San Francisco, and helps preserve the city's many all-natural charms by curbing carbon emissions and other pollutants.

As Jack Kerouac says, the journey to San Francisco can blow your mind. That said, you don't have to endure months *On the Road* to make it memorable. Consider taking your sweet time getting here by train, boat or bike instead of a car or plane. That way, you can actually relax and enjoy the spectacular coastal scenery without all the wrong turns, traffic jams, flight delays, airport security hassles and excess carbon emissions. The hippies had it right: San Francisco isn't just a destination, it's a total trip.

AIR

Deals can be found year-round to San Francisco, where service from multiple domestic and international airlines in three Bay Area airports keeps prices competitive. Listed below are some of the major carriers serving the Bay Area. Check online for the best deals, and if you're flying into San Jose or Oakland instead of San Francisco, don't forget to factor in additional transit time and costs to get to SF. To take the scenic route to SF, consider taking the train instead (p306) – you'll be doing

the environment a favor by cutting back on carbon emissions, too. Flights and rail tickets can be booked online at www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

Airlines

Alaska Airlines (AS; ☎ 800-252-7522; www.alaskaair.com) Covers much of the western USA, Canada and Western Mexico; direct service to Hawaii, Alaska and Seattle.

British Airways (BA; ☎ 800-247-9297; www.britishairways.com) Offers nonstop flights to London.

Continental Airlines (CO; ☎ 800-523-3273; www.continental.com) Serves a wide range of domestic locations, including nonstop service to Chicago, New York and Houston (hub), and onward to major airports in Asia and Europe.

Delta Airlines (DL; ☎ 800-221-1212; www.delta.com) Serves domestic airports, with Atlanta the hub; international partners serve major European destinations.

Jet Blue (B6; ☎ 800-538-2583; www.jetblue.com) Flies from Oakland and San Francisco. Often has the cheapest flights to New York City, and has nonstop service to Boston, Austin, Long Beach (California) and Washington DC.

Northwest Airlines (NW; ☎ 800-225-2525; www.nwa.com) Partners with Dutch carrier KLM to serve 1000 cities in 160 countries.

Southwest Airlines (SW; ☎ 800-435-9792; www.southwest.com) Low rates on flights throughout the USA from Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose.

United Airlines (UA; ☎ 800-864-8331, international 800-538-2929; www.united.com) Serves a wide range of destinations to and from its hub at SFO, with direct service to Australia, London, Japan, Hong Kong, Beijing and Munich.

Virgin Airlines (VS; ☎ 800-821-5438; www.virginatlantic.com, www.virginamerica.com) Virgin Atlantic flies nonstop to London; Virgin America offers low-cost nonstop service to LA, San Diego, Seattle, New York and Boston.

Airports

SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

One of the busiest airports in the country, **San Francisco International Airport** (SFO; Map p265; ☎ 650-821-8211; www.flysfo.com) serves over 40 million passengers annually on 45 airlines. Flights

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.

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 motor transport 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 and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow jetsetters to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports 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.

to/from Asia, Europe and Latin America go through the International terminal; the North and South terminals handle domestic flights. The International terminal has racked up awards for food and architecture; Terminal 2 is currently undergoing reinvention as a LEED Silver-certified green building. The entire airport is nonsmoking.

There are **information booths** (☎ 8am-1:30am) and white **courtesy phones** (☎ information 7-0018) on the lower (arrivals) level of all three terminals, **Traveler's Aid information booths** (☎ 9am-9pm) on the upper levels, and an **airport ground transportation hotline** (☎ 800-736-2008; ☎ 7:30am-5pm Mon-Fri).

A **clinic** (☎ 650-821-5600; ☎ 8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) can be contacted from white courtesy phones found on the lower level of the International terminal. **Harmony Pharmacy** (☎ 650-821-1313; www.harmonypharmacy.com; ☎ 9am-6pm) is available in Terminal 3's Boarding Area F, after you pass through security.

All terminals have ATMs, and there is a currency exchange in the International terminal. **Lockers** (per 24hr \$2) are located at all boarding areas, and there is luggage storage in the travel agency area, in the upper-level connector between the South and International terminals.

SFO is on the bayside of the peninsula, 14 miles south of Downtown San Francisco. Highway 101 connects the airport directly to Downtown. If you're driving, the trip between the airport and the city can take as

little as 20 minutes, but give yourself an hour during morning and evening rush hours. If you're headed to the airport via Hwy 101, take the San Francisco International Airport exit. Don't be misled by the Airport Rd exit, which just leads to parking lots and warehouses.

Transportation arrives and departs at the upper and lower levels, and color-coded zones identify the correct places to catch buses going to rental-car lots, long-term parking lots, other airports, and nearby hotels. This can be confusing, so read the terminal signs carefully before stepping outside. For transportation options to Downtown SF, see the boxed text, p302.

OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Travelers arriving at **Oakland International Airport** (OAK; [Map p265](#); ☎ 510-563-3300; www.oaklandairport.com), 15 miles east of Downtown, will have a little further to go to reach San Francisco. The least expensive way from the Oakland airport is via BART train and the **AirBART shuttle** (☎ 510-569-8310; adult/child & senior \$3/1; ☎ 5am-midnight Mon-Sat, 8am-midnight Sun). The AirBART shuttle leaves both terminals every 10 to 20 minutes for the BART Coliseum Station; buy your AirBART shuttle ticket from the ticket machine before exiting the airport. Upon arrival at Coliseum Station, purchase your BART ticket (\$3.80) from the machine for the 30-minute trip to Downtown San Francisco.