

December 19, 2019

Helpful Tips for "Sleighting" Holiday Travel at SJC

-- Plan ahead and arrive early for on-time boarding --

San Jose, Calif. – The [Mineta San Jose International Airport \(SJC\)](#) team is prepared for holiday travelers. During the 18-day Christmas and New Year's travel period, from Friday, December 20 through Monday, January 6, SJC will welcome approximately 850,000 passengers, an 8 percent increase compared to the same time last year. The expected busiest days are the Friday and Sunday before Christmas Day and the weekend after New Year's Day.

"As SJC continues to see increased passenger traffic daily, especially during the holiday season, our Airport team and partners are prepared to guide travelers through the terminals and get them to their destinations safely and with minimal delays," said SJC Director of Aviation John Aitken.

Plan Ahead for On-Airport Parking

Onsite parking is in high demand during the peak holiday period and as SJC continues to break passenger traffic records daily. Travelers can check parking availability and rates before heading to SJC in one of two ways:

- Real-time parking status is online at <https://www.flysanjose.com/parking>, or
- Call SJC's parking services team at **408-441-5570** — anytime, any day.

Arrive Early

The SJC team – Airport Department, airlines, concessions, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and many other partners – is ready to greet and assist holiday travelers. It's important that travelers arrive to the terminals early to ensure on-time boarding. As a general rule, TSA recommends that travelers arrive at least two hours early for domestic travel and at least three hours before international travel.

Before Leaving Home or the Office

These additional travel tips will help get passengers to their boarding gate faster:

- **Check in online in advance and print a boarding pass.** TSA and SJC airlines accept mobile boarding passes, but having a printed pass can be helpful if a mobile device experiences power or connectivity issues;
- **Even with a boarding pass, reconfirm airline flight status before leaving for the airport.** Flight schedules may change at the departure or arrival city due to inclement weather or other factors;
- **Review the TSA's tips for packing at [TSA.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).** If traveling with holiday food, beverages and gifts, leave packages unwrapped as they may need added screening;
- **Arrive to the airport early.** TSA recommends arriving to the terminal two hours early for domestic flights and three hours before international flights. Check airline websites for their recommended arrival time at departure airports; and
- **Be patient if delays occur.** Airport partners are working diligently to get travelers home for the holidays safely and on-schedule.

TSA Helpful Holiday Tips

As more travelers prepare to fly home for the holidays, TSA recommends [helpful travel tips](#) to include these:

- Leave gifts unwrapped as TSA officers may need to inspect them;
- Sparkling ciders, wines and other spirits should be kept in original unopened packaging and packed securely in checked baggage with a maximum of 5 liters allowed per passenger; and
- Fruit cakes, gingerbread cookies and other holiday treats are allowed in carry-ons. To get through the security checkpoint faster, consider removing treats from carry-on bags and place in a separate bin to expedite the screening process.

Airport Welcome and Holiday Spirit

To celebrate the festive season and ring in the new year, travelers can enjoy cheerfully-decorated terminals and strolling musicians playing holiday music on Thursday, December 19 through Thursday, December 26 (with the exception of Christmas Day). Airport Ambassadors will also be roaming the terminals to greet travelers and provide guidance. Last-minute host/hostess gifts, unique trinkets and holiday treats are aplenty in SJC's retail stores.

Ring in 2020 at SJC

The new year will bring new non-stop destinations and more frequency to places where Silicon Valley travelers want to fly. Here's what's ahead:

- [AeroMexico's](#) seasonal service to Guadalajara, Mexico, operates for four weeks in December and January;
- [Southwest Airlines](#) will begin flights to Lihue, Kauai, and Kona, Hawaii, starting mid-January;
- Bienvenidos Puerto Vallarta, a new destination from SJC, offered by [Alaska Airlines](#) starting in March;
- [American Airlines'](#) original 'nerd bird' flight between two high-tech hubs, Silicon Valley and Austin, will make its comeback with twice-daily service starting in April; and
- [Air Canada](#) will begin a daily flight to Toronto in May.

SJC offers more than [50 non-stop destinations](#) on [14 international and domestic airlines](#), with 450 peak daily departures and arrivals.

Need more information before traveling through SJC? **Contact SJC at info@sjc.org or 408-392-3600.**

SJC: Transforming How Silicon Valley Travels

Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC) is Silicon Valley's airport, a self-supporting enterprise owned and operated by the City of San Jose. The airport, now in its 70th year, serves 15 million passengers annually, with 450 peak daily departures and arrivals on 14 international and domestic carriers to 50+ nonstop destinations. SJC was America's fastest-growing major airport in 2018, based on percentage increase in passengers served. For more airport information, visit <https://www.flysanjose.com>.