

Traveling Today

Unlike in the past, 2017 offers a wide range of opportunities for travelers wanting to get between San Francisco and Los Angeles. You can fly between multiple airports, take a train, ride a bus, or drive two different routes—one scenic, one fast.

Your Options for Traveling:

- ┆ **Airplane:** With so many business travelers flying between the Bay Area and Los Angeles, airplane tickets are usually pretty cheap. When flying out of the Bay Area, you can choose between San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland airport. When flying into the Los Angeles area, you can choose between Los Angeles, Ontario, Orange County/Santa Ana, and Burbank airport. Southwest Airlines usually has flights between San Jose and Los Angeles for about \$75 per person, each way.
- ┆ **Train:** Amtrak's Coast Starlight and San Joaquin trains take passengers between the Bay Area and Los Angeles, daily. On the Coast Starlight, you'll enjoy scenic views of the coast, especially in areas between San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara. The trip takes just under 11 hours, and offers Sleeper Cars, a dining car, observation car, and a wine-and-cheese tasting experience. If you're wanting to go south a little quicker, you can ride the San Joaquin train. The train departs in Oakland and passes through

the Central Valley. Then, in Bakersfield, a connecting bus will travel to Los Angeles. The train and bus ride together take just under 9 hours. For schedules and ticket information, visit Amtrak.com.

- ┆ **Bus:** If you don't want to drive, let Greyhound get you there. Offering free wi-fi on board, Greyhound travels between San Jose and Los Angeles in 7 hours. Seats go for about \$29 per person, each way, and each passenger gets 1 checked bag free.
- ┆ **Car:** The fastest mode of transportation other than flying, driving is also the cheapest way to get to Los Angeles. There are two ways to get between the Bay Area and Los Angeles. Traveling via I-5, which involves taking 101 south to Gilroy, 152 over Pacheco Pass, and then I-5 for over 200 miles, often takes about 5 ½ hours, without stops. For a more scenic route, take the historic El Camino Real—highway 101—all the way to Los Angeles. You'll travel past Salinas, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Oxnard, often hugging the coast, especially near Santa Barbara. The trip usually takes about 7 hours, without stops.

Take a look at a comparison of driving, flying, and taking the train and bus to get from San Carlos to Los Angeles. The chart includes one-way costs, the length of trip, and other notes.

Comparison of Transportation from San Carlos to Los Angeles:

ONE-WAY COSTS AND TIMES:	COST	LENGTH OF TRIP	NOTES
BY CAR¹	Fuel: About \$35-\$55	5 ½ to 6 hours	Calculate your own fuel cost!
BY PLANE²	\$73.98	4 ½ to 5 hours	30 minutes to get to airport + 2 hours at airport + 1 ¼ hour flight + 30 minutes to get baggage + 30 minutes to get to city
BY TRAIN—COAST STARLIGHT (Direct)⁴	\$47 for one seat; \$171 for one private bunk-bed compartment, without a private bathroom	12 hours	Via Amtrak's Coast Starlight Train; the train is 11 hours, but getting to the station and checking in takes 1 hour total
BY TRAIN—SAN JOAQUIN (Train + Bus)^{3, 4}	\$59 total for one seat on a train and bus	9 ½ hours	Via Amtrak's San Joaquin Train and Thruway Bus; the train is 8 ½ hours, but getting to the station and checking in takes 1 hour
BY BUS³	\$32 for one seat, non-reserved on a bus	8 ½ hours	Via Greyhound; the bus is 7 hours, but getting to the station and checking in takes 1 ½ hours

It's important to realize that fitting a family of four in one car doesn't increase the fuel cost, where buying four plane, train, or bus tickets does cost four times the cost.

¹Based on taking 101 south to 152 in Gilroy to 5 in Los Banos, versus Highway 101 south to Los Angeles

²Based on one-way, per-person fares for travel on **Saturday, March 25, 2017** on Southwest Airlines from San Jose, CA – Los Angeles, CA; cost does not include transportation between airports and downtown

³Based on one-way, per-person fares for travel on **Saturday, March 25, 2017** on Amtrak

⁴The San Joaquin train departs from the Emeryville, CA Amtrak station. Travel times are taken into account on the chart.

⁵Based on one-way, per-person fares for travel on **Saturday, March 25, 2017** on Greyhound from San Jose, CA – Los Angeles, CA; cost does not include transportation between the Los Angeles terminal and downtown Los Angeles (about a 6 minute drive); ticket prices based on Wanderu (official ticket partner of Greyhound)

All modes of transportation can run late due to traffic, track congestion, inclement weather, etc.

Online Bonus: See the exhibit page for a link on calculating your own gas!

While these methods serve travelers' needs, researchers are planning more environmentally-friendly modes of transportation, like the California High-Speed Rail project. Take a look at what the future of traveling could be in the next part of the *SF → LA* exhibit.