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Press Release

Monterey Regional Airport's Travel Tips and Parking Information for Thanksgiving Holiday Passengers

Arrive 90 Minutes Early for On-Time Boarding; Additional Long-Term Parking Lot; Bring REAL ID or Passport

MONTEREY, CA, Nov. 24, 2026 - Locals and visitors traveling through Monterey Regional Airport (MRY) for the Thanksgiving holiday are being warmly welcomed by the airport team. Passengers are asked to do their part in planning for travel by reviewing MRY's travel tips and information. Learn more about MRY by visiting montereyairport.com.

Passengers may experience a little nostalgia knowing this is the final Thanksgiving they will travel through MRY's legacy passenger terminal. While construction continues inside the replacement passenger terminal located east of the legacy terminal, crews have paused construction on airport roadways to allow for free-flowing traffic over the peak travel period.

Tips for Thanksgiving Travelers
These tips will help Thanksgiving passengers enjoy an easy and efficient travel experience through MRY:

Arrive 90 minutes before flight departure time. MRY prioritizes getting passengers to the boarding gate on time. With more people moving about the country for Thanksgiving, departing passengers are asked to arrive to MRY 90 minutes before flight departure time, as the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) may stop checked bags that are dropped off at the ticket counter 45 minutes before departure.

REAL ID reminder. For those who haven't traveled by air recently, the TSA requires every passenger verify their identity by presenting a valid REAL ID or passport at security screening. Another option is the fee-based TSA ConfirmID. Learn more about documents required at security screening and packing checked and carry-on bags by visiting TSA.gov.

Park with confidence. Travelers living close to MRY may wish to use a taxi or ride share service, or ask a friend to drop off to keep parking spaces open for those traveling to MRY from farther distances. Those needing to park at MRY can learn about options, lot locations, and rates by visiting montereyairport.com/parking, including:

- Long-Term Parking: MRY now offers two Long-Term Parking lots, with the second opened just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. The lots are the best value for extended-stay travelers and offer a fully automated experience allowing customers to easily pay and get on their way. Additional amenities include:
    - Contactless payment: Secure, touchless transactions by waving a debit or credit card, smartphone, or smartwatch from the vehicle at the exit kiosk, and
    - Digital receipts: After payment, simply scan the QR code on the back of the parking ticket to download a receipt within 48 hours of exiting.
- Shuttle service is offered temporarily and daily between the Long-Term lots and legacy terminal during peak travel periods. Travelers should arrive early to park if planning to use the shuttle to ensure on-time boarding. Look for the orange “SHUTTLE” flags for the pick-up locations, both in the lot and at the terminal curbside near the MST bus stop.
- ADA and EV: In the Short-Term lot, ADA-accessible parking is available at the Long-Term lot rate and EV chargers are available for customers actively charging their vehicle, all on a first-come, first-served basis.

Oversized bags. Passengers planning to travel with checked and/or oversized baggage such as golf clubs or ski equipment can visit their airline website to learn about fees. Many airlines recommend booking bags as part of a flight reservation to save money and time at airport check-in.

Airport concessions. Located beyond security screening, Woody’s Cockpit offers packaged deli sandwiches and salads, snacks and beverages, and a full-service wine, beer, spirits, and barista bar. Gifts and More stocks grab-and-go items to enjoy at the gate or while in flight, and Monterey area-inspired apparel, souvenirs, snacks, and gifts that will be warmly received by the Thanksgiving host. Pre-security, Woody’s at the Airport offers a full-dining experience every day between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., including a Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings on Nov. 26. Reservations are recommended.

"Holiday travel is underway, and the Monterey Regional Airport team is delighted to welcome passengers as they reunite with loved ones during this historic Thanksgiving season, the last to be experienced in the legacy terminal" said **MRY Executive Director Chris Morello**. “We are very excited to share that we have opened an additional Long-Term parking lot in time for peak passenger activity and temporarily paused all construction on airport roadways so locals and visitors can move freely to and through the airport.”

“Given stormy weather forecasts both locally and afar, as well as more passengers traveling for the holiday, we recommend passengers plan to arrive to the terminal 90 minutes before flight departure time to ensure on-time boarding,” she added.

Carriers operating at MRY include Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Allegiant, and United Airlines. Also, for the first time in a generation, Delta Air Lines will return with nonstop service between MRY and Los Angeles and Salt Lake City on Dec. 19, 2026. Fly nonstop between MRY and Chicago (summer season), Dallas, Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Travelers are asked to visit MRY's website, montereyairport.com, and follow @montereyairport on Facebook, Instagram, and X for updated information and travel advisories, and to share any feedback and questions through these communications channels.

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About Monterey Regional Airport

Monterey Regional Airport (MRY) is Monterey County's only commercial service airport and accommodates over 650,000 passengers each year. The airport serves 10 nonstop markets with an average of 17 daily departures. MRY is committed to providing customers with superior services and a convenient, hassle-free experience in a safe, secure, and professional environment. The MRY Metamorphosis, an FAA-required Safety Enhancement Program, includes a replacement passenger terminal that will welcome passengers in summer 2027, and will transform how Monterey residents and visitors travel. Be sure to visit montereyairport.com and follow @montereyairport on Facebook, Instagram, and X.