

Thanksgiving is 55 days out. Here is what to lock in now.

This week I am watching the airport calendar, the gas pump, and the dates that decide what you pay.



\$4.41

U.S. average, regular gas
Down from \$4.48 last week, up from \$4.10 a month ago¹

\$6.40

California average
Up from \$5.68 a month ago and \$4.64 a year ago²

+9-13%

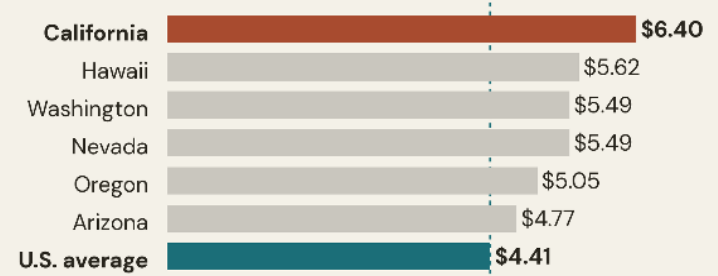
Thanksgiving airfares
Up year over year; Christmas fares are up 12-18%³

Oct. 31

Book Christmas flights by
Fare window opens Oct. 7, lowest near Oct. 29-Nov. 2⁴

WHAT I AM WATCHING

On the road



California drivers pay nearly \$2 more per gallon than the national average. Regular gas, per AAA¹, Oct. 1.

- **A record for the season.** September averaged \$4.33, 50 cents above the old September record¹.
- **Forecasts disagree.** The EIA sees a \$3.95 fourth-quarter average, while one analyst warns of \$5 by Nov. 3⁵.
- **Most trips are by car.** AAA counted nearly 82 million Thanksgiving travelers last year, about 90% by car, and has not yet released a 2026 forecast¹². Leave before noon Tuesday, Nov. 24 or before 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25⁶.

THE CALENDAR

Your booking window, October to January



THIS WEEK'S CHECKLIST

- ☐ Price Thanksgiving flights today and set fare alerts³.
- ☐ Pick your days: Thursday, Nov. 26 is the quietest, Sunday, Nov. 29 the busiest.
- ☐ Driving? Budget gas at today's price plus a cushion, and leave before noon.
- ☐ Book Christmas flights by Oct. 31, with refundable hotel and car options⁴.

ONE PIECE OF ADVICE

Move the date before you move the destination.
A new travel day beats most coupons.

1. AAA Gas Prices, Oct. 1: [gasprices.aaa.com/national-average-dips-following-re...](#)

2. Mercury News, Oct. 1: [mercurynews.com/2026/10/01/california-gas-prices-rec...](#)

3. The Points Guy, Sept. 2: [thepointsguy.com/airline/best-time-to-book-a-flight/](#)

4. Trip Traveling Guide: [triptravelingguide.com/when-to-book-christmas-flight...](#)

5. TheStreet, Sept. 20: [thestreet.com/economy/soaring-oil-gasoline-prices-ma...](#)

6. theSlickList: [theslicklist.com/thanksgiving-travel-busiest-days-20...](#)

7. withAutopilot: [withautopilot.com/blog/busiest-thanksgiving-travel-d...](#)

8. Trip Traveling Guide (TSA): [triptravelingguide.com/best-day-to-fly-thanksgiving/](#)

9. AirAdvisor (TSA): [airadvisor.com/en/statistics/tsa-checkpoint-travel-n...](#)

10. FlightKitten: [flightkitten.com/blog/thanksgiving-2026-cheap-flights](#)

11. withAutopilot, Christmas: [withautopilot.com/blog/when-to-book-christmas-flights](#)

12. Fox Baltimore: [foxbaltimore.com/news/local/aaa-thanksgiving-travel-...](#)

Fares and prices change daily; figures come from the sources above and may have moved since publication.