

Same route, nearly twice the fare. Timing is the whole game.

New fare data, a Gulf hurricane, and a thin fuel cushion out West.



GULF COAST ALERT · HURRICANE ISAIAS

A major hurricane (120 mph, NHC 7:20 a.m. CDT) is forecast to make landfall tonight or early Saturday inside a warning area from Ocean Springs, Miss. to the Bay/Gulf County line, Fla.⁸ Pensacola and Destin–Fort Walton Beach airports have closed, and major airlines have waived change fees for Oct. 9–10 Gulf Coast flights⁹. Traveling there? Follow the NHC and local officials.

\$402

Thanksgiving fares

Average domestic round trip, up 31% from last year¹

\$452

Christmas fares

Average domestic round trip, up 23% from last year¹

Oct. 19

Week to buy Thanksgiving

Kayak's data: fares jump inside two weeks of the holiday²

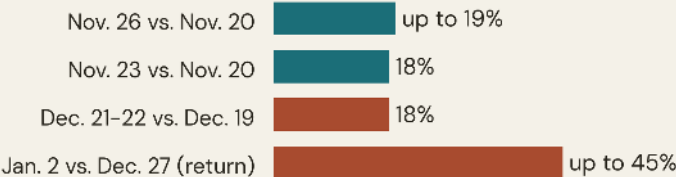
\$6.35

California gas today

9 cents under the 2022 record; U.S. average \$4.36³

IN THE SKY

Shift the date, keep the trip



Share of the fare saved by moving your departure. Domestic economy, Kayak²

\$487

Dec. 5–8

\$914

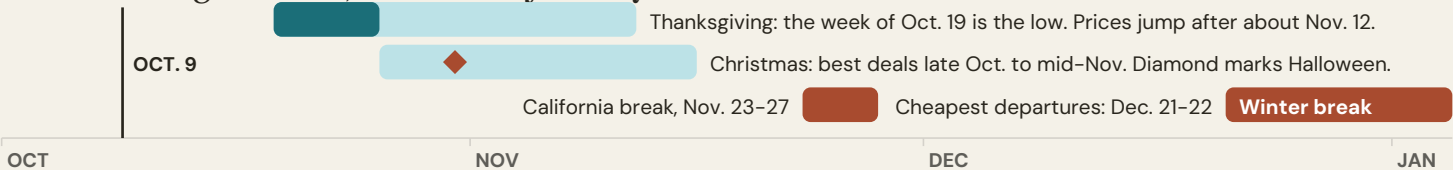
Dec. 23–26

Same 3–night trip, LAX to New York (Newark)⁴, 88% more. United fares⁵

- **Thanksgiving Day itself is the quietest.** Fares can run up to 19% lower than on Nov. 20².
- **California's calendar helps.** Most big districts are out Nov. 23–27 and from Dec. 21, the cheap days to leave⁵.

THE CALENDAR

Your booking window, October to January



THIS WEEK'S CHECKLIST

- ☐ Set Thanksgiving fare alerts now. Plan to buy the week of Oct. 19².
- ☐ Price Mon, Nov. 23 or Thanksgiving Day, not Fri, Nov. 20².
- ☐ For Christmas, check Mon, Dec. 21 or Tue, Dec. 22, and watch late October¹.
- ☐ Driving? Budget California gas at \$6 or more a gallon.
- ☐ Flying to the Gulf or Florida? Buy travel protection before a storm is named¹³.

ONE PIECE OF ADVICE

Set the alert today. Buy the week of Oct. 19.

Fares jump inside two weeks of the holiday.

1. Hopper/WaPo: [washingtonpost.com/travel/2026/10/08/kayak-holiday-travel-ch...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2026/10/08/kayak-holiday-travel-charts/)

2. Kayak: [kayak.com/news/holiday-travel-ch...](https://www.kayak.com/news/holiday-travel-charts/)

3. AAA: [gasprices.aaa.com/?state=CA](https://www.gasprices.aaa.com/?state=CA)

4. United: [united.com/en/us/deals/flights-f...](https://www.united.com/en/us/deals/flights-fares)

5. LAUSD calendar: [caschoolcalendar.com/los-angeles...](https://caschoolcalendar.com/los-angeles)

6. Auto Club: news.aaa-calif.com/news

7. EIA outlook: [eia.gov/outlooks/steo/](https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/)

8. NHC: [nhc.noaa.gov/](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/)

9. Travel Market Rpt: [travelmarketreport.com/news/arti...](https://www.travelmarketreport.com/news/article)

10. EIA closures: [eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php...](https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php)

11. CA Assembly: [autl.assembly.ca.gov/system/file...](https://autl.assembly.ca.gov/system/files)

12. CNN: [edition.cnn.com/2026/10/08/econo...](https://edition.cnn.com/2026/10/08/economy)

13. InsureMyTrip: [insuremytrip.com/insuring-your-t...](https://insuremytrip.com/insuring-your-trip)

Fares as of Oct. 9, gas as of Oct. 8, storm details as of 7:20 a.m. CDT Oct. 9; all may have moved. Fares shown are examples and may be Basic Economy.