

Thanksgiving fares hit their low next week. Book before Halloween.

Record holiday fares, the cheapest days to fly, gas easing in California, and quiet tropics.

TROPICS · QUIET FOR NOW There are no tropical cyclones in the Atlantic⁷, and the Hurricane Center expects none over the next seven days⁸. The season runs through Nov. 30, so keep refundable options if you fly to Florida or the Gulf.

\$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 book Thanksgiving

KAYAK: fares bottom out about five weeks before the holiday²

\$6.26

California gas today

Down 10 cents in a week; U.S. average \$4.33⁴

IN THE SKY

Pick the day, and the fare follows

Leave Mon, Nov. 23	\$370
Leave Thanksgiving Day	\$371
Leave Wed, Nov. 25	about \$420
Return Mon. or Tue.	about \$350
Return Sun, Nov. 29	\$604

Average domestic round trip by travel day, Thanksgiving week. Hopper¹

- **Skip the Sunday return.** Coming home Mon. or Tue. instead of Sun., Nov. 29 can save as much as \$250 a ticket¹.
- **Why fares are so high.** Jet fuel more than doubled, from about \$99 a barrel in February to a \$209 peak in April, and was \$195 in mid-September⁵.
- **Try two one-ways.** Two one-way tickets can beat a round trip by up to 29% on domestic routes².

ON THE ROAD

Gas is easing, slowly

Oct. 14, 2025	\$4.66
Sept. 14	\$6.00
Oct. 7	\$6.36
Wed, Oct. 14	\$6.26
Record (June 2022)	\$6.44

California regular gas, per gallon. AAA, as of Oct. 14⁴

- **A second week down.** California is off 10 cents from \$6.36 a week ago, and 18 cents under the June 2022 record⁴.
- **Still a record year.** The U.S. average, \$4.33, has now topped \$4 on 158 days in 2026, the most ever in one year⁶.
- **Driving for Thanksgiving?** Budget about \$6.25 a gallon in California and fill up before you hit the mountains or the desert.

THE CALENDAR

Your booking window, October to January

Thanksgiving flights: the low is the week of Oct. 19². Book before Halloween¹.

Christmas flights: best deals late Oct. to mid-Nov.³

California break, Nov. 23–27⁹

Skip Dec. 18–20 and Sun, Dec. 27¹

Winter break

OCT. 16

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

THIS WEEK'S CHECKLIST

- ☐ Book Thanksgiving flights next week, the week of Oct. 19². Before Halloween at the latest¹.
- ☐ Leave Mon., Nov. 23 or on Thanksgiving Day. Skip Fri., Nov. 20, the priciest day².
- ☐ Come home Mon. or Tue., not Sun., Nov. 29¹.
- ☐ Christmas: watch fares now through mid-November³. Avoid Dec. 18–20 and Sun., Dec. 27¹.
- ☐ Price two one-way tickets against the round trip before you buy².



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2. KAYAK, holiday flight savings: kayak.com/news/holiday-flight-savings/

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5. CBS News (IATA jet fuel), Oct. 15: cbsnews.com/news/holiday-airfares-10-yea...

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8. Naples Daily News (NHC outlook), Oct. 15: naplesnews.com/story/weather/hurricanes/...

9. LAUSD 2026–27 calendar: caschoolcalendar.com/los-angeles-unified...

Fares and hotel data as of mid-October, gas as of Oct. 14, tropics as of Oct. 15; all may have moved. Fares are averages and examples, not quotes.