

Ways to get to TJC Irvine from LAX:

First and foremost we would like to welcome you to TJC Irvine!

As locals, we would prefer and advise you to travel via John Wayne Airport - SNA. While it is true that LAX has cheaper flights than SNA, it doesn't take into account the transport time, effort and costs associated with flying in and out of LAX. Ultimately when taking those factors into account, the difference in cost between choosing SNA vs. LAX will usually be between \$50-\$100ish per leg for most flights when the comparison was made on google.flights.com.

From past TJC Irvine event participants' histories, due to delays with their connecting or arrival flight, participants have arrived extremely late (1am or later) which resulted in unsafe conditions for those involved - so please make an effort to try to avoid flights that are historically delayed or arrive late at night (after 7pm).

LAX is at a minimum 45 minutes away after 10 pm without traffic and 3+ hours during peak traffic hours. Rideshare prices from LAX can vary from \$70 to \$220 (one-way price so x2 for round-trip). In comparison, SNA is only 15 minutes away from TJC Irvine and most people take only 20 minutes from deplaning to curbside. Rideshare prices from SNA are usually about \$15-\$20.

Safety note: For those who are thinking of flying into LAX after 7pm please be advised that the area surrounding LAX is not a safe area after dark and to be cautious of booking late night arriving flights or flights that can be delayed for multiple hours, thus arriving after midnight.

It will be difficult to render aid at those times.

Flight booking note:

Popular flight aggregate websites such as: expedia, travelocity, priceline and others don't show certain airlines such as Southwest & Frontier so don't forget about those airlines as well. A full list of airlines that fly into SNA can be found here: <https://www.ocair.com/travelers/flights/airlines/>

Options put together by locals on how to get to TJC Irvine from LAX airport:

New option.

Starts: June 2025(?)

Automated people mover at LAX to LAX/Metro Transit Station to Union Station to Irvine or Tustin Metrolink/Amtrak Stop.

LAX Bus shuttle to LAX/Metro Transit Station (details tbd).

Option 1: LAX bus to Metro Green Line LAX/Aviation Station to Metro Green Line Norwalk Station to Uber/lyft to TJC Irvine

Note: LAX/Aviation Station and LAX/Metro Transit Station are two different lines

LAX bus to LAX train station (free), LAX/aviation Train station to Metro Norwalk Green Line Station (\$1.75 one-way or \$2 TAP card fare) and uber/lyft from Metro Norwalk Green Line Station (\$40-70ish). This may be one of the fastest options, other than directly ordering a rideshare straight to Irvine. Usually runs until midnight but I wouldn't recommend taking this route after dark or if traveling solo.

Google maps link:

<https://goo.gl/maps/ioCdido5pAF9GpjD9>

Sources:

<https://www.metro.net/riding/schedules/?line=803>

<https://www.metro.net/riding/fares/>

Option 1.1: LAX bus TO LAX Train Station TO Metro Green Line Norwalk Station VIA Bus TO Metrolink Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Train station TO Metrolink Tustin Station (very conditional but cheaper for larger groups)

LAX → LAX Train Station → Metro Green Line Norwalk Stn → Metrolink Norwalk/SFS train stn → Metrolink Tustin stn

The above steps with the added benefit of taking the Metrolink Train station in Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs to Metrolink Train station in Tustin (\$8/trip per person). There are 4 metrolink trains that depart on the weekend (Earliest at 9 AM, latest at 5:03 PM) with 9 metrolink trains that depart on weekdays (earliest at 6:52, latest at 6:54 PM). If you choose to travel via this method please request transportation via the Transportation Request Form www.bit.ly/TJCIrvine and fill out the appropriate sections and when selecting your mode of transportation do not choose 'Flights - both arrival and Departure' instead choose 'Mix of either flight, bus and/or train' and in the long answer provided you can write LAX to Tustin Station and transportation from Tustin Station to TJC Irvine will be arranged for you (and your party)

*****This is a niche choice only for those whose itinerary would coincide with the metrolink train schedule while assuming no delays, typically for those arriving before 1pm or EARLIER *****

Google link:

<https://goo.gl/maps/ijUhdX1jT1Wyy9ty5>

<https://metrolinktrains.com/schedules/>

- For the above website first select Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs to Tustin and then select your arrival date: 'Mon-Fri', 'Sat' or 'Sun'.
 - Please plan accordingly and in advance if you would like to choose this option since a safe approximation from LAX to Metrolink Norwalk/Santa Fe Train station is approximately 2.5 hours.
 - **Important Note: The first train company (Metro) and the second train company (Metrolink) are not the same, so passes are not interchangeable, and the Metro Norwalk Station and Metrolink Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs stations are not the same and you would also need to take the bus or walk (2.8 miles or can choose to rideshare) from the Metro Green Line Norwalk Train station to the Metrolink Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Station.**
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Option 2: LAXflyaway bus

Cost: \$19.75 one-way minimum (train ticket prices may vary at times)

It's a bus from LAX to LA Union station (\$9.75 one-way), and from LA Union Station there are two options:

1. Amtrak to Irvine Station (~\$10 one way)
2. Metrolink to Tustin OR Irvine Station (preferably Tustin because closer & if you miss it you can still get off at Irvine station) (~\$10 one-way)

Both Amtrak and Metrolink run on the same line but Amtrak doesn't stop at Tustin (its a semi-express line to San Diego). Both options are about the same cost but travel times are staggered (i.e. if Metrolink has a train at 10, then Amtrak has a train at 11, they don't double book), so check both train companies according to your time of arrival at LA Union Station. It should take about 3+ hours with this method (1.5 hrs from LAX to LA Union Station and 1 hour from LA Union Station to Tustin or Irvine Station). It's the cheapest method (\$40ish round-trip, when compared to \$70-200+ with uber/lyft and norwalk train station). This is the most recommended path for or solo travelers because it also lets them explore and also uses the TAP card. There is also a luggage storage option at Amtrak for about \$6/day. Just keep in mind it's a popular route as it's cheap so the buses can get full and they aren't exactly punctual and its best to travel during the day and to have an early itinerary.

Google link from LA Union Station to Metrolink Tustin Station:

<https://goo.gl/maps/FX7icUo52sBhmtQq6>

<https://www.flylax.com/flyaway-bus/union-station>

<https://usebounce.com/s?nearMe=true&bags=2&from=2022-04-12T1800&to=2022-04-12T2100&query=Union%20Station%2C%20800%20N%20Alameda%20St%2C%20Los%20Angeles%2C%20CA%2090012%2C%20USA>

Option 3: Rideshare via Uber or Lyft

Cost: \$70-\$250+

Depending on time/traffic, it may be the fastest option, but also the most expensive. There is a huge variance in price since it is a very busy airport and sometimes you may have to wait a couple hours for the \$70 option due to the nature of ridesharing.

It is best to have both apps available as sometimes one app might be significantly cheaper than the other at the same exact time and place (i.e. Uber might be \$250 while Lyft might be \$75)

This option would work best for a group of up to 3 or maybe 4 if there isn't a lot of luggage and could be an affordable and fast option as well.

If you are arriving late at night (after 8pm or so), it is best to use this option since there would be less public transit options and this is one of the safest options. If flying solo, it may be best to just change to SNA in this case as the fare difference isn't usually \$250.

It is also possible to take the free shuttles within LAX terminals to certain hotels and/or car rental areas such as Hilton, Westin, Marriott, etc. From there, it might be cheaper to take an uber or Lyft than taking it while being geofenced in as a LAX transport according to the apps pricing algorithms.

There is also the shuttle to the train, but that one is a less favored option as you might as well take the train from that point on to get even closer to Irvine/Orange County if your luggage makes it easier for you to travel - This is not a good option at night as the area around LAX is not safe and a shuttle to a popular/ritzy hotel would be a better option, also those trains might not be running late at night anyways.

Option 4: Shuttle options

Supershuttle, Primetime shuttle, asian catered shuttle/rideshare services are also available. Most shuttle services are about \$150-\$190 for up to 7 persons which comes out to about \$20-30ish/person with tips (for 7), it might be a bit cheaper with asian shuttle/rideshare services but not by much and is sometimes a bit more sketch.

This is a good option if participants are able to arrange travel in a group, even better if it's in groups of up to 7 as both SuperShuttle and Primetime can accommodate a maximum of 7 people per vehicle for maximum value.

<https://www.supershuttle.com/>

<https://www.primetimeshuttle.com/>

Option 5: Asian Shuttle

“Sandy Lucky Shuttle” (909) 539-9533.

Good for Mandarin-only speakers

This is an option that was provided by NATS participants.

Disclaimer: TJC Irvine is not associated with “Sandy Lucky Shuttle” nor does it have a working relationship, it is just an option that has been utilized by other participants in the past.

Option 6: Fly into San Diego Airport

San Diego International Airport is a much more convenient airport than LAX and actually have a direct train from SAN to Irvine Metrolink or Tustin Train stations.

Average elapsed time: ~3 hours.

There are many options out of San Diego Airport to Old Town Transit Center - or any amtrak train station, but the closest to the airport is Old Town Transit Center.

1. Walk to the light rail - Take the light rail to Old Town Transit Center
2. Rideshare options: Uber & Lyft to Old Town Transit Center
3. Misc free or low cost buses/shuttles via Flyer or others from San Diego International Airport to Old Town Transit Center.

From Old Town Transit Center purchase an Amtrak ticket to either Tustin Train station or Irvine Train station - aim for Irvine Train station, because if you miss that one you'll hit Tustin Train station - Tustin is idea but sometimes trains don't stop at Tustin so make sure with the conductor or other personnel so you can get out at around Irvine or Tustin.

From Either Tustin or Irvine train stations, rideshare options are about a 10 min drive to TJC Irvine or if you planned in advance, a member may volunteer for pickup at the train station at an agreed upon time beforehand.

These are not all the options, these are only options that have been deemed the best by locals in terms of price, time and effort.

There are also a variety of other travel options online, however some of those options are no longer in service such as: the disney bus - taking a bus from LAX to Disney, shuttles from LAX to SNA, shuttle2lax, and others have shuttered their services due to covid.

Misc tips:

Tips on getting through LAX security when flying out:

All LAX terminals are connected

Go through any security checkpoint, just make sure you aren't going from one extreme end of the airport to the other (i.e. If your flight is out of terminal 7 don't enter from terminal 1 unless you have at least an hour or so.

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