

My First 24 Hours in California:

**My flight has officially landed-
now what?**

**An international student's guide to
things you should expect and
prepare for before your arrival.**



Checkpoint 1: Immigration



Look for the Non-U.S. Citizen/Visitors line
Have your documents ready:

1. I-20
2. SEVIS fee receipt
3. Passport and Visa
4. Customs Declaration Form
5. Other supporting documents for your stay in United States (if applicable)

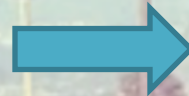
Tips: cellphone and camera usage is not permitted before passing through immigration

Questions to expect from the Immigration Officer



Sample questions:

What is your country of origin?
Where is your final destination?
Why are you here?
What are you studying?
Who's paying for you?
Where will you be living?



Once you are cleared, the officer will ask for you fingerprints and take your photo.

Tips: Immigration officers can be quite intimidating and demanding, stay calm and answer their questions to the best of your ability. Provide short and firm answers. Do not provide any extra information.

In case of secondary inspection:

- Secondary inspections can take two hours to several hours depends the information the office would like to explore.
- If you are being picked up from the airport, make sure to let the person know of this possibility as cellphone use is not allowed during inspections.
- Refer to your I-20 package for additional information to prepare for immigration inspection



Checkpoint 2: Baggage Claim



Look for your flight number and what carousel your baggage will be arriving on, look up to find this on a small monitor, or listen to announcements made through the PA system.

Retrieve your baggage

Tips: special sized baggage will be placed in the aisle nearest your carousel

Checkpoint 3: Customs



U.S. Customs and Border Protection
FORM APPROVED CBP Form 6059B (10/07)

Customs Declaration
Each arriving traveler or responsible family member must provide the following information (only ONE written declaration per family is required):

1. Family Name: AGASTROZOG
First (Given): NEEL Middle: A
2. Birth date: Day 05 Month 08 Year 30
3. Number of Family members traveling with you: 0
4. (a) U.S. Street Address (hotel name/destination):
(b) City: _____ (c) State: _____
5. Passport issued by (country): USA
6. Passport number: _____
7. Country of Residence: USA
8. Countries visited on this trip prior to U.S. arrival: GERMANY, KUWAIT, QATAR, OMAN, SAUDI ARABIA, UIC
9. Airline/Flight No. or Travel Agency: AA 105
10. The primary purpose of this trip is business: Yes No
11. I am (We are) bringing:
(a) fruits, vegetables, plants, seeds, food, insects: Yes No
(b) meats, animals, animal/wildlife products: Yes No
(c) disease agents, cell cultures, snails: Yes No
(d) soil or have been on a farm/ranch/pasture: Yes No
12. I have (We have) been in close proximity of (such as touching or handling) livestock: Yes No
13. I am (We are) carrying currency or monetary instruments over \$10,000 U.S. or foreign equivalent (see definition of monetary instruments on reverse): Yes No
14. I have (We have) commercial merchandise (articles for sale, samples used for soliciting orders, or goods that are the considered personal effects): Yes No
15. Residents — the total value of all goods, including commercial merchandise I've purchased or acquired abroad, (including gifts for someone else, but not items shipped to the U.S.) and articles bringing to the U.S. is: \$ _____
Visitors — the total value of all articles that will remain in the U.S. including commercial merchandise is: \$ _____

Read the instructions on the back of this form. Space is provided to list all the items you must declare.

I HAVE READ THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM AND HAVE MADE A TRUTHFUL DECLARATION.

Signature: _____ Date (day/month/year): _____

For Official Use Only

CBP Form 6059B (10/07) collectSPACE



When you have retrieved all your luggage, you will fall into another line in order to exit. This line leads to your final checkpoint, customs.

Have your blue Customs Declaration form in hand, ready to pass to the Customs Officer at the end of the line.

This Officer will decide whether they will conduct a bag search, or they will let you exit into California.

Welcome to California!

Is someone picking you up at the
Arrival Gate?



There is no free Wi-Fi service at the arrival gate. Pay phones are located at either ends of the arrival hall. Only quarters (25c) are accepted.

Is someone picking you up
outside?



If someone is picking you up outside, agree on a specific airline sign to stand under. Popular choices: Cathay Pacific, Korean Air, Air Canada, United Airlines

Tips for planning prior to arrival:

Have contact numbers copied down in case that person can't find you, is running late, or can't be there. Make a backup plan before you arrive.

Airport Transition Options:

Los Angeles Airport FlyAway

If someone wants to pick you up closer to their homes, consider: **LAX FlyAway**

LAX → Major Metro Stations

- Expo/ La Brea (Los Angeles)
- Union Station (Downtown Los Angeles)
- Van Nuys (San Fernando Valley)
- Westwood (West Los Angeles)



Where to catch it: Lower/Arrival Level,
under green FlyAway, Buses and Long Distance Van sign



How to buy a ticket: Purchase ticket on the bus with Visa, Mastercard, or American Express (cash is not accepted)

For more information, visit: http://www.lawa.org/welcome_LAX.aspx?id=292

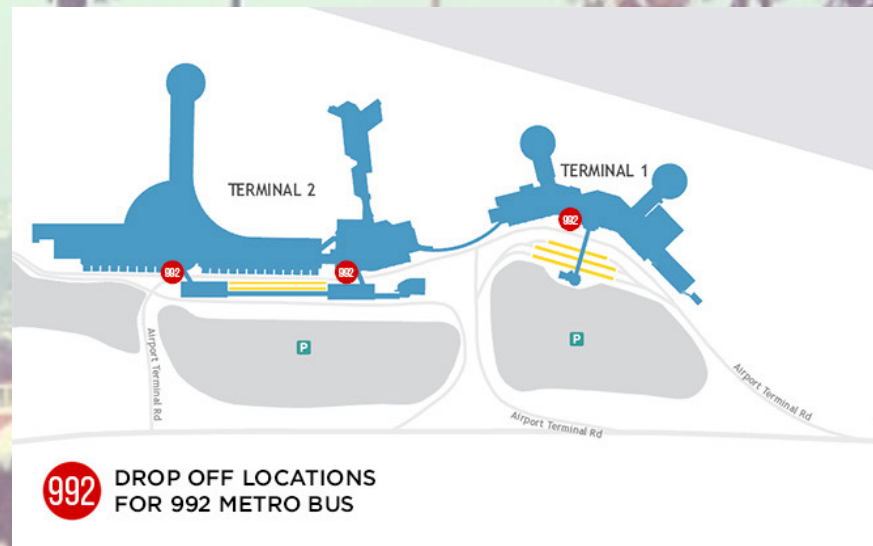
John Wayne Airport and Santa Anna Public Transit

- Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Route 76, and the i Shuttle, Route A, service John Wayne Airport. Their bus stop is located on the Arrival (lower) Level, curbside, in front of Terminal B.
- The nearest train stations are located in Irvine, Santa Ana and Tustin, all approximately 10 miles from John Wayne Airport. The closest Greyhound stop is located in the Santa Ana train station. The iShuttle, Route A, connects the Tustin Metrolink Station to John Wayne Airport via Von Karman Avenue.
- Visit the [ocair](http://ocair.com) for more info



San Diego Airport Public Transportation

- City Bus Public transit is available to and from the Airport and downtown San Diego on the Metropolitan Transit System's Route 922, which stops at Terminals 1 and 2, and operates between 5:00 a.m. and 11:30 p.m., every 15 minutes on weekdays and every 30 minutes on weekends and holidays.
- [Click here](#) for more transportation information for SD Airport



Airport Transportation Option:

Share Ride Vans for All Airports

Share ride vans are essentially like a taxi providing door to door service, the only difference is that you will be sharing the van with others along the same route, so there may be detours before you each your destination.

You are encouraged to contact the companies and book online with your flight information and intended destination.

<https://www.primetimeshuttle.com>

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

Prime Time Shuttle



SuperShuttle



Transportation Option:

Rideshare Apps for All Airports

- Services like Uber and Lyft are like taxis and bring you right to your destination.
- Simply download and set up the app on your phone, and enter your destination.
- Where to go?
 - Uber and Lyft have a designated pick up location that are different at every airport. Follow the signs at the airport or ask the information desk for help.

The Uber logo is displayed in white text on a black rectangular background. The word "Uber" is written in a clean, sans-serif font.

Uber

The Lyft logo is displayed in white text on a pink rectangular background. The word "lyft" is written in a lowercase, rounded, sans-serif font.

lyft

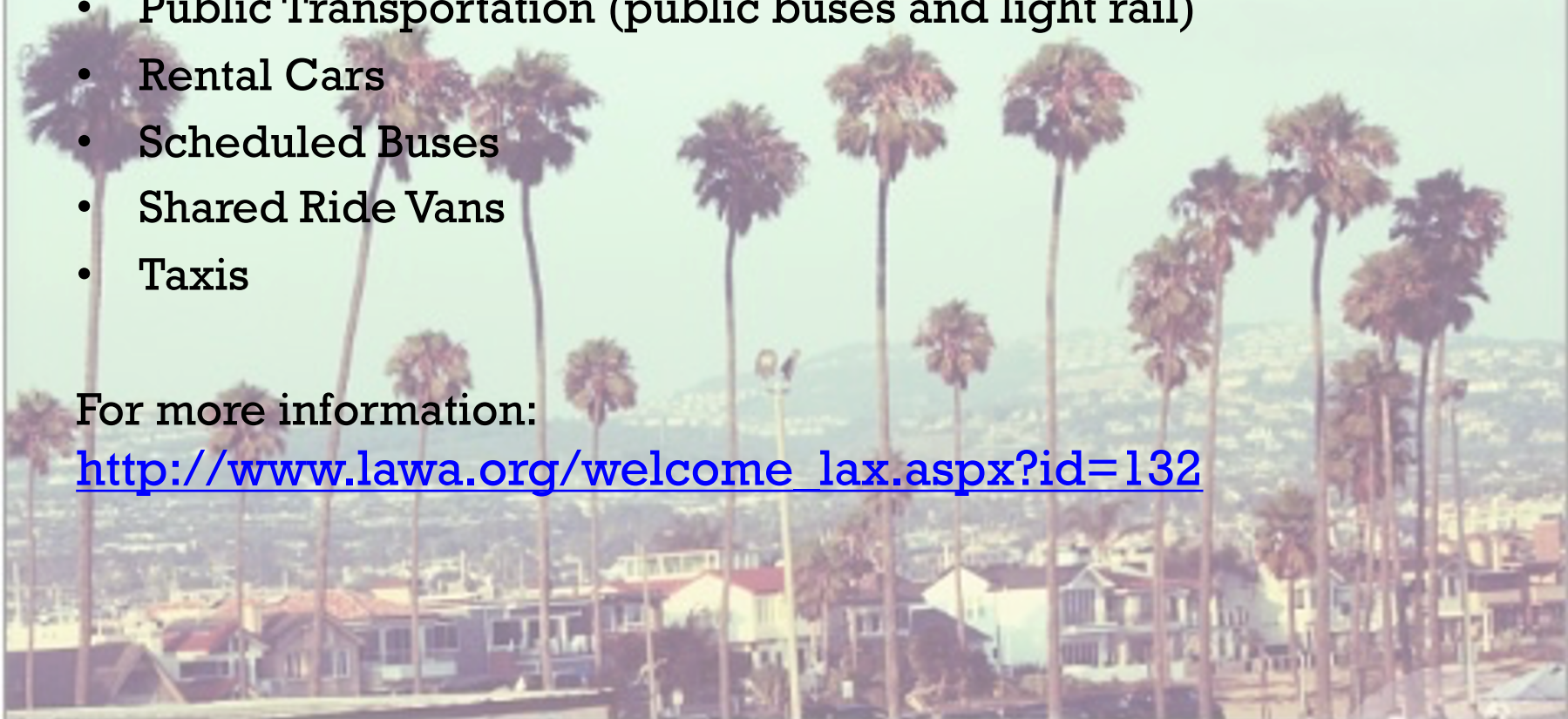
Airport Transportation Option:

Other On-Ground Transportations

- Hotel & Parking Lot Shuttles
- Long Distance Vans
- Public Transportation (public buses and light rail)
- Rental Cars
- Scheduled Buses
- Shared Ride Vans
- Taxis

For more information:

http://www.lawa.org/welcome_lax.aspx?id=132



Not sure where to go?

If you are landing in California for the first time, don't have family or friends here to help, the first week may be daunting.

The first thing you should consider: finding temporary lodging for a week while you set out looking for a place to rent.



Temporary Lodging: Hotels and Hostels

It is important to find a safe environment for you to relax and be in the neighborhood you want to. Treat it as a vacation!



Refer to [*Living Guide for International Students*](#) for consider living in



Choose and book hotel/hostel in that area

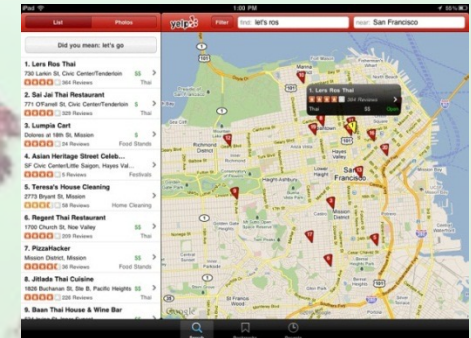


What about Food?

You're in a new area, settled down, checked in, but now you realize how hungry you are, but have no idea what to eat.



Solution: [Yelp.com!](https://www.yelp.com)



Everyone in California uses Yelp as their guide to food and shops. Download the app on your smartphone before traveling, there is ample Wi-Fi in cafes and malls even if your hostel/hotel does not provide it.

Delivery Apps

- If you are tired from your travels and don't feel like going out to eat don't worry! Most restaurants in California deliver.
- If the restaurant of your choice does not deliver try one of these delivery apps. A majority of restaurants participate in these services and you can get your food delivered right to your door for a small fee. Most of these apps also offer deals for first time users.



Once you've settled down, gotten over jet lag, consider your next 48 hours...

- Opening a bank account, obtaining a debit card
- Getting a metro TAP card
- Finding a place to rent
- REPORT TO YOUR DSO
- Prepare for Orientation (you can check the orientation schedule [here](#))

Refer to *Living Guide for International Students* for more information

**If you have any questions do not hesitate to
contact your DSO, your International
Student Advisor.**

[DSO Contact Page](#)

**For other helpful information please visit
the [International Programs and Services](#)
website**

