

USING Alternate Airports Can SAVE YOU \$\$\$\$\$\$

When searching for airfares, too many consumers put on blinders when choosing an airport to fly from or to. But that can be costly.

Here in Northern California we have: SFO, OAK, SMF, SJC and RNO. Used to be that the bay area locations were “common rated” but not anymore. SJC and OAK are regularly having “peepee matches” otherwise known as competition – to outdo one another for popular destinations i.e. Hawaiian Islands, Mexico etc. on the same airline – Alaska Airlines...I’ve seen rates saving \$200 per person on some destinations.

*The different airlines may offer NON-STOP to the various destinations from one airport or the other on specific days, **sometimes this is seasonal**. With regards to HA this could avoid a stop and change in HNL. If two (2) or more are traveling together – the total savings would more than compensate if you had to do a Park-n-Fly for either/and pre or post hotel, which is great if you are leaving extremely early or returning extremely late.*

*This is especially useful if you have a couple of hours drive to the major gateway in the bay area from Sacramento. **Good to know:** if you were to stay a night at either end at an airport you get a room only rate for the 2nd night rather than the ‘package’ which also would save money. The convenience is really worth it simply by that but the bonus is that you get a transfer to and from the hotel – door to door to the check-in at the airport **in most cases**. With the park-n-fly program. No hassles with parking etc. You do have to be selective in that not all hotels offer 24 hr. pick-up or delivery. Many do but you have to contact them upon arrival if it is outside of their regular pick-up times....but easy-peasy.*

Examples:

Prices researched on July 11, 2016 For Hawaii:

<i>Examples:</i>	<i>FROM:</i>
<i>SFO-OGG Aug. 9-16 NON-stop</i>	<i>\$598 Hawaiian \$170 pp dif. With OAK</i>
<i>OAK-OGG Aug. 9-16 NON-stop</i>	<i>\$418 Hawaiian and Alaska Air</i>
<i>SJC-OGG Aug. 9-16 Non-stop</i>	<i>\$428 Hawaiian</i>
<i>SMF-OGG Aug. 9-16 1-stop</i>	<i>\$682 Hawaiian \$264 diff. from OAK pp.</i>

Then, I researched for flights to Mexico – Puerto Vallarta

Prices as of July 11, 2016 For PVR:

<i>Examples:</i>	
<i>SJC-PVR Aug. 10-17 Non-stop</i>	<i>\$358 Virgin America \$190 LESS than OAK</i>
<i>OAK-PVR Aug. 10-17 Non-stop</i>	<i>\$549 Virgin America</i>

SFO-PVR Aug. 10-17 Non-stop \$358 Virgin America **\$190 LESS than OAK**
SMF-PVR Aug. 10-17 no non \$416 American Airlines (PHX, or MEX top)

Nearly \$200 more per person to depart. OAK Surprisingly SMF was a Great price but not a non-stop....

Information below is by Airfare Watch BLOG: George Hobica dated May 06/2016

One way to research alternate airport airfares: check the airlines' route maps. [Here's a handy list](http://www.airfarewatchdog.com/pages/3799645/airline-routes-official-airline-route-maps/) (<http://www.airfarewatchdog.com/pages/3799645/airline-routes-official-airline-route-maps/>)

(The rest of his article with specific examples)

Let's say you need to fly to Detroit from New York's three major airports. Searching recently for May travel, I found nonstop fares on United from Newark around \$300 round-trip with tax. American had a few flights for \$135 from Laganardia, and Jetblue had seats ranging from \$233 to \$279 round-trip from JFK. But were you to drive or take New Jersey Transit to Trenton and fly from there, **Frontier Airlines would fly you nonstop for \$78 round-trip.** Frontier also flies to Florida from Trenton at fares that are often half or less than from Newark or Philly.

Another example: Delta was recently charging \$207 round-trip to fly from New York's JFK to Atlanta for May travel. But Southwest had fares as low as \$156 from Long Island's Islip Airport. Not only is Islip less hassle than JFK, with cheaper parking and shorter security lines, but if you live on Long Island anyway why schlep into Queens just to pay more? Plus, of course, you get two free checked bags on Southwest. Were you needing to fly from the New York area to Ft. Lauderdale in May, a one-way flight on JetBlue leaving on May 29 was going for \$169 recently. But nonstop from Newburgh, NY? \$135 on the same date. Again, if you live north of the city anyway why drive to JFK? So think alternate airports, no matter where you're flying from *or to*. Recently Delta had a sale to Sydney, Australia. It was charging \$916 round-trip from many smaller airports, such as Harrisburg, PA and Augusta, Georgia . But from Atlanta, just a two hours drive from Augusta, [the fare was \\$1800 on the same dates.](#)

And it's not just "from" airports. If you're flying to Tokyo, you have two airports to consider: the better-known Narita but perhaps closer-in [Haneda](#) will cost less. Headed for London? Check Norwegian.com's fares into [Gatwick](#) instead of fares into Heathrow

RECOMMENDATION: Go to www.airfarewatchdog.com and sign up to receive their alerts. You can list preferable airports and BE AMAZED.