

## AMEC 2018 TRAVEL ADVISORIES, AIR TRAVEL, and LODGING INFORMATION

### Travel Advisories

#### Remember the time differential!

A number of AMEC participants will travel from the East Coast and the Midwest. When planning travel, it is important to remember the differential between the several time zones. The AMEC program typically begins at midday on Thursday and ends with the closing Banquet on Saturday night. The 2018 West Coast location will affect some travel plans, especially for those traveling from the East. Most flight from the East will take a minimum of six hours and could be more for some locations, so plan accordingly. There is a three hour time differential between the coasts, so scheduling a non-stop flight from an East Coast on Thursday morning—say, from Atlanta or New York--departing at around 8:00 AM EST will arrive in San Francisco around 2:00 PM EST, but about 11:00 AM, Pacific Time! So, this sample itinerary—leaving on Thursday--would permit the traveler to arrive on time for the conference’s official opening at midday on Thursday.

For those desiring a more relaxed travel itinerary or who may have to deal with time variances caused by connecting flights, the better choice may be to travel outbound on Wednesday evening. Working backward, taking a night flight from Atlanta, say at 8:00 PM on Wednesday evening, will get you out to San Francisco also in about 6 hours, arriving at 2:00 AM East Coast time, but 11:00 PM Pacific Time. This travel schedule will permit you a full night’s sleep before the AMEC program begins on Thursday, but will of course require an extra night’s stay in the hotel. Still, you have choices.

Your return trip home, is similar, in so far as accommodating time differences. Most attendees will certainly stay for the AMEC closing banquet on Saturday and will plan to depart San Francisco on Sunday morning. Here again, though, are some choices that may vary with the time differential; i.e., if you are traveling to Atlanta, New York, D.C., or Philadelphia and you leave San Francisco at 10:00 AM, you will arrive at your East Coast destination (non-stop) about six hours later, at 4:00 PM Pacific time, which is 7:00 PM east coast time! If you choose on Sunday to do a bit of sightseeing in California and take an evening flight, say around 6:00 PM, this means you will arrive at your East Coast destination six hours later, around 12:00 PM Pacific time, but 3:00 AM EST--commonly called the “Red Eye”--later still, if you have to make connections. You may not want to be schlepping around an airport or dealing with shuttles and taxis in the wee hours of the morning, so plan your return travel accordingly.

#### Selected Air Fares to San Francisco and Other Resources

Travel Dates, March 28-April 1, 2018 (Wed-Sun)

The following table shows the lowest fares, regardless of time of departure, as obtained from one of the on-site travel brokers, Orbitz.com in summer of 2017. Other travel outlets--Travelocity, Expedia, Kayak, etc.--may offer the same or different fares. The National Headquarters has looked into selecting an airline offering group discounts, but the few found offered negligible advantage and were very restrictive. Even with group discounts, travelers do best, we find, by shopping the different on-line travel outlets and identifying the schedules and fares that best suit their unique needs. Interim stops and travel times may be different from than those posted here, so check more than one source. Also compare fares posted by the individual carriers. Be sure and check stipulations for “non-refundable” and “changes” on ticket purchases.

	<i>Roundtrip fares from:</i>	<i>To</i> <b>San Francisco (SFO)</b>
1	<b>Atlanta</b> (ATL)	\$417 – NS 5.5 hrs.
2	<b>Boston</b> (BOS)	\$351 – NS 7.5 hrs.
3	<b>Baltimore</b> (BWI)	\$532 – NS 5.75 hrs.

	<i>Roundtrip fares from:</i>	<i>To</i> <b>San Francisco (SFO)</b>
12	<b>Nashville</b> (BNA)	\$452 – 1 stop (DTW) 7.75 hrs.
13	<b>New York</b> (JFK)	\$373 – NS 6.75 hrs.
14	<b>Newark</b> (EWR)	\$413 – NS 6.5 hrs.

4	<b>Chicago</b> (ORD)	\$400– 1 stop (SLC) 6.5 hrs.
5	<b>Cleveland</b> (CLE)	\$417 – 1 stop (MSP) 9.75 hrs.
6	<b>Detroit</b> (DTW)	\$472 – 1 stop (DEN) 7.5 hrs.
7	<b>Dallas</b> (DFW)	\$291 – 1 stop (DEN) 6 hrs.
8	<b>Houston</b> (HOU)	\$401 – 1 stop (DEN) 6.25 hrs.
9	<b>Indianapolis</b> (IND)	\$402 – 1 stop (LAX or MSP) 8 hrs.-9 hrs.
10	<b>Little Rock</b> (LIT)	\$420 – 1 stop (ATL) 7 hrs.
11	<b>Los Angeles</b> (LAX)	\$112 – NS 1.5 hr.

15	<b>New Orleans</b> (MSY)	\$370 – 1 stop (LAX) 6.5 hrs.
16	<b>Philadelphia</b> (PHL)	\$468 – NS 6 hrs.
17	<b>Pittsburgh</b> (PIT)	\$460 – 1 stop (ORD) 7.5 hrs.
18	<b>Raleigh/Durham</b> (RDU)	\$451– NS 6 hrs.
19	<b>St. Louis</b> (STL)	\$363 – NS 4.5 hrs.
20	<b>Washington</b> (BWI)	\$519– NS 6.25
21	<b>Washington</b> (IAD)	\$491– 1 stop (LAX) 8 hrs.
22	<b>Washington</b> (DCA)	\$502– 1 stop (DFW) 8.5 hrs.

*Remember ...*

- Early booking almost *always* offers the best price advantage.
- Look for tickets that offer the possibility for changes, cancellations and refunds.
- It is not unusual to purchase an airline ticket many months ahead of intended travel. Even now, in fall/winter of 2017, some schedules and flights for 2018 are *already* limited.
- Non-stop flights are certainly quicker, but are sometimes more costly; yet, equally as often, they are not and you end-up spending more money anyway. Since ‘time is money,’ in the long run, it may be more practical to pay a few dollars more for a direct flight.
- You might also check flights into San Jose and Oakland. They are sometimes cheaper, but the extended commute (Super Shuttle) will cost you more anyway and the trip will take longer. Better to go direct to San Fran.
- Of course, it is difficult to plan a long-distance trip and not plan on seeing some of the local attractions. So, if you can, build-in an extra day in your budget for sightseeing. There are some great museums within easy walking distance of the hotel and other attractions all along the California coast.

### Lodging and Other Travel Resources

AMEC Registration	On-line now.
AMEC Hotel Reservations: Marriott Marquis Hotel Reservations, website Marriott Marquis Hotel Reservations, telephone	<a href="https://aws.passkey.com/go/snma2018">https://aws.passkey.com/go/snma2018</a>  (877) 622-3056
Marriott Marquis Hotel (home page)	<a href="http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/sfodt-san-francisco-marriott-marquis/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2">http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/sfodt-san-francisco-marriott-marquis/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2</a>
<i>San Francisco Travel</i> San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau	<a href="http://www.sftravel.com/">http://www.sftravel.com/</a>
Trip Advisor: Ten Things to do in San Francisco	<a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g60713-Activities-San_Francisco_California.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g60713-Activities-San_Francisco_California.html</a>
Google Travel Guide	<a href="https://www.google.com/destination?q=Visit+San+Francisco&amp;site=search&amp;output=search&amp;dest_mid=/m/0d6lp&amp;sa=X&amp;ved=0ahUKEwjC9YDR67PVAhXGOT4KHeA7BLMQri4ImgEwEQ">https://www.google.com/destination?q=Visit+San+Francisco&amp;site=search&amp;output=search&amp;dest_mid=/m/0d6lp&amp;sa=X&amp;ved=0ahUKEwjC9YDR67PVAhXGOT4KHeA7BLMQri4ImgEwEQ</a>
BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit)	<a href="https://www.bart.gov/guide/transit">https://www.bart.gov/guide/transit</a>
Super Shuttle	<a href="https://www.supershuttle.com/">https://www.supershuttle.com/</a>