= McCarran International Airport =

 McCarran International Airport (IATA : LAS , ICAO : KLAS , FAA LID : LAS) is the primary commercial airport serving the Las Vegas Valley , a major metropolitan area in the U.S. state of Nevada . It is located in Paradise , about 5 miles (8 @.@ 0 km) south of downtown Las Vegas . The airport is owned by Clark County and operated by the Clark County Department of Aviation . It is named after Pat McCarran , a former Nevada senator who contributed to the development of aviation both in Las Vegas and on a national scale .

 The airport was built in 1942 and opened to commercial flights in 1948 . It has undergone significant expansion since then and has employed various innovative technologies , such as common @-@ use facilities . The airport consists of four runways and two passenger terminals : Terminal 1 and Terminal 3 . Terminal 1 is composed of four concourses , namely the A , B , C , and D Gates ; Terminal 3 contains the E Gates . A people mover system is in place between the pre @-@ security area of Terminal 1 and the C and D Gates , as well as between the D Gates and Terminal 3 . East of the passenger terminals is the Marnell Air Cargo Center , and on the west side of the airports are facilities for fixed @-@ base operators and helicopter companies .

 McCarran received over 45 @,@ 300 @,@ 000 passengers in 2015 , a 5 @.@ 8 % increase over the previous year but still below pre @-@ recession levels . It is the 26th busiest airport in the world by passenger traffic and the 8th busiest by aircraft movements . The airport has nonstop air service to destinations in North America , Europe , and Asia . It is an operating base for Allegiant Air , as well as a crew and maintenance base for Southwest Airlines and Spirit Airlines .

= = History = =

= = = Origins (1920 ? 48) = = =

 Anderson Field was the first airport to serve Las Vegas , opening in November 1920 . Purchased by the Rockwell brothers in 1925 , the airfield was renamed Rockwell Field , and Western Air Express (WAE) introduced commercial air service in April 1926 . When the brothers sold Rockwell Field and the new owner canceled WAE 's lease , the airline had to look for another airport . Local businessman P. A. Simon had built an airfield northeast of the city , to which WAE relocated in November 1929 .

 Despite rising traffic to Las Vegas , WAE reduced service to the city amid the Great Depression . Once its financial situation improved , the airline bought the airfield and established a monopoly on flights to it . When the city attempted to purchase the field and build a more modern terminal , WAE refused . With the advent of World War II , however , WAE was pressured to sell the airfield . Nevadan Senator Pat McCarran helped obtain federal funding for the city to buy the field and construct a new terminal . He also helped establish a gunnery school by the United States Army Air Corps at the field . For the senator 's contributions , the airport was named McCarran Field in 1941 .

 The gunnery school was closed in 1945 after the end of World War II . However , the Army later wanted to reopen its base , provided commercial air traffic was moved to another airport . Aviator George Crockett agreed to sell his airfield , Alamo Field , to the county . The field had been established in 1942 and had grown into a major general aviation facility . Alamo Field also took Senator McCarran 's name , becoming McCarran Field on December 19 , 1948 . The opening of this new airfield broke Western Air Express ' monopoly on flights to Las Vegas , allowing other airlines to serve the market . Meanwhile , the Army reopened its base at the original McCarran Field in 1949 and named it Nellis Air Force Base in 1950 .

= = = Early expansion (1949 ? 96) = = =

 In its first year of operation , McCarran Field served over 35 @,@ 000 passengers . As Las Vegas ' casino industry grew and air travel became more popular during the 1950s , passenger traffic to the

airfield rose significantly , with 959 @,@ 603 passengers transiting through it in 1959 . To cope with the increase , airport officials began planning a new passenger terminal . While the original terminal was located on Las Vegas Boulevard , the new terminal was built on Paradise Road . The terminal , whose design was inspired by the TWA Flight Center in New York City , opened on March 15 , 1963 .

The airport was officially renamed McCarran International Airport in September 1968 . Further expansion took place between 1970 and 1974 with the construction of the A and B gates . After the airline industry was deregulated in 1978 , the number of airlines serving McCarran doubled from seven to fourteen in only two years . In response , the county launched an expansion plan named McCarran 2000 , detailing expansion projects to be undertaken into the year 2000 . Expanded baggage claim facilities , an esplanade , and a parking garage were inaugurated in 1985 . The C Gates and the first line of the people mover system followed in 1987 .

Further expansion took place during the 1990s . The Charter / International Terminal , later renamed Terminal 2 , was opened in December 1991 to handle rising international traffic to Las Vegas . An additional , nine @-@ story parking garage and an underground tunnel linking the Las Vegas Beltway to the airport were constructed as well . In June 1998 , the southwest and southeast wings of the D Gates were opened .

During the late 1990s , the airport focused on attracting foreign airlines . In 1994 , Condor Flugdienst began charter flights from Germany , launching scheduled service from Cologne and Frankfurt in 1997 . Northwest Airlines and Japan Airlines introduced flights from Tokyo in 1998 , and Virgin Atlantic began flying from London ? Gatwick in 2000 .

= = = Innovation and D Gates completion (1997 ? 2011) = = =

In 1997 , the airport introduced Common Use Terminal Equipment (CUTE) , becoming the first airport in the country to do so . With multiple airlines serving McCarran , it became inefficient to have separate facilities for each airline . CUTE allows for shared use of ticket counters and gates ; an airline can overflow to inactive facilities during peak times .

McCarran furthered its common use strategy in 2003 with the SpeedCheck system , introducing Common @-@ Use Self @-@ Service (CUSS) kiosks . The kiosks allow passengers to check @-@ in and print boarding passes for any one of multiple airlines . Previously , airlines had been installing their own check @-@ in kiosks , defeating the use of CUTE and increasing congestion at the ticket counters . SpeedCheck kiosks have been installed at the Las Vegas Convention Center as well .

In January 2005 , McCarran began offering complimentary Wi @-@ Fi throughout its passenger terminals . The service initially covered 1 @,@ 700 @,@ 000 square feet (160 @,@ 000 m2) , making it the largest free Wi @-@ Fi zone among U.S. airports at the time . The northeast wing of the D Gates opened in April 2005 , along with a 160 feet (49 m) air traffic control tower at the center of the concourse . The expansion had been postponed following the September 11 attacks but resumed amid high growth in passenger traffic . Later in the year , the airport started a baggage @-@ tracking system using radio @-@ frequency identification (RFID) tags . Small RFID transmitters are inserted into baggage tags to improve bag identification , thereby lowering the risk for lost or misplaced luggage . McCarran became one of the first airports worldwide to conduct RFID tagging on a large scale .

On August 19 , 2008 , US Airways closed its night @-@ flight hub at McCarran Airport , which had been established by predecessor America West Airlines in the 1990s . In order to maximize the use of its fleet , US Airways had been operating two banks of flights to and from McCarran in the middle of the night . The operation had made US Airways the second @-@ busiest carrier at McCarran , providing over 100 daily round @-@ trip flights . However , amid rising oil prices and continued demand for low fares , the airline decided to close the hub . In 2011 , US Airways reduced flights to Las Vegas by an additional 40 % .

In September 2008 , the northwest wing of the D Gates was completed . This marked the completion of the concourse , which has a total of 44 gates .

In May 2011 , construction began on a new air traffic control tower for McCarran Airport . The tower stands 352 feet (107 m) high and replaces a shorter tower that opened in 1983 . However , in January 2014 , it was discovered that a chemical coating to prevent the growth of a toxic fungus was added improperly . The problem was corrected by the following June , and the tower is scheduled to open on August 28 , 2016 . The shorter tower will be closed and demolished .

Terminal 3 and later developments (2012 ? present)

Terminal 3 opened on June 27 , 2012 . The project was announced in January 2001 as a way to accommodate rapid growth in passenger traffic , including international traffic . It came into question amid the 2008 recession and decreased tourism to Las Vegas , but the county decided to proceed with the project , anticipating eventual economic recovery and a rebound in passenger numbers . Terminal 3 cost $ 2 @.@ 4 billion to build and is one of the largest public works projects in Nevada . It replaced Terminal 2 , providing more international gates and a larger U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility . With its seven domestic gates , the terminal also eases congestion at Terminal 1 .
In August 2015 , the airport announced plans to convert seven gates in the D Gates to international gates . A fourth line of the people mover system is under construction between those gates and the international arrivals facility in Terminal 3 . The total cost of the project is $ 51 million .

Runways

McCarran Airport has four runways :
Runway 1L / 19R : 8 @,@ 988 by 150 feet (2 @,@ 740 m × 46 m) , ILS equipped in the 1 direction .
Runway 1R / 19L : 9 @,@ 771 by 150 feet (2 @,@ 978 m × 46 m) .
Runway 7L / 25R : 14 @,@ 512 by 150 feet (4 @,@ 423 m × 46 m) , ILS equipped in the 25 direction .
Runway 7R / 25L : 10 @,@ 525 by 150 feet (3 @,@ 208 m × 46 m) , ILS equipped in the 25 direction .
All runways have been resurfaced with concrete , a more durable material than the previous asphalt . In April 2016 , 7L / 25R became the last runway to be resurfaced . This runway is also the longest at McCarran and typically serves one @-@ third of the airport 's annual traffic . Parallel to it is runway 7R / 25L , which opened in 1991 . On the western side of the airport are runways 1L / 19R and 1R / 19L . 1L / 19R was originally a short runway suited for light aircraft before it was significantly widened and lengthened in 1997 . Between the two sets of parallel runways was runway 14 / 32 , which has been decommissioned .

Terminals

Terminal 1

Terminal 1 has four concourses , each of which is connected to a central pre @-@ security area . Ticketing and baggage claim are located on Level 1 of this area . Level 2 houses the three security checkpoints , an esplanade with several retail outlets , and a USO lounge for military service members . West of the pre @-@ security area are the A Gates and the B Gates , two Y @-@ shaped concourses with circular ends . To the south are the C Gates , which can be accessed by the Green Line of the tram system . The satellite D Gates concourse lies to the east and contains three lounges : the Centurion lounge for American Express card holders ; the Club at LAS , which is available to all passengers at a fee ; and the United Club . The Blue Line of the tram system links the D Gates with the pre @-@ security area .
The concourses and their gates are as follows :

A Gates : A3 , A5 , A7 , A8 , A10 ? 12 , A14 , A15 , A17 ? 23
B Gates : B1 , B2 , B6 , B9 ? 12 , B14 , B15 , B17 , B19 ? 25
C Gates : C1 ? 5 , C7 ? 9 , C11 , C12 , C14 , C16 , C19 , C21 ? 25
D Gates : D1 , D3 ? 12 , D14 , D16 ? 26 , D32 ? 43 , D50 ? 59

= = = Terminal 3 = = =

 Terminal 3 handles all international and some domestic flights to McCarran Airport . Level 0 of the terminal contains customs , baggage claim , and another USO lounge . Check @-@ in , security , a second Club at LAS , and all gates are located on Level 2 . The terminal has a total of fourteen gates , seven of which are domestic (E8 ? E12 , E14 ? E15) and the other seven international (E1 ? E7) . Four of the international gates have two jetways each to allow for quicker handling of widebody aircraft .

= = = Former Terminal 2 = = =

 Terminal 2 opened in December 1991 as the Charter / International Terminal , serving all international flights and some domestic flights to the airport . It was located at the site of two previous terminals , one for PSA Airlines and the other for American Airlines . The PSA terminal was converted to an international terminal before both terminals were demolished to make room for a single Terminal 2 . It had two stories and eight gates (T2 @-@ 1 through T2 @-@ 8) , four of which could receive international flights . Terminal 2 closed upon the opening of Terminal 3 , and it was demolished in early 2016 .

= = Airlines and destinations = =

= = = Passenger = = =

= = = Cargo = = =

The following cargo airlines serve McCarran Airport :
Aloha Air Cargo
FedEx Express
UPS Airlines

= = Statistics = =

= = = Annual passenger traffic = = =

= = = Top airlines by international passengers = = =

= = = Top domestic destinations = = =

= = Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum = =

 The main exhibits of the Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum on Level 2 of Terminal 1 , above baggage claim . There are additional exhibits throughout the airport and at other airports in the city .

Display items chronicle the early history of aviation in Southern Nevada . The museum is named after former Nevada Senator Howard Cannon , who contributed to the development of aviation in the county . Its administrator is Mark Hall @-@ Patton , who has appeared on the reality television show Pawn Stars .

= = Other facilities = =

= = = Fixed @-@ base operators = = =

Atlantic Aviation and Signature Flight Support are the two fixed @-@ base operators (FBOs) at the airport , providing various services to private aircraft .

= = = Helicopter terminals = = =

Maverick Helicopters , Sundance Helicopters , and Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters each operate their own terminal at McCarran Airport . The Maverick terminal covers 6 @,@ 000 square feet (560 m2) , while the Sundance terminal occupies 13 @,@ 000 square feet (1 @,@ 200 m2) . The Papillon terminal was established in 1997 . The companies provide helicopter tours over the Las Vegas Strip , Grand Canyon , and other tourist attractions .

= = = Janet terminal = = =

Janet flights depart from a private terminal located on the west side of the airport . The airline , which is owned by the U.S. Air Force and operated by AECOM , transports employees and contractors to airports within the Nevada National Security Site .

= = = Marnell Air Cargo Center = = =

The Marnell Air Cargo Center covers 200 @,@ 928 square feet (18 @,@ 666 @.@ 8 m2) and can handle 100 @,@ 000 short tons (91 @,@ 000 t) of cargo . The $ 29 million facility opened in October 2010 , replacing a smaller facility that existed at the site of Terminal 3 . The center consists of two buildings , one of which is leased by FedEx and the other by multiple other companies , including UPS and Southwest Airlines .

= = Accidents and incidents = =

On September 8 , 2015 , British Airways Flight 2276 aborted takeoff from McCarran due to engine failure . While preparing to takeoff from runway 7L for London Gatwick Airport , the Boeing 777 @-@ 200ER suffered failure of its left (# 1) engine , and a fire erupted . 14 passengers suffered injuries during the evacuation , and the runway was closed for eight hours . The aircraft suffered major damage , but it was repaired and returned to service in March 2016 .

= = Access = =

= = = Car = = =

Road access to McCarran Airport is provided by Paradise Road to the north and by the McCarran Airport Connector to the south , which connects to the Las Vegas Beltway .
Terminal 1 and Terminal 3 have their own parking garages . Each also has its own economy lot , which provides lower parking rates , and a separate lot for oversize vehicles . Complimentary shuttle transportation is provided between the terminals and the remote Terminal 1 economy and oversize

vehicle lots . In March 2016 , the airport opened a cellphone lot , which provides free parking to people waiting for passengers .

A consolidated rental car facility opened in April 2007 , located about 3 miles (4 @.@ 8 km) from the airport . The facility , which sits on 68 acres (28 ha) of land , houses multiple rental car companies with 5 @,@ 000 parking spaces on multiple levels . Courtesy shuttles transport passengers between the airport and the facility .

For transportation between Terminal 1 and Terminal 3 , McCarran Airport provides a free shuttle service , which leaves from Level 0 of both terminals .

= = = Bus = = =

RTC Transit provides bus transportation to and from various parts of the Las Vegas Valley . Route 108 , Route 109 , the Westcliff Airport Express and the Centennial Express provide direct access to the airport . Buses depart from Level 0 of Terminal 1 and Level 2 of Terminal 3 .

= = Future plans = =

= = = Elevated expressway = = =

In January 2016 , the county announced plans to build a four @-@ lane , largely elevated expressway to McCarran Airport , passing over Paradise Road , Koval Lane , and Tropicana Avenue . The estimated $ 200 million project is expected to reduce travel time between the Strip and the Las Vegas Convention Center . However , critics have called the plan a " 20th @-@ century solution to 21st @-@ century traffic issues . " They propose the construction of a light rail system , which the county disapproves of given its higher cost and longer completion time .

Previously , there had been plans to extend the monorail system to the airport . In December 2006 , Clark County approved plans for the extension , although funding was not specified . In its presentation to the Southern Nevada Tourism Infrastructure Committee in early 2016 , Las Vegas Monorail expressed its continued interest in the extension . However , the project is largely no longer under consideration due to its high cost .

= = = Ivanpah Valley Airport = = =

In the late 1990s , the county decided to build a second airport for Las Vegas , to be located 30 miles (48 km) from the city in the Ivanpah Valley . Passenger traffic at McCarran had been rising steadily , and the county predicted that the airport would reach its capacity of 55 millions passengers per year by 2008 . The county began the process of acquiring federal land for the airport , and it started funding an EIS . However , the advent of an economic recession in 2007 and the resulting decline in passenger numbers called the Ivanpah Valley Airport project into question . In June 2010 , the project was indefinitely suspended . However , the county continues to monitor the site of the planned airport , and it will reconsider the project once McCarran Airport reaches its capacity .