

Southwest Airlines Terminal at Orlando International Airport (MCO)

Orlando International Airport (MCO) is one of the busiest airports in the United States, serving millions of passengers annually. As a major hub for domestic and international travelers, MCO hosts a variety of airlines, including Southwest Airlines. If you're flying with Southwest from Orlando, understanding the southwest terminal mco can make your travel experience smoother and more efficient. In this blog, we'll provide an in-depth guide to Southwest Airlines' terminal at MCO, covering its location, amenities, check-in process, and more.

Overview of Southwest Airlines at MCO

Southwest Airlines operates from **Terminal A** at Orlando International Airport. The terminal is well-equipped with modern facilities to ensure a comfortable travel experience for Southwest passengers. Terminal A is part of MCO's North Terminal complex and is known for its spacious layout, efficient security checkpoints, and a variety of dining and shopping options.

Check-in and Security at Southwest Terminal MCO

Check-in Options

Passengers flying with Southwest Airlines from MCO can choose from multiple check-in options:

- **Online Check-in:** Available 24 hours before departure on the Southwest Airlines website or mobile app.
- **Self-Service Kiosks:** Located near the Southwest check-in counters in Terminal A.
- **Counter Check-in:** Passengers who need assistance or have baggage to check can visit the Southwest counters.

Baggage Check and Policies

Southwest Airlines is known for its generous baggage policy, allowing two free checked bags per passenger (size and weight restrictions apply). Baggage drop-off counters are conveniently located near the check-in area in Terminal A.

Security Checkpoints

After check-in and baggage drop-off, passengers proceed to the security checkpoint. MCO offers **TSA PreCheck** for eligible travelers, reducing wait times and expediting the screening

process. Security lines in Terminal A are generally efficient, but it's always recommended to arrive at least **two hours before domestic flights**.

Gates and Boarding Process

Southwest Airlines flights from MCO typically depart from **Gates 100-129**, located in **Airside 2**. Passengers take an automated **people mover (tram)** from Terminal A to reach the gate area.

Southwest Boarding Procedure

Southwest Airlines uses an **open seating policy**, meaning seats are not assigned in advance. Instead, passengers receive a boarding position (A, B, or C) based on their check-in time. Early check-in is recommended to secure a preferred boarding position.

Dining and Shopping Options in Terminal A

Orlando International Airport offers a wide range of dining and shopping options for travelers in **Southwest Terminal MCO**. Here are some of the best places to grab a bite or do some last-minute shopping before your flight:

Restaurants and Cafés

- **McDonald's:** Quick bites and coffee for travelers on the go.
- **On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina:** A great spot for Tex-Mex cuisine.
- **Starbucks:** Popular choice for coffee and pastries.
- **Cask & Larder:** A Southern-inspired eatery with a full-service bar.
- **Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs:** A quick option for classic American fast food.

Shopping Options

- **Duty-Free Store:** Offers a variety of perfumes, cosmetics, and alcohol for international travelers.
- **Universal Studios Store:** Perfect for picking up last-minute theme park souvenirs.
- **SeaWorld Store:** A great place to buy marine-themed gifts and apparel.
- **Hudson News:** Stocked with books, magazines, snacks, and travel essentials.

Lounges and Relaxation Areas

Although Southwest Airlines does not have its own lounge at MCO, travelers can relax at the **The Club MCO Lounge** located in Terminal A, near Gates 100-129. This lounge provides comfortable seating, complimentary snacks, Wi-Fi, and charging stations. Access is available via Priority Pass or by purchasing a one-time entry.

Transportation to and from MCO

Ground Transportation Options

Getting to and from **Southwest Terminal MCO** is easy, thanks to various transportation options:

- **Rental Cars:** Many major rental car companies operate from MCO, including Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, and Hertz.
- **Ride-Sharing Services:** Uber and Lyft are available with designated pick-up zones outside the terminal.
- **Taxis and Shuttle Services:** Several taxi and shuttle companies offer direct transportation to hotels and attractions.
- **Public Transit:** The **Lynx bus service** connects MCO to downtown Orlando and other areas.

Parking Facilities

MCO offers multiple parking options:

- **Garage Parking (A & B):** Convenient but slightly more expensive.
- **Economy Parking:** Budget-friendly options with shuttle service to terminals.
- **Valet Parking:** Available for added convenience.

Nearby Attractions and Hotels

Many travelers flying with Southwest Airlines to or from Orlando plan to visit the city's famous attractions. Here are some top nearby destinations:

Top Attractions

- **Walt Disney World:** About 20 miles from MCO, accessible by car or shuttle.
- **Universal Orlando Resort:** A 25-minute drive from the airport.
- **SeaWorld Orlando:** Located 15 miles away, perfect for marine life lovers.
- **Kennedy Space Center:** A great day trip option, approximately 45 miles from MCO.

Hotels Near MCO

If you need accommodation near the airport, consider these options:

- **Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport:** Located inside the airport for ultimate convenience.
- **Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel:** Offers a free airport shuttle and luxury accommodations.
- **Marriott Orlando Airport Lakeside:** A scenic property with excellent amenities.

Conclusion

Flying with **Southwest Airlines from MCO** is a seamless experience thanks to the modern facilities, efficient check-in process, and numerous amenities available at **Terminal A**. Whether you're grabbing a meal, shopping for souvenirs, or relaxing before your flight, **Southwest Terminal MCO** offers everything needed for a comfortable journey.

For more details, you can check out the official [Southwest Terminal MCO](#) page for updated travel information and airline services.