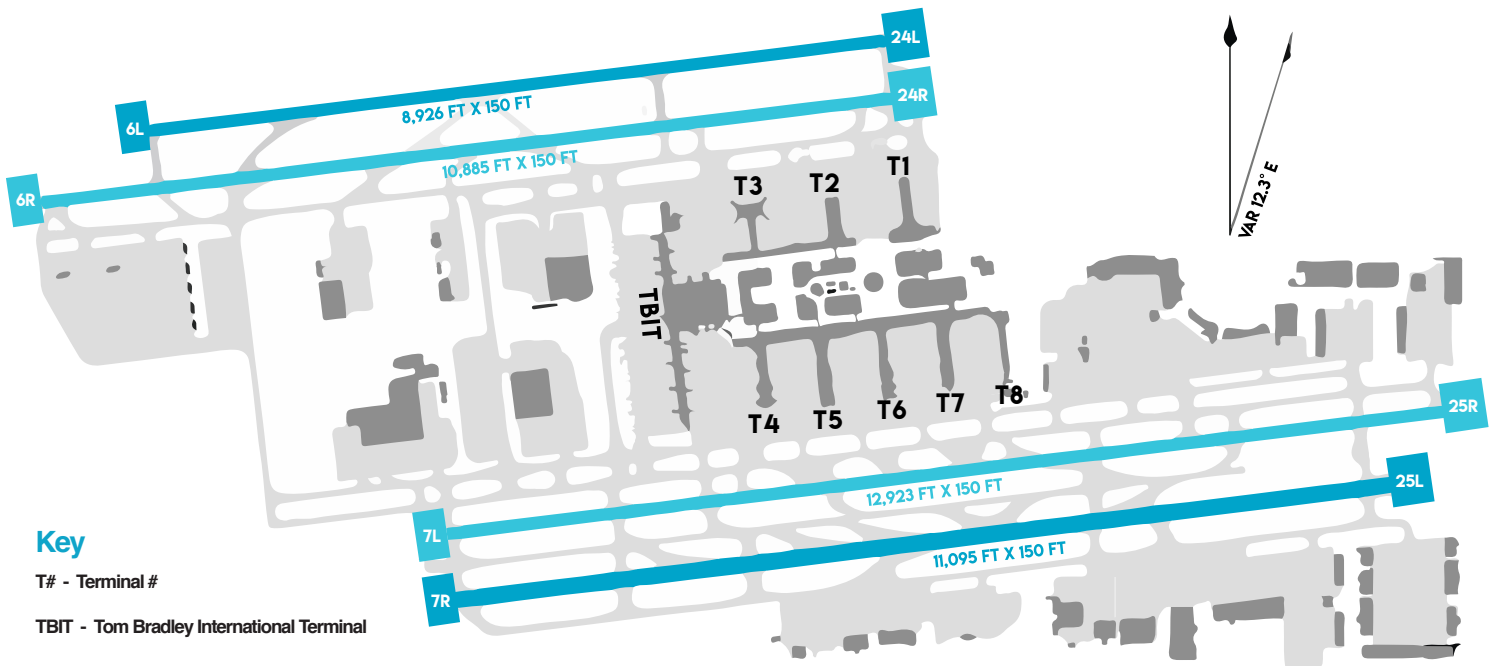


LAX at a Glance: The Airfield

Los Angeles International Airport has four runways that each run in an east-west configuration, taking advantage of the prevailing winds off the adjacent Pacific Ocean.



Runways

The runways on the north complex are 6L/24R and 6R/24L.

Runway 6L/24R is 10,885 feet long by 150 feet wide, and constructed of grooved asphalt and concrete.

Runway 6R/24L is 8,926 feet long by 150 feet wide, and constructed of grooved concrete.

The runways on the south complex are 7L/25R and 7R/25L.

Runway 7L/25R is 12,923 feet long by 150 feet wide, and constructed of grooved concrete.

Runway 7R/25L is 11,095 feet long by 200 feet wide, and constructed of grooved asphalt and concrete.

Safety

In 2015, LAX began a federally mandated program to improve the Runway Safety Area (RSA) zones. These improvements, which continued through 2017, provide an extra margin of safety for landing and departing aircraft. RSAs provide a buffer zone should an aircraft overshoot, overrun or veer off a runway while landing or taking off. RSAs are typically 1,000 feet by 500 feet at each runway end and 250 feet from the runway centerlines. They are not runway extensions.

Westerly, Over-Ocean and Easterly Operations

With winds typically coming from the west, over the Pacific Ocean, the runway complex at LAX spends the majority of the time in “Westerly Operations,” with planes taking off over the Pacific Ocean and then turning in the appropriate direction.

During Westerly Operations, aircraft arrive from the east.

Between midnight and 6:30 a.m., LAX typically changes to “Over-Ocean Operations.” Planes continue to take off into the wind coming off the ocean, making use of the south runway complex. Planes also arrive over the ocean, making use of the north runway complex. If one of the runways is closed for maintenance, the airport will remain in its current configuration and not switch to Over-Ocean Operations.

Rarely, weather conditions will require LAX to shift into “Easterly Operations,” with planes arriving from over the ocean and taking off toward the east. This happens most often during Santa Ana wind conditions or winter storms, when the wind typically comes from the east at more than 10 knots.