

# GETTING TO DENVER

## Arrival at DIA

If you fly to the conference, you will arrive at **Denver International Airport (DIA)**. Designed to eliminate many problems of the old Stapleton, DIA is one of the world's largest airports, but also a good distance from the heart of Denver. This can make it seem a bit intimidating, but it is actually a fairly simple airport to use.

The main **Jeppesen Terminal** runs North and South, with baggage claim, airline counters, transportation services, and passenger pick-up/drop-off on the East and West sides; which side depends on your airline. Arrival/Departure gates are on **Concourses A, B, and C**, which are located north of the terminal, in that order.

**When you deplane**, follow the signs to baggage claim. In the center of your concourse you will go down to the train that runs Concourse C --> B --> A --> Terminal. This single train is the only way to exit the airport, except in Concourse A, where a bridge connects to Level 6 of the terminal. When you exit the train at the terminal, take the escalators or elevators up. You will be in the center area of level 5 of the main terminal. If someone is meeting you, the fountain in this center area is a good meeting place.

Check at the **Ground Transportation** desk near the fountain for information on where to catch a bus or shuttle. **Car rental** agency desks and **shuttle service** desks are located on the perimeter of this center area, too. Also nearby is the **Information Desk** staffed by knowledgeable folks who can provide a map of the whole place and answer more questions than you can think to ask.

Signs on pillars around the fountain direct you to the **baggage carousels** for you airline in the east and west hallways parallel to the center hall. Baggage carts are available for rent for \$3 (cash or credit) near the carousels. The doors to outside are next to the baggage claim area. Each doorway has a number on it - odd number doors are on the East side and even number doors are on the West side. Door numbers also start with the level number.

**Ground transportation providers**, including taxis, vans, rental car shuttles, hotel shuttles, RTD buses, etc. operate from several lanes, or islands, on Level 5, the same level as baggage claim. Your transportation service may mention a specific door and island as the closest exit to their pick-up location, e.g. Door 506, Island 3.

**Passenger pick-up by friends and family** is on Level 4, so use an elevator located near an outside door to go down to Level 4. Short-term parking is limited. Your ride may have to wait at a designated area away from the terminal,

so keep your cell phone handy to call them. Tip: use the door number near where you are waiting to help them find you, e.g. Door 413.

Many **other services** are provided at DIA. Several food options are available in the terminal and each concourse, ranging from frozen yogurt to Wolfgang Puck. Either check at an information desk at the airport or visit the Shops & Restaurants section of the DIA website for specific information.

**Foreign Currency exchanges** are available in the main terminal and Concourses A & B. Tip: If your home bank is part of an international network, you often get the best exchange rate by using your cash card to get U.S. dollars from an ATM machine. But check with your bank first for their rates and fees! You can use the currency services to exchange remaining dollars when you leave.

Though you will probably be preoccupied with finding your way, pause a moment to admire the architecture of Jeppesen terminal, specifically its truly unusual ceiling. It is a notable feature, paying tribute to the snow capped peaks of the Rockies.

## Departure from DIA

Follow airline and TSA guidelines as to **when to arrive at the airport** and allow time to get through security and out to the concourse. **Passenger drop-off** by private vehicle is on Level 6, where check-in counters are located. Check signs as you approach to determine if your airline is on the East or West side. Transport services will drop you on Level 5, so you will need to go up to Level 6 to check-in.

If you have a **rental car**, there is a gas station on the left at the airport entrance (when you see signs for rental car return or remote parking, watch for service plaza). It is pricier than gas stations in the city, but as the next closest station is about nine miles away, you may need to top off your tank here. Don't forget to allow time to take the shuttle from the rental car location to the terminal.

There are two main **security stations**, one each at the south and north ends of the terminal, in the center hallway on Level 5. If your gate is on Concourse A, you can also walk across the bridge on Level 6 to a small security station in that concourse. From main security, you descend down to the train platform to travel to your departure gate on Concourse A, Concourse B, or Concourse C.

The Main Terminal Level 5 is the best place to get those **last-minute Colorado souvenirs**. If you wait to shop in the concourse, your choices may be more limited. There

is also a full service **post office** on Level 6, where you can mail those last-minute postcards.

Not interested in shopping, but still have some time? Take in the various **art exhibits and installations** on Levels 5 and 6. Especially interesting are the display cabinets outside the entrance to the Concourse A bridge. These tell the story of aviation pioneer Elrey B. Jeppesen, for whom the terminal was named. Continue toward Concourse A (you're not through Security yet) to see the current art exhibition.

If you are a plane watcher, you have a good view of taxiing planes from many places on the concourses. The main reason the concourses are so spread out is to allow several planes to back away from or approach gates at the same time.

If you want to **eat** before your flight, or get something to take on board, a wide variety of food options are available in the terminal and in each concourse. Either check at an information desk at the airport or visit DIA website for preferred food options, or to find other last minute items, e.g. reading material, ATM, etc.

For more details about DIA, security wait times and TSA restrictions, check their web site <http://flydenver.com/>

## **Airport to/from Downtown**

DIA is located about 23 miles from downtown. Depending on traffic and weather conditions, it can take 45 to 60 minutes to travel between downtown and the airport. Check the airport's website for a variety of options including public transit, taxis, vans, etc. Note: services are basically the same on both the east and west sides of the terminal.

### **Shuttle Services**

The major shuttle services have a counter in the center hall area, Level 5 of the main Terminal at DIA. SuperShuttle is probably the most familiar for transport to Downtown hotels. The published one way fare is \$19. Or, if traveling with colleagues, a sedan for 4 is \$65. Go to the website for current information. Other shuttle services inside the terminal may travel downtown, specific metro areas, or to more distant locations, e.g. Boulder, mountain towns, etc. Check signs, or just ask at the Ground Transportation Information counter. The SLA website has a coupon for the Super Shuttle Service: <http://www.sla.org/pdfs/07slaconfshuttlecoupon.pdf>

There are also privately operated shuttle services located at Island 3 of Level 5 Ground Transportation. As there is security pass control for access to this level, only authorized van/shuttle providers should be in the lane. But do ask for their rate before you board (you can

negotiate). Have cash ready as many do not take credit cards.

### **Taxi/Limo**

One-way taxi fare from the airport to downtown is generally in the \$50-60 range so it pays to consider your options. If you want to take a taxi, look for the Taxi/Limo booth on Island 1 on Level 5. There is usually someone to ensure taxis are hired in an orderly manner. If you have reserved a Limo, they will also contact the driver that you are ready for pick-up. (Drivers are not allowed to idle at the curb, but use a special waiting area.)

### **Bus**

RTD's skyRide is a convenient and inexpensive means of transport from and to DIA. A one-way trip on skyRide between the airport and downtown costs just \$8.00. skyRide buses stop at the Market Street Station (16th Street Mall and Market Street) or the Denver Bus Center (19th & Arapahoe Streets). Buses are scheduled at least once an hour. skyRide drivers make your trip easy by loading and unloading large baggage for you. The trip takes about 50 minutes on skyRide's deluxe transit coaches with comfortable reclining seats, individual reading lights, and overhead compartments for smaller luggage.

To get to the Hyatt using skyRide: Board the bus on Level 5 of the airport terminal. Be sure to take the 'AF' bus and have the exact fare in cash. Get off the bus downtown at the Market Street Station. Take the free eastbound MallRide shuttle bus seven blocks to California Street. MallRide stops at all intersections and streets are announced. Upon exiting the shuttle, you'll see the Hyatt one block down California street to your right.

### **Car Rental**

If you plan to explore the Denver metro area, the Front Range, or other parts of Colorado while attending SLA, you may want to rent a car. All of the major rental companies have a presence at DIA and several have offices in Downtown Denver. If you are picking up your car at DIA, go to the rental agency shuttles on Island 4, Level 5 to be transported to the car lots (a fair distance from the terminal).

Parking downtown is as difficult and expensive as in most large cities. If you are planning to get a car for day trips before or after the Annual meeting, we suggest that you use downtown locations to pickup and/or return your vehicle rather than park it at the hotel. There is also an extra fee for renting at the airport, so try different pick-up and drop-off locations when pricing your rental.

Avis, 1900 Broadway. 303-839-1280  
Budget, 1980 Broadway. 303-292-9341  
Enterprise, 2255 Broadway. 303-293-8644  
Hertz, 2001 Welton. 303-297-9400

## **Driving**

If you rent a car at DIA, the following directions will take you to the Colorado Convention Center:

1. From the airport, take Pena Boulevard south to the junction with I-70. (Do not use the C-470 toll road to I-70.)
2. Take I-70 west for about 10 miles.
3. At exit 274, turn south (Colorado Springs) on I-25.
4. At exit 212A, take Speer Boulevard south.
5. Turn left on Lawrence Street.
6. Turn right on 14th Street.
7. The Colorado Convention Center is located at 700 14th Street.

## **Arrival by Car**

If you travel to the conference by car, you will probably drive into Denver either on I-70 or on I-25. If you travel on I-70, follow the directions above from step 3. If you travel on I-25, follow the directions above from step 4.

Be aware that as in many cities, most downtown streets are one-way. There is also a light rail system on downtown streets so watch carefully for trains and the relevant signals, especially as the train runs counter to car traffic on several sections. And, finally, though most Denver streets are on a north-south, east-west grid system, downtown streets run northeast-southwest, northwest-southeast. (This follows the old system that originally ran parallel to Cherry Creek and the Platte River.)

This is a summary of key information available on the Conference Wiki website created by the Rocky Mountain Chapter of SLA. Visit our website:

**<http://units.sla.org/chapter/crmt/index.asp>**

for a link to the Wiki and more information about Colorado.