

# Nevada-California, USA

## November 2014

While the end of 2014 was approaching, I still had about ten vacation days left. Therefore I decided to spend these on a spotting trip. I teamed up with fellow reader EC and we agreed that the south-western part of the United States would be a great place to visit. The chances of finding nice airplanes and good weather in this part of the world are rather high, even at the end of November. We decided to spend three days in Las Vegas and then drive to southern California, where we would spend almost a full week. The primary focus would be on photographing airliners and fire fighting aircraft, but some number crunching was done as well (although most logs below are not complete). Please note that all mm's mentioned apply to a 1.5 crop factor camera and all aircraft are only noted once per airport.

On the morning of Wednesday 19 November Eddy and I met at Schiphol at approximately 8 AM. There we learned that our flight to Houston was delayed for several hours. Fortunately United Airlines rebooked us on flight UA908 to Chicago.

### 19 November 2014 Schiphol EHAM

G-FBEI	Embraer 195LR	Flybe
LZ-FBE	Airbus A320-200	Bulgaria Air
N14121	Boeing 757-200	United Airlines
N652UA	Boeing 767-300ER	United Airlines
YU-APJ	Airbus A319-100	Air Serbia

A few planes were noted before boarding the 22-year-old Boeing 767. The flight to Chicago was uneventful in my opinion. However some other passengers complained about the cabin temperature and as a result all passengers received an 100 USD online voucher, to be spent on United Airlines flights with in the next year.

### 19 November 2014 Chicago-O'Hare KORD

C-FEJC	Embraer 175SU	Air Canada
N586JB	Airbus A320-200	JetBlue
N612AE	Embraer 145LR	American Eagle
N925DN	MD-90-30	Delta Air Lines
N969AN	Boeing 737-800	American Airlines

Plus:

\*United Airlines A319-100/A320-200/B737-700/B737-800/B737-900/B757-200/B767-300;

\*United Express CRJ700/Emb145/Emb170.

Above was noted at this United-dominated mega airport before our connecting flight UA1193 (B737-900). The weather in Chicago was overcast with some light wet snowing.

### 19 November 2014 Las Vegas KLAS

N33289	Boeing 737-800	United Airlines
N430UA	Airbus A320-200	United Airlines
N71411	Boeing 737-900	United Airlines

After a magnificent sunset approach into McCarran the above planes were noted while disembarking. Once we stepped out of the jet bridge, the first thing we saw was a row of gambling machines. And we would see many, many more in the next few days...

After reclaiming our bags we picked up our rental car, a black Jeep SUV, and went to the Super 8 hotel. It is located just north of the airport and one block away from The Strip. A good choice if you don't like to spend a lot of money on accommodation. But if you have some more bucks in your wallet, there are lots of alternatives (Mandalay Bay, Bellagio, Caesars Palace, Luxor, New York-New York, Planet Hollywood, MGM Grand and so on). Some of these will even offer a view at the airport.

**20 November 2014 Las Vegas KLAS**

03-3125	C-17A	USAF
(05-)20015	MH-60M Blackhawk	USAR
(05-)20018	MH-60M Blackhawk	USAR
06-6165	C-17A	USAF
(..-)20482	MH-60M Blackhawk	USAR
C-FFPH	Boeing 737-800	Sunwing Airlines
C-FMPN	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Morningstar Partners
C-FMWV	Boeing 767-300ER	Air Canada Rouge
C-FMXC	Boeing 767-300ER	Air Canada Rouge
C-GDSU	Raytheon 390 Premier 1A	Skyservice Business Aviation
C-GKZM	Cessna 560 Ultra	Chartright Air
C-GSAP	Bombardier BD-700-1A10	Aviation Jolina
D-ABUL	Boeing 767-300ER	Condor
G-VGAL	Boeing 747-400	Virgin Atlantic
G-VIIT	Boeing 777-200ER	British Airways
HP-1723CMP	Boeing 737-800	Copa Airlines
N112BJ	Beech 400A	Clark Capital Management Group
N11AM	Learjet 60	IAMAW
N132GS	Cessna S550	Golden State Jet
N150UP	Airbus A300F4-600R	UPS
N186DS	Gulfstream IV	STA Jets
N1904W	Gulfstream IV-SP	Whirlpool
N200LR	Gulfstream G150	White Cloud Charter
N209FR	Airbus A320-200	Frontier Airlines
N223QS	Falcon 2000EX	Netjets
N225AX	Boeing 767-200ER	Omni Air International
N22T	Gulfstream G650	Black Marlin / Richardson Aviation
N230SH	AS350B2 Ecureuil	Sundance Helicopters
N2428	CL-300	Owens Corning
N244S	Gulfstream G200	Mid South Jets/Sedgwick
N247DG	Cessna 560	Tempus Jets
N268VT	Gulfstream IV-SP	Jet Edge/Redhills Ventures
N293BC	Falcon 50	Club Jet Charter
N295AT	Boeing 737-700	Air Tran
N307QS	Cessna 680	Netjets
N319BD/201	Boeing 737-600	URS Federal Services
N365SR/205	Boeing 737-600	URS Federal Services
N378DB	Falcon 20F-5	Club Jet Charter
N39	Convair 580	Federal Aviation Administration
N397MG	Beech 400A	Kingston Aviation/Cirrus Aviation
N400KP	Beech 400A	Alaska Horizon
N401QX	Dash 8-400	Harrinford
N404NA	Bombardier BD-700-1A11	Wilson Construction
N430WC	CL-300	Prometheus Partners
N448H	BAe 125-850XP	Phil Ruffin
N44PR	Cessna 750	Avjet/Saban Capital Group
N451CS	Gulfstream G650	Plane Folk Too
N496PT	Falcon 50	Volaris
N509VL	Airbus A320-200	Execufight/BAGHS
N513MA	Gulfstream III	Flexjet
N517FX	CL-300	Jackson Family Wines
N525KJ	Cessna 525C	Rombauer Vineyards
N525KR	Cessna 525C	Alaska Airlines
N526AS	Boeing 737-800	Ameriflight
N529AF	SA227AC Metro	Global Services
N556HD	Falcon 50EX	

N557XJ	CL-300	XOJet
N586ED	Cessna 525C	Bedrosians
N598TB	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Terry G. Bailey
N59JN	Cessna 525A	Paradigm Jet Management
N5GV	Gulfstream G650	Nike/Phil Knight
N60RL	Learjet 60	R&L Carriers
N60YP	Beech 350	Yates Petroleum
N623MS	Gulfstream III	Las Vegas Sands
N628CM	CL-601	Polar Bear Express
N651CV	Cessna 650	North Point Aviation/Summit Supply
N663SH	EC-130B4	Sundance Helicopters
N68EU	Cessna 680	Mayo Aviation
N709LS	Bombardier BD-700-1A11	L Brands
N711NV	Cessna 550	Nevada Department of Transportation
N720MM	Boeing 737-700 BBJ	MGM Resorts International
N723MM	Gulfstream G350	MGM Resorts International
N728MM	Gulfstream G450	MGM Resorts International
N747XJ	Cessna 750	XOJet
N763FE	Cessna 208B	FedEx Feeder
N782BJ	CL-300	Landmark Aviation
N793XJ	Cessna 750	XOJet
N835TM	BAe 125-800XP	Travel Management Company
N844S	Learjet 60XR	Mid South Jets/Sedgwick
N864KB	Learjet 31A	Dreamline Aviation
N865BB	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	BAHD
N868BT	Falcon 50	Alpine International Aviation
N900EM	Embraer 135BJ	Jet Source
N900QS	Cessna 750	Netjets
N906AM	Boeing 737-700	AeroMexico
N92225	Saab 2000	JPATS
N93SF	Beech B100	Life Guard International
N975QS	Cessna 750	Netjets
N992MS	Gulfstream IV-SP	Las Vegas Sands
VQ-BMS	Boeing 747SP	Las Vegas Sands
XA-BIO	Airbus A320-200	Interjet
XA-CAR	Cessna 680	
XA-FLY	Learjet 60	FlyMex
XA-JOY	Boeing 737-800	AeroMexico
XA-MIA	Boeing 737-800	AeroMexico
XA-TPB	BAe 125-800XP	Aero Sami
XA-UNM	Boeing 737-300	Magni Charters
XA-USS	Cessna 550B	
XA-VOV	Airbus A320-200	Volaris
XB-OAF	BAe 125	

Plus:

- \*Allegiant Air B757-200/MD-82/MD-83/MD-88;
- \*American Airlines A321-200/B737-800/MD-82/MD-83;
- \*Delta Air Lines A320-200/B737-800/B757-200/B767-300/MD-90-30;
- \*Delta Connection CRJ 900;
- \*JetBlue A320-200;
- \*Maverick Helicopters EC-130;
- \*Southwest B737-300/B737-700/B737-800;
- \*Spirit Airlines A319-100;
- \*United Airlines A320-200/B737-800/B737-900;
- \*United Express CRJ 700;
- \*US Airways A320-200/A321-200;
- \*Virgin America A319-100/A320-200;

\*Westjet B737-700/B737-800.

The next morning we drove to the airport under a clear blue sky. McCarran Airport has two pairs of runways: 01-19 (L and R) on the west side of the main terminal and 07-25 (L and R) on the south side. During our visit 07L-25R was closed and runway 25L was primarily used for landings. Runway 01R was used for departures and runway 01L was used for landings by most bizjets, the famous Janet aircraft and some of the airliners during peak hours.

First stop was at the parking lot of the "Sport Center of Las Vegas" along Sunset Road. This is the place to be in the (early) morning for photographing aircraft approaching runway 01L. After a while we decided to move on because the light was getting worse for this runway. We drove eastwards on the Sunset Road and parked at a deserted building near the intersection of Surrey Street. This place offers good views on aircraft landing at runway 25L and the palm trees provide some shadow. The aircraft can be photographed above the fence if you stay on the southside of the Sunset Road. Stairs are therefore not needed and a 70-200mm lens is enough for airliners (smaller bizjets need 300mm). The light is good here from mid-morning till late-afternoon. We decided not to stay at the official spotting place along Sunset Road, because this place requires huge stairs to photograph over the fence.

The most remarkable aircraft we saw were the two C-17s which arrived shortly after each other around noon. The next day we would find out the purpose of their visit...

Later on in the afternoon some high clouds came in, which gave us some time to get lunch at the nearby Subway. Thereafter we explored the west side of the airport. This part is adjacent to The Strip and therefore lots of bizjets in many different shapes were noted at the numerous FBOs. Also a number of helicopter companies are located here which offer sightseeing flights. Photography at this side of the airport is difficult: you will need stairs (but I don't think FBOs will appreciate this) and the sun will only be in your back on summer evenings.

The final stop for today was the multi-storey car park near the main terminal. The top level offers views on runways 01-19 with The Strip in the background. A great place to do some night shooting.

## **21 November 2014 Las Vegas KLAS**

92-9000	VC-25A	USAF
C-FMWP	Boeing 767-300ER	Air Canada Rouge
G-VROM	Boeing 747-400	Virgin Atlantic
HL8275	Boeing 777-300ER	Korean Air
HP-1715CMP	Boeing 737-800	Copa Airlines
N100EW	Gulfstream IV	Executive Jet Management
N150GD	Gulfstream G150	Gulfstream
N202TT	Beech 400XP	Jet Line/SSC Aviation/Turner Constr.
N208SH	EC-130T2	Sundance Helicopters
N224KL	Gulfstream III	K2
N270SC	Gulfstream IV-SP	Trans-Exec Air Service
N272TX	Gulfstream IV-SP	Mapol Aircorp
N273RH/204	Boeing 737-600	URS Federal Services
N283DM	CL-604	Vistair/Solairus Aviation
N288DP/206	Boeing 737-600	URS Federal Services
N299CX	Cessna 750	Executive Jet Management
N322ST	Cessna 501	C&W Aviation
N366LP	CL-601-3A	Executive Flight/Life Care Centers Am.
N370HA	Airbus A330-200	Hawaiian Airlines
N386HA	Airbus A330-200	Hawaiian Airlines
N396KM	CL-600S	Western Airways
N398DC	Dornier Do 328-300JET	Key Lime Air
N418MN	Learjet 45	Thunderbird Airways/Aerometro
N428QX	Dash 8-400	Alaska Horizon
N429FL	Beech 400XT	Flight Options/Corporate Wings

N435AS	Boeing 737-900ER	Alaska Airlines
N43PR	Boeing 737-700 BBJ	Phil Ruffin
N521VL	Airbus A320-200	Volaris
N575WB	CL-300	Next Generation Aviation
N702SS	Cessna 650	Cirrus Aviation Service/Gr. Western Air
N749QS	Gulfstream G200	Netjets
N869HH/202	Boeing 737-600	URS Federal Services
N886CE	Falcon 2000EX	Caesars
N924WJ	Falcon 50	Arkansas Air Ventures
N988MC	Learjet 45	Michigan CAT Aviation
XA-AME	Boeing 737-800	AeroMexico
XA-ONE	Learjet 60	Aero JL

Plus:

- \* Allegiant Air B757-200/MD-82/MD-83/MD-88;
- \* American Airlines A321-200/B737-800/B757-200/MD-82/MD-83;
- \* Delta Air Lines A320-200/B737-800/B757-200/B767-300/MD-90-30;
- \* Frontier Airlines A319-100/A320-200;
- \* JetBlue A320-200;
- \* Southwest B737-300/B737-700/B737-800;
- \* Spirit Airlines A319-100;
- \* United Airlines A319-100/A320-200/B737-900;
- \* US Airways A320-200/A321-200;
- \* Virgin America A319-100/A320-200;
- \* Westjet B737-700/B737-800.

This day started at the same place where the day before ended: the multi-storey car park near the main terminal. With the sun in your back during the morning, it's a nice place to photograph aircraft departing from runways 01 with a spectacular background. For most aircraft you will need at least 300mm. This also means that most photos will probably be ruined by heathaze during the summer.

Once the light got worse we drove to the approach of runway 25L. Then some locals told us that Mister President would come to town for the weekend. And indeed, at approximately 1 PM his world famous airplane arrived in blue skies at the right runway (25L) and with no police officers bothering us. You can imagine the big smile on our faces...

In the evening we strolled down The Strip. It's amazing how you can travel from Italy via New York, Paris and Hollywood to Egypt in just a couple of miles...

## 22 November 2014 Las Vegas KLAS

155203	CT-155 Hawk	Canadian AF
ZH884	Hercules C5	Royal Air Force
C-FSUA	BAe 146-RJ100	North Cariboo Air
C-GBIM	Airbus A319-100	Air Canada Rouge
HP-1719CMP	Boeing 737-800	Copa Airlines
N129UP	Airbus A300F4-600R	UPS
N189TM	BAe 125-800A	Lvr Capital
N20RA	Beech 1900C	URS Federal Services
N282Q	Gulfstream G550	GF Management
N2AZ	Cessna 750	Arizona Cardinals
N355FA	BAe 125-800A	Execufight/BAGHS
N374HA	Airbus A330-200	Hawaiian Airlines
N403CT	BAe 125-850XP	Travel Management Company
N41AU	IAI 1125 Astra	Planemasters/LAM Research
N507BC	Socata TBM-850	MetroNational/Memorial City
N508VL	Airbus A320-200	Volaris
N551AS	Boeing 737-800	Alaska Airlines
N611AS	Boeing 737-700	Alaska Airlines
N658QS	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets

N788XA	Boeing 737-700	AeroMexico
N847MH	EC-130B4	Maverick Helicopters
N870CK	Learjet 35A	Kalitta Charters
N8870B	Piaggio P.180	Avanti Jet Pros
N88QC	Cessna 525C	Quail Creek Production Company
XA-AGM	Boeing 737-700	AeroMexico

Plus:

- \*American Airlines A321-200/B737-800/B757-200/MD-82/MD-83;
- \*Delta Air Lines A320-200/B737-800/B757-200/B767-300/MD-90-30;
- \*Delta Connection CRJ 900;
- \*JetBlue A320-200;
- \*Southwest B737-300/B737-700/B737-800;
- \*Spirit Airlines A319-100;
- \*United Airlines A319-100/A320-200/B737-800/B737-900;
- \*US Airways A320-200/A321-200;
- \*Virgin America A319-100/A320-200;
- \*Westjet B737-700/B737-800.

Our final day in Vegas. First a short visit to the west side of the airport where two military visitors were noted, then a few hours near the runways 01L and 25L. On this Saturday traffic was slower than during the other days.

## 22 November 2014 North Las Vegas KVG T

N117DN	Dornier Do 228-200F	Martinaire
N1187D	Aero Commander 680	private
N16BM	Beech F90	Long Rod Equipment
N206AT	Piper PA.44-180	Airline Transport Professionals
N2218P	Piper PA.23	Shong Mai International
N260MC	Dornier Do 228-200	Martinaire
N265MC	Dornier Do 228-200	Martinaire
N269MC	Dornier Do 228-200	Martinaire
N27419	Piper PA.31-350	Aviation Ventures
N328VA	Dornier Do 328-300	Vision Airlines
N38CJ	Cessna 402C	DMC Logistics
N400WP/"102"	L-29 Delfin	private (Bulgaria AF c/s)
N405VA	Dornier Do 228-200	Vision Airlines
N408VA	Dornier Do 228-200	Vision Airlines
N409VA	Dornier Do 228-200	Vision Airlines
N41HA	Piper Aerostar 601P	private
N4479F	Piper PA.34-200T	Dollinger and Associates
N4795P	Pilatus PC-6/340	private
N4801B	Cessna 310	private
N48BE	Beech 58P	Lone Mountain Aircraft Sales
N501DZ	Cessna 500	Air Force 2
N501VA	Dornier Do 228-200F	Vision Airlines
N533CH	Cessna 340	private
N555CP	Cessna 340A	Syn-Apps Aviation
N596DM	Cessna 402C	DMC Logistics
N66VA	IAI 1124A Westwind	Vision Hodings
N6709X	Cessna 310F	Elite Aircraft Leasing
N700GP	Piper Aerostar 602P	Gus
N7101Y	Piper PA.30	
N721YG	Cessna 340	Ace Equipment
N870KC	Pilatus PC-12/47	D&D Aviation

At the end of the afternoon we paid a short visit to the other airport of Las Vegas. This airport is mainly used by small GA airplanes and a few bizjets. Moreover Vision Airlines has its home base here and you will also find several former Martinaire Dorniers which are wfu and partially broken up. Most activity takes place on the (south)west side of the

airport, but some of the Dorniers can be found on the east side. Considering the position of the sun, photography is best in the afternoon but you will need small stairs to get over the fence.

Then it was time for a long drive on highway 15 towards our hotel in Adelanto, CA.

### **23 November 2014 Victorville-Southern California Logistics KVCV**

B-16108	MD-11F	Eva Air Cargo
B-KAD	Boeing 747-200F	Dragonair Cargo
CC-BBD	Boeing 787-8	LAN Airlines
G-BNLS	Boeing 747-400	British Airways
G-BNLU	Boeing 747-400	British Airways
G-BNWC	Boeing 767-300ER	British Airways
G-BNWH	Boeing 767-300ER	British Airways
G-BNWN	Boeing 767-300ER	British Airways
G-BNWX	Boeing 767-300ER	British Airways
G-DOCA	Boeing 737-400	British Airways
G-DOCE	Boeing 737-400	British Airways
G-DOCH	Boeing 737-400	British Airways
G-DOCN	Boeing 737-400	British Airways
G-DOCU	Boeing 737-400	British Airways
G-DOCV	Boeing 737-400	British Airways
HZ-AB1	L-1011-500 Tristar	Al Anwa Aviation
LV-ZPX	Airbus A340-200	Aerolineas Argentinas
N134DL	Boeing 767-300	Delta Air Lines
N185FE	Boeing 727-200F	FedEx
N220AU	DC-10-10	Project Orbis
N238AG	Boeing 737-400	Sky King
N274LE	Aero Commander 500A	private
N280FE	Boeing 727-200F	FedEx
N281FE	Boeing 727-200F	FedEx
N284FE	Boeing 727-200F	FedEx
N330AU	MD-10-30F	FedEx/Project Orbis
N369DF	Boeing 747-400ERF	Jade Cargo
N384FE	MD-10-10F	FedEx
N418FE	Airbus A310-200F	FedEx
N419FE	Airbus A310-200F	FedEx
N421FE	Airbus A310-200F	FedEx
N435FE	Airbus A310-200F	FedEx
N463FE	Boeing 727-200F	FedEx
N492EV	Boeing 747-400BCF	Evergreen International
N5023Q	Boeing 747-8F	Boeing
N512DA	Boeing 727-200	Delta Air Lines
N518DA	Boeing 727-200	Delta Air Lines
N536UA	Boeing 757-200	United Airlines
N567UA	Boeing 757-200	United Airlines
N569FE	MD-10-10F	FedEx
N577UA	Boeing 757-200	United Airlines
N594UA	Boeing 757-200	United Airlines
N68050	MD-10-10F	FedEx
N68092	MD-11F	World Airways Cargo
N68093	MD-11F	World Airways Cargo
N750FD	Airbus A300B4-600RF	FedEx
N766ME	BK-117C2	Mercy Air
N771FD	Boeing 757-200	United Airlines
N810AX	DC-10-30ER	Omni Air International/Project Orbis
N837AL	Boeing 737-200	Aloha Airlines
N91011	L-1011-500 Tristar	Tristar History and Preservation

N974VV	DC-10-40	Omega Air
N995CF	DC-8-62F	Emery Worldwide Airlines
UP-DC102	DC-10-40F	Deta Air
VH-OGH	Boeing 767-300ER	Qantas
VH-OGN	Boeing 767-300ER	Qantas
VH-OGP	Boeing 767-300ER	Qantas
VH-OGO	Boeing 767-300ER	Qantas
VH-OGV	Boeing 767-300ER	Qantas
VH-TJI	Boeing 737-400	Qantas
VH-TJL	Boeing 737-400	Qantas
VH-TJR	Boeing 737-400	Qantas
XA-OAM	Boeing 767-200ER	AeroMexico

On this quiet Sunday morning we spent a few hours driving through the desert around one of the famous airplane graveyards. Only a fraction of the airplanes was noted. Photography possibilities are not that great, but nevertheless it was quite impressive to be there.

### 23 November 2014 San Bernardino KSBD

B-16112	MD-11F	Eva Air Cargo
N176AC/746	Sikorsky S-64E	Erickson Air Crane
N291EA/101	MD-87	Erickson Aero Tanker
N522AX/912	DC-10-30	10 Tanker Air Carrier
N715HT/715	Sikorsky CH-54B	Helicopter Transport Services
N737AJ	Boeing 737-200	Ajeton
N747A	Boeing 747SP	Fry's Electronics
N789BV	MD-83	Dugan Kinetics
N839AC/160	BAe 146-RJ85	Aero-Flite
N88WR	Boeing 737-700 BBJ	Wynn Resorts

Around midday we arrived at San Bernardino airport. Even though the airport has a terminal and a large parking lot, the airport is primarily used for maintenance and overhaul of airliners. Most activities take place on the west side of the airport. The main reason for our visit, however, was the air tanker base, located at the north side of the airport. We had a pre-arranged base visit which enabled us to photograph all fire fighting aircraft in sunny but windy conditions. Due to the multiple contractor companies that are based here, we saw a nice variety of types and colour schemes.

### 23 November 2014 Chino KCNO

FX82	F-104G Starfighter	Belgian AF
079	MiG-15bis	North Korean AF
1617	Lim-5	Polish AF
42-102605/X	B-17G	USAF
44-77559	C-46D Commando	USAF
52-7265/FS-265	RF-84K Thunderflash	USAF
53-1351	QF-86H Sabre	USAF
53-2519	F-89D Scorpion	USAF
53-5156	T-33A	USAF
56-3141/AD-291	QF-100D Super Sabre	USAF
62-4438	F-105G Thunderchief	USAF
80382	F7F-3N Tigercat	USMC
135867/L-313	FJ-3 Fury	USN
145336/DW-16	TF-8A Crusader	USMC
147474/2K-123	T-2A Buckeye	USN
149547	A-4C Skyhawk	USN
151064	A-4E Skyhawk	USN
(N1000B)	Lockheed 18 Lodestar	Planes of Fame Air Museum
(N106XD)/"AR-106"	Saab RF35 Draken	Flight Test Dynamics
N10GN	HU-16B Albatross	Heritage of Eagles Air Museum



N1155	Cessna 310B	private
(N116XD)/"AR-116"	Saab RF35 Draken	Flight Test Dynamics
N121SC	Beech D18S	AMT Foundation
N131CW/"42809"	Convair C-131D Samaritan	private
N141JF	Gulfstream II	Aero Falcons
N1534G	Cessna 421B	private
(N155XD)/"AT-155"	Saab TF35 Draken	Flight Test Dynamics
N1828D	Beech D18S	private
N2000	Gulfstream II-SP	Threshold Aviation Group
(N20XD)/"A-020"	Saab F35 Draken	Flight Test Dynamics
N2112F	Piper PA.44-180	Flight School Services
N218SE	Gulfstream II	Mt San Antonio College
N229AR	Gulfstream IV-X	
N2457S	Cessna T337C	
N2700	Sabreliner 65	Threshold Aviation Group
N2833G/"51-11602"	Beech C-45H	private
N2872G/"124"	PB4Y-2 Privateer	private
N30028	Piper PA.34-220T	
N30MP	Boeing 727-21	MP Biomedicals
N320JM	Cessna 320E	private
N326E	Cessna 411	private
N3363P	Piper PA.23-160	DuBois Aviation
N3397P	Piper PA.23-160	Alliance International Aviation
N3546B	Piper PA.31-350	Custom Imports
N370K	Aero Commander 680V	Riley Air Charters
(N3779G)/"AM711"	Lockheed 18-56 Lodestar	Planes of Fame Air Museum
N380AC	Gulfstream II-SP	Andreni & Company
N38625	Piper PA.34-200T	private
N394ZA	L-39ZA	
N399GS	Cessna 550B	ResMed
N4235Z/"59604"	OV-1A Mohawk	Planes of Fame Air Museum
N42WJ	Falcon 20F	R Plane
N4606/"89468"	Beech TC-45J	Planes of Fame Air Museum
N477GG	Gulfstream II-B	
N47TF	DC-3C	Planes of Fame Air Museum
N505JG	Aero Commander 680F	private
(N508F)/"508/312-TI"	Fouga CM170 Magister	Measure Law
N511FM/"511"	Fouga CM170 Magister	Measure Law
N511TL	Gulfstream II-B	Turbine Leasing
N5255C	Cessna T310R	McIntosh Law
N548GF/"30548"	EC-121T Constellation	Yanks Air Museum
N550EC	Beech B200GT	Cham-Cal Engineering
N567RA	Falcon 10	
N5722T	Beech G18S	Chino Aircraft Sales
N5882T	Cessna 421B	private
N601ER	CL-601-3A	RL Aviation
N6049L	Beech 76	Grey Eagle Flight Academy
N610AB	Gulfstream III	
N6127X	Aero Commander 500A	private
N613SB	CL-601-3A	Paragon Airways
N6256Q	Cessna 401A	private
N6712P	Beech 76	Ave Marina Aviation
N680PL	Aero Commander 680F	DataWorks Educational Research
N6867Y	Piper PA.23-250	Arnold and Arnold
N70MG	Cessna 500	Custom Imports
N73CE	Learjet 23	Yanks Air Museum
N7420D	Beech A60	

N7483C	PV-2 Harpoon	Kermit Weeks
N778GK	Cessna 421B	private
N81RR	Gulfstream II-TT	Threshold Aviation Group
N87DT	C-123K Provider	Steppers Construction
N881A	Cessna S550	Mach One Air Charters
N88LK/"34"	L-29 Delfin	Planes of Fame Air Museum
N975DA	Piper PA.34-200	
N9856C/"3-28204"	B-25N Mitchell	Bennett Law Office
NC43XX	DC-3A	Wings of Valor/Thunderbird F.S.

In the afternoon we drove westwards and stopped at Chino Airport. This airport is mainly used by GA and hosts a lot of stored aircraft. Moreover the Yanks Air Museum and the Planes of Fame Air Museum call Chino their home. Most activities and both museums are located at the north side of the airport, while the Threshold Aviation Group has its facilities at the southeast corner of the field.

First we did a self-guided airside tour at the northwest apron (with nobody bothering us) and then we paid a quick visit to the Threshold facilities where we saw some large bizjets (including a B727). You will need stairs here to photograph over the fence. The day was concluded with a visit to the Planes of Fame Air Museum (aircraft inside the museum were not noted). The museum hosts a nice collection of aircraft (with some of them still airworthy), but photo opportunities are not great. The aircraft outside are tightly parked next to each other and most aircraft could use some paint.

Then we drove to our hotel near Los Angeles airport, called LAX Suites. This is also a low-budget hotel, which is located just south of the airport. The hotel does not serve breakfast, so we needed to get that ourselves at the Walmart.

#### **24 November 2014 Los Angeles KLAX**

9V-SFG	Boeing 747-400F	Singapore Airlines Cargo
9V-SKP	Airbus A380-800	Singapore Airlines
A6-EEM	Airbus A380-800	Emirates
B-16712	Boeing 777-300ER	Eva Air
B-16715	Boeing 777-300ER	Eva Air
B-2039	Boeing 777-300ER	Air China
B-2075	Boeing 777F	China Southern Cargo
B-2078	Boeing 777F	China Cargo
B-2098	Boeing 777F	Air China Cargo
B-6543	Airbus A330-200	China Eastern
B-KPO	Boeing 777-300ER	Cathay Pacific
C-FCAF	Boeing 767-300ER	Air Canada
C-FYKR	Airbus A319-100	Air Canada
C-GARJ	Airbus A319-100	Air Canada Rouge
C-GBHR	Airbus A319-100	Air Canada Rouge
C-GBHZ	Airbus A319-100	Air Canada Rouge
D-AIHA	Airbus A340-600	Lufthansa
F-HPJH	Airbus A380-800	Air France
G-VBLU	Airbus A340-600	Virgin Atlantic
G-XLEG	Airbus A380-800	British Airways
HL7415	Boeing 747-400BDSF	Asiana Cargo
HL7611	Airbus A380-800	Korean Air
HL7622	Airbus A380-800	Korean Air
HL7626	Airbus A380-800	Asiana Airlines
HL7732	Boeing 777-200ER	Asiana Airlines
HL8217	Boeing 777-300ER	Korean Air
HP-1828CMP	Boeing 737-800	Copa Airlines
JA05KZ	Boeing 747-400F	NCA Nippon Cargo Airlines
JA739J	Boeing 777-300ER	JAL
JA783A	Boeing 777-300ER	ANA All Nippon Airways

LX-TCV	Boeing 747-400F	Cargolux Italia
N111FN	AS350B2 Ecureuil	Helinet Aviation
N1SF	Gulfstream V-SP	Gulf States Toyota
N220CY	Boeing 767-300ERBDSF	DHL/ABX Air
N29NG	Beech 1900D	Northrop Grumman
N358TV	AS350B2 Ecureuil	Angel City Air
N370FE	MD-10-10F	FedEx
N409AV	BAe 125-800XP	Avjet
N470QS	Gulfstream IV-X	Netjets
N581JS	Embraer 500 Phenom 100	JetSuite
N608FE	MD-11F	FedEx
N624FE	MD-11F	FedEx
N648QS	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets
N713SY	Boeing 737-700	Sun Country
N729TY	Gulfstream IV	Really Convenient Aviation
N818SY	Boeing 737-800	Sun Country
N853FD	Boeing 777F	FedEx
N905NV	Boeing 757-200	Allegiant Air
TC-JJN	Boeing 777-300ER	Turkish Airlines
VQ-BBG	Airbus A330-200	Aeroflot

Plus:

- \*Alaska Airlines B737-400/B737-700/B737-800/B737-900;
- \*Alaska Horizon DHC8-400;
- \*American Airlines A319-100/A321-200/B737-800/B757-200/B777-200;
- \*American Eagle CRJ100/CRJ200/CRJ900;
- \*Delta Air Lines B737-800/B757-200/B757-300/B767-300/B777-200;
- \*Delta Connection CRJ900/Emb175;
- \*Frontier Airlines A319-100;
- \*Great Lakes Airlines Beech 1900;
- \*JetBlue A320-200/A321-200;
- \*SkyWest CRJ200;
- \*Southwest B737-300/B737-700/B737-800;
- \*Spirit Airlines A319-100;
- \*United Airlines A319-100/A320-200/B737-800/B737-900/B787-8;
- \*United Express CRJ200/CRJ700/Emb120;
- \*US Airways A321-200;
- \*Virgin America A319-100/A320-200;
- \*Westjet B737-700.

LAX Airport has four runways: two on the north side (06R-24L/06L-24R) and two on the south side (07R-25L/07L-25R). With winds blowing from the Pacific aircraft will nearly always approach the airport from the east, except during the night due to noise abatement procedures. At the north side, runway 24R is used for landings and 24L is used for take-offs. At the south side, runway 25L is used for landings and 25R is used for take-offs. Most international widebodies tend to use the northern runways. Cargo aircraft may pick any runway, but with a slight preference for the southern runways because that is where the cargo aprons are.

Our focus for the first day at LAX was on the two northern runways. We parked our car at the top level of Joe's Airport Parking car park. From here you are able to photograph the airplanes landing at 24R with 150-400mm. In the summer your photos may suffer from haze though. An alternative spot is the curb of a fly-over one block to the north, above the Sepulveda Blvd. Here you can photograph anything with 70-300mm. The only downside of this place is the fact that there is no shadow at all. Besides that, the fly-over can be very busy with road traffic, so keep an eye out if you want to cross the street. Because all runways at LAX are east-west oriented, you will have the sun in your back most of the day.

Late afternoon we drove to the famous official spotting place Imperial Hill located just south of 07R. Photo opportunities here are quite limited here: most arriving aircraft have

already vacated the runway at this point and departing aircraft may already be too high. Moreover the view is obscured by electricity cables.

The final spotting place we explored today was near the cargo area south of runway 25L: at the northern end of N Douglas Street. At this spot it would be possible to photograph aircraft on or just above the runway, however you will need some large stairs and parking is not officially allowed here.

### 25 November 2014 Los Angeles KLAX

B-5920	Airbus A330-200	China Eastern
HL7625	Airbus A380-800	Asiana Airlines
N473CW	Gulfstream IV	Pentastar Aviation Charter
N743CK	Boeing 747-400BCF	Kalitta Air/DHL
VH-OQC	Airbus A380-800	Qantas

Plus:

- \*Alaska Airlines B737-400/B737-900;
- \*Alaska Horizon DHC8-400;
- \*American Airlines A321-200/B737-800;
- \*American Eagle CRJ200/CRJ900;
- \*Delta Connection Emb175;
- \*Frontier Airlines A319-100;
- \*SkyWest CRJ200;
- \*Southwest B737-300/B737-700/B737-800;
- \*Spirit Airlines A320-200;
- \*United Airlines B737-800/B757-200;
- \*United Express CRJ100/CRJ700;
- \*Virgin America A320-200.

We spent a couple of hours at LAX in the early morning before heading to the east. The goal was to catch the Virgin Australia B777s, however we did not exactly succeed.

### 25 November 2015 Perris Valley KL65

77-0464/N70464	UV-18B Twin Otter	USAF
77-0465/N70465	UV-18B Twin Otter	USAF
N101WA	Short SC-7 Skyvan	Skydive Perris
N125SA	DHC-6-100 Twin Otter	Skydive Perris
N127NK	DC-9-21	Skydive Perris
N269PM	SA26T Merlin IIA	Skydive Perris
N346F	Pilatus PC-6/B1-H2	Skydive Perris
N4NE	Short SC-7 Skyvan	Skydive Perris
N50DA	Short SC-7 Skyvan	Skydive Perris
N549WB	Short SC-7 Skyvan	Skydive Perris
N64150	DHC-6-200 Twin Otter	Skydive Perris
N708PV	DHC-6-300 Twin Otter	Skydive Perris

Around midday we spent a few hours at one of the biggest skydive centers in the country. At this private airport the Twin Otters and Skyvans are hauling skydivers upwards from sunrise to sunset (and sometimes beyond). Most of the planes aren't painted as colourful as some European examples, but the two USAF Twotters with both a military and civil registration were quite a catch. The 45 year old DC-9 is (permanently?) stored because it is awaiting an engine overhaul/replacement. Not because it's broke or out of hours, simply because of its age... The Merlin was bought by the skydive center for its engines, it is not used for flying.

The airport has one runway, which is north-south oriented and very small. The DC-9 is parked parallel to that, so the best time to photograph it is late afternoon. This is exactly why we paid a another visit here at the end of the day. Fortunately the friendly ground crew didn't mind guiding us around a second time.

### 25 November 2015 Hemet-Ryan KHMT

136745/"70"	S-2F1 Tracker	USN/CDF Cal Fire
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N218AC/734	Sikorsky S-64E	Erickson Air Crane
N2327Y	Yak-52	private
N25648	DC-3	Paralift
N26MA	DC-3	Paralift
N276AM	EC-135P2+	Mercy Air
N37DG/"TD"	L-29 Delfin	Prop and Jet Air Museum
N4035S	Sikorsky S-64E	Siller Helicopters
N4037S	Sikorsky S-64E	Siller Helicopters
N421DF/240	OV-10A Bronco	CDF Cal Fire
N435DF/72	S-2F3AT Tracker	CDF Cal Fire
N437DF/73	S-2F3AT Tracker	CDF Cal Fire
N463DF/A504	Beech C-12D	CDF Cal Fire
(N490DF)	Bell 204B	CDF Cal Fire
N491DF/301	Bell EH-1H	CDF Cal Fire
N59843	Vultee BT-13B Valiant	private
N9924F	Cessna 310Q	Walk and Roll School of Flight

In between the two visits at Perris Valley, we had a pre-arranged base visit at Hemet-Ryan Airfield with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, a.k.a. Cal Fire. Even though the fire season was almost over, the two venerable Trackers were still waiting at the apron for their next mission. The Cal Fire base is located on the southwest side of the field. A little more to the northeast some GA planes and two Dakotas were noted.

#### **26 November 2014 Barton Heliport KPAI**

N110LA	Bell 412EP	LA County Fire Department
N120LA/12	Bell 412EP	LA County Fire Department
N14LA/14	Bell 412EP	LA County Fire Department
N160LA/16	Sikorsky S-70A	LA County Fire Department
N17LA	Bell 412	LA County Fire Department
N190LA/19	Sikorsky S-70A	LA County Fire Department

On this Wednesday we made a trip to the north. First stop was the heliport of the LA County Fire Department, located next to Whiteman Airport. This heliport is their main base, but each morning some of the helicopters depart to satellite bases in the region. Unfortunately a base visit was not possible this morning, but nevertheless we managed to take our photos from outside the fence/wall along Airpark Way. If you're tall enough you will not need stairs. Light is good here early in the morning.

#### **26 November 2014 Van Nuys KVNy**

57-0751	T-33A	USA
C-GQBG/245	CL-415	Government of Quebec
C-GQBI/246	CL-415	Government of Quebec
N104AD	Gulfstream IV-SP	Clay Lacy Aviation
N111FN	AS350B2 Ecureuil	Helinet Aviation
N124DT	Gulfstream III	Serena Software
N141SB	Piper PA.46-350P	Great Among the Nations
N1625	Gulfstream IV-SP	Clay Lacy Aviation
N164CL	SNJ-5	Clay Lacy
N171AC/735	Sikorsky S-64F	Erickson Air Crane
N171JC	Gulfstream IV-SP	Rulemaking
N171Z	Aero Commander 500B	Truck Site
N211FN	AS350B1 Ecureuil	Helinet Aviation
N253WC	AS355F2	Helinet Aviation
N254CA	Gulfstream IV	STA Jets
N266CJ	Cessna 525	Sun Quest Executive Air Charter
N288MB	BAe 125-900XP	Clay Lacy Aviation
N29FX	AS350BA Ecureuil	Helinet Aviation
N317FL	Embraer 505 Phenom 300	Flight Options

N323CH	Sikorsky S-76	Helinet Aviation
N327V	Piper PA.23-160	
N3DP	Gulfstream III	Clay Lacy Aviation
N3GC	Beech C90	Honeywell International
N414RF	BAe 125-700A	Grand Island Aviation
N420EG	Cessna 421C	
N450BD	Gulfstream III	
N583JS	Embraer 500 Phenom 100	JetSuite
N610FX	Learjet 40	Flexjet
N615D	Sikorsky S-76B	Helinet Aviation/Children's Hospital L.A.
N623KM	Learjet 35A	Dreamline Aviation
N67TV	AS350B2 Ecureuil	Helinet Aviation
N6962R/748	Sikorsky S-64E	Erickson Air Crane
N726WR	Learjet 25	Montreal Aviation Assets
N727AH	Boeing 727-21	Bell Air Aviation / Classic Design
N729KF	BD-700-1A10 Global 6000	KW Flight
N769MS	Gulfstream G200	Clay Lacy Aviation
N77KV	Hawker 4000	Jet Access Aviation
N783FS	Falcon 2000	Clay Lacy Aviation
N789LS	Boeing 737-300	Las Vegas Sands
N811VG	Cessna 551	Pacific Coast Aviation
N882SG	Gulfstream G200	
N888PM	Gulfstream IV	
N940AJ	Gulfstream V	Jet Aviation Flight Services
N950X	Falcon 7X	McAfee & Taft
N961V	Gulfstream IV-SP	Occidental Petroleum
N963RS	Falcon 900LX	Meridian Air Charter

Then it was off to the busiest GA airport of North America: Van Nuys. We drove around the entire airport and only a fraction of the planes were noted. The airport is not very spotter friendly with a lot of walls and high fences. Stairs are definitely needed here. Best is to do a hit and run and not loiter around too much (except at the official spotting point). Some people might think you are an airplane repo guy...

The airport has a north-south oriented runway, so best time to be here is early morning and late afternoon.

Besides the huge amounts of bizjets and (news) helicopters, there are also some fire fighting aircraft based at Van Nuys, including two Skycranes and two Canadian CL-415s. We managed to arrange a short airside visit in order to photograph these yellow water bombers.

## 26 November 2014 Lancaster-Fox Airfield KWJF

53-0272	KC-97G Stratofreighter	USAF
N13745/"82"	C-119C Flying Boxcar	Hemet Valley Flying Service
(N1430Z)	AW-660 Argosy T2	Milestones of Flight Museum
N15HX	Bell 205A1	Helicopter Express
N164AC/736	Sikorsky S-64E	Erickson Air Crane
N289RP	Beech C90A	Tenax Aerospace
N354AC/161	BAe 146-RJ85A	Aero-Flite
(N3968C)	B-25C Mitchell	Milestones of Flight Museum
N82CR	Gulfstream II-SP	Northrop Grumman
(N85128)/"20"	Sikorsky S-58	Milestones of Flight Museum
(N95489)	Sikorsky UH-19D	Milestones of Flight Museum

Driving up farther north, we ended up at General William J. Fox Airfield. We were hoping to catch a Neptune here, but unfortunately we only found another Aero-Flite Jumbolino. Next time better luck. Best time for a visit is around midday if you want to take photos with the sun in your back.

Besides the fire fighting base, there is also a small and quiet but nice museum. A handful of aircraft is parked outside and can be photographed nicely early afternoon.

## 26 November 2014 Mojave KMHV

136398	US-2B Tracker	USN
4X-ICO	Boeing 747-200F	Cargo Air Lines
C-FPAW	Boeing 747SP	Pratt & Whitney
D-ABTD	Boeing 747-400	Lufthansa
HS-TGL	Boeing 747-400	Thai Airways
(N110FR)/"AR-110"	Saab F35 Draken	
N140SC	L-1011-100 Tristar	Orbital Sciences
N150AM	Bell 407	Mercy Air
(N403FS)	F-4C Phantom	BAe Systems
N459MC	Boeing 747-400BCF	Atlas Air
N478	Twin Navion D	private
N523MC	Boeing 747-200F	Atlas Air
N706PC	Boeing 707-300B	Omega Air
N707CA	Boeing 707-300B	Omega Air
N740SA	Boeing 747-200F	Southern Air
N789SA	Boeing 747-300SF	Southern Air
(N810NA)	Convair CV-990A	Mojave Airport
N91292	Antonov 2R	Flying Billboards
N976DA	Derringer D-1	Derringer
(N977UA)	Boeing 737-200	Sky King <i>cn 21508</i>
XA-AGS	DC-9-15	Aero California
XA-CSL	DC-9-14	Aero California
XA-LMM	DC-9-14	Aero California

Continuing northwards through the Californian desert, we reached another airplane graveyard: Mojave. We only visited the operational part (i.e. the south-western part) of the airport. Here you will also need stairs to photograph over the fence.

## 27 November 2014 Los Angeles KLAX

A6-LRC	Boeing 777-200LR	Etihad Airways
B-18711	Boeing 747-400F	China Airlines Cargo
B-2038	Boeing 777-300ER	Air China
B-5937	Airbus A330-200	China Eastern
B-KPT	Boeing 777-300ER	Cathay Pacific
C-FDQQ	Airbus A320-200	Air Canada
C-FEWJ	Boeing 737-700	Westjet
EI-DRC	Boeing 737-800	AeroMexico
G-STBA	Boeing 777-300ER	British Airways
HP-1838CMP	Boeing 737-800	Copa Airlines
JA732A	Boeing 777-300ER	ANA All Nippon Airways
JA741J	Boeing 777-300ER	JAL
N363CM	Boeing 767-300ERSF	ABX Air
N520AM	Boeing 737-800	AeroMexico
N531UA	Boeing 757-200PCF	ATI Air Transport International
N693AV	Airbus A321-200	Avianca
N820SY	Boeing 737-800	Sun Country
N901NV	Boeing 757-200	Allegiant Air
XA-JLI	Embraer 145LR	AeroMexico Connect

Plus:

\*Alaska Airlines B737-400/B737-700/B737-800/B737-900;

\*Alaska Horizon DHC8-400;

\*American Airlines A321-200/B737-800/B757-200/B777-200/B777-300/MD-83;

\*American Eagle CRJ200/CRJ900;

\*Delta Air Lines A319-100/B737-800/B757-200/B757-300/B767-300;

\*Delta Connection CRJ900/Emb175;

\*Great Lakes Airlines Be1900;

\*JetBlue A320-200/A321-200;

- \*SkyWest CRJ200/Emb120;
- \*Southwest B737-300/B737-700;
- \*Spirit Airlines A319-100;
- \*United Airlines A320-200/B737-800/B737-900/B757-200/B757-300;
- \*United Express CRJ200/Emb120;
- \*US Airways A321-200;
- \*US Airways Express CRJ900;
- \*Virgin America A319-100/A320-200.

Thanksgiving was spent at the southern runways of LAX (runway 25L). The best place for photography here is near the Proud Bird restaurant. You can stand at the curb of Aviation Blvd or at the RV parking lot adjacent to the restaurant. At the first spot you'll have a short reaction time and no shadow, but the aircraft may be slightly lower. A 70-200mm lens is enough here.

## 28 November 2014 Los Angeles KLAX

9V-SKR	Airbus A380-800	Singapore Airlines
A6-LRE	Boeing 777-200LR	Etihad Airways
B-16706	Boeing 777-300ER	Eva Air
B-16718	Boeing 777-300ER	Eva Air
B-18215	Boeing 747-400	China Airlines
B-2096	Boeing 777F	Air China Cargo
B-6537	Airbus A330-200	China Eastern
B-KPP	Boeing 777-300ER	Cathay Pacific
B-KPV	Boeing 777-300ER	Cathay Pacific
C-FKPT	Airbus A320-200	Air Canada
C-FZUG	Airbus A319-100	Air Canada Rouge
C-GBHO	Airbus A319-100	Air Canada Rouge
D-ABYF	Boeing 747-8	Lufthansa
F-HPJI	Airbus A380-800	Air France
G-VFIZ	Airbus A340-600	Virgin Atlantic
G-XLED	Airbus A380-800	British Airways
HB-JML	Airbus A340-300	Swiss
HL7628	Airbus A380-800	Korean Air
HL7700	Boeing 777-200ER	Asiana Airlines
JA731J	Boeing 777-300ER	JAL
JA789A	Boeing 777-300ER	ANA All Nippon Airways
N374HA	Airbus A330-200	Hawaiian Airlines
N568TA	Airbus A321-200	TACA
N749P	Cessna 750	Foster Farms
PH-BFE	Boeing 747-400M	KLM
TC-JJP	Boeing 777-300ER	Turkish Airlines
VH-OQF	Airbus A380-800	Qantas
VQ-BBE	Airbus A330-200	Aeroflot
ZK-OKP	Boeing 777-300ER	Air New Zealand
ZK-OKQ	Boeing 777-300ER	Air New Zealand

Plus:

- \*Alaska Airlines B737-400/B737-700/B737-800/B737-900;
- \*Alaska Horizon DHC8-400;
- \*American Airlines A321-200/B737-800;
- \*Delta Air Lines B737-800/B777-200;
- \*Delta Connection CRJ900/Emb175;
- \*Great Lakes Airlines Be1900;
- \*JetBlue A320-200/A321-200;
- \*Southwest B737-300/B737-700/B737-800;
- \*Spirit Airlines A319-100;
- \*United Airlines A320-200/B737-800/B737-900;
- \*United Express CRJ700;



- \*US Airways A319-100;
- \*US Airways Express CRJ900;
- \*Virgin America A319-100/A320-200;
- \*Westjet B737-700.

Our final day in the United States (which coincidentally was both Black Friday and my 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday) was once again spent at the northern runways. This time we were only able to stay at the fly-over, because Joe's Car Parking was completely occupied. After returning our rental car in the afternoon we went to the terminal to check-in for flight LX41 to Zürich. The aircraft was an A340 which brought us in about 11 hours back to Europe.

### **29 November 2014 Zürich-Kloten LSZH**

9H-AEK	Airbus A320-200	Air Malta
F-GUGD	Airbus A318-100	Air France
G-EUYR	Airbus A320-200	British Airways
JY-AYT	Airbus A321-200	Royal Jordanian

Before our connecting flight to Amsterdam (LX734) the above planes were noted.

Back in a cold, cloudy and rainy Amsterdam it was time to review this trip. It was my first time in this part of the United States and also the first time I was able to photograph a decent amount of US airliners. Obviously it was an amazing trip with lots of nice airplanes. I noted almost 1300 aircraft and photographed a large share of them. There was a nice mixture of old and new airline colour schemes (American/US Airways, Southwest, Spirit, Frontier), but with the airline mergers there is going to be less variety in the future. Spending three or four days at LAS and LAX is enough to catch (nearly) all regulars. However, there are many other interesting airports in the area, especially in southern California, so there are enough reasons to go back again in the future.

The weather during our trip was excellent. We had just half a day of cloudy weather; at other times we saw nothing but clear blue skies. This time of the year sunrise-sunset is approximately 6.30 AM - 5 PM. Temperatures were just perfect: 15-20 degrees Celsius in Las Vegas and 20-25 degrees Celsius in Los Angeles. There was hardly any haze and the low-standing sun resulted in well-lit photos. Combined with relatively low airfares (I paid 600 EUR all in for AMS-LAS/LAX-AMS) the price/quality ratio of this spotting trip couldn't be better.

Even though our hobby is rather unknown in the United States, we were not bothered by police or security guards. Even when the Air Force One was approaching Las Vegas we could photograph without any restrictions.

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