

# Owens Valley Tour

This is a charter, consisting of a single flight covering 400 nm, from John Wayne Airport (KSNA) in Orange County, California, to Reno, Nevada (KRNO). The route flies over the Mohave Desert to the Northeast of Los Angeles, then up the historic Owens Valley that runs up the Eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The flight ends with a sightseeing detour to Lake Tahoe before landing at Reno.

The Owens Valley is roughly 100 miles long and varies from 6 to 20 miles wide. It is a rift valley, lying between two large seismic faults. It is of historic importance in that during the early 1900's the City of Los Angeles began diverting water from the Owens Valley via the Owens Valley Aqueduct. There has been a great deal of strife over this action ever since. The movie, Chinatown, starring Jack Nicholson, is based in part on some aspects of the diversion of water by Los Angeles.

There are a number of points of interest along the route of this charter. The following is just a simple summary. There is a great deal of information available on the internet concerning the history of the Owens Valley.

## **Points of interest along the way:**

1. Fix 3: Six miles off your right wingtip is Chino airport, home to the Planes of Fame museum and air show.
2. Fix 4: The San Andreas Fault can be seen running southeast to Northwest at the base of the mountains you just crossed over.
3. EDW VOR: Edwards AFB, originally the primary landing site for the space shuttle and now the alternate site, is 8 nm SW of the EDW VOR. Also, 27 miles to the West is the Mojave Airport where history was made in late 2004 when a civilian spacecraft, designed by Burt Rutan, successfully flew into outer space twice within 10 days.
4. NID DME: This is located at the China Lake Naval Weapons Center. To the North is the area of Owens Lake, once a navigable body of water 15 miles long, 10 miles wide and about 30 feet deep.
5. Fix 5: You are now over the Lone Pine airport. Off the left wingtip is Mt. Whitney, highest point in the lower 48 states. Less than 100 miles to the East is Death Valley, the lowest point. Approximately 6 miles to the Northwest is the location of the WWII Japanese internment camp at Manzanar. Another 9 miles Northwest is the town of Independence where Charles Manson was first questioned by police following the Tate-La Bianca murders in the 60's. Also to the Northeast are the Alabama Hills, a favorite spot of the Hollywood movie companies. Some of the films made in this area are Gunga Din, Charge of the Light Brigade, along with numerous films featuring John Wayne, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and William Boys (Hopalong Cassidy).
6. Fix 6: To the left is Crowley Lake, named after a Roman Catholic Priest who lived in Lone Pine in the mid-1050's and published over 200 articles in his Sage and Tumbleweed magazine.
7. Fix 7: Mono Lake, like the Salton Sea near Palm Springs, California and the Dead Sea in Israel has no outlet. Consequently, minerals carried into the lake are accumulating from natural evaporation. The level of the lake dropped significantly with the diversion of Owens River water to Los Angeles, but in recent years the level of the lake appears to be rising slowly. A bit farther North is the ghost town of Bodie, Nevada, once a busy gold mining community now empty and abandoned. Just a few miles over the mountain ridge to the west is Yosemite National Park.
8. Fix 8: You are now over the Lake Tahoe airport. On the Northern shore is the Ponderosa Ranch of TV's "Bonanza" fame and on the Northeast side of the lake is the entrance to Squaw Valley, home to the 1960 winter Olympic Games.

Enjoy your flight.

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From – To	<b><u>Flight Description.</u> "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"</b>				Course (Leg)	Distance (Leg)	ETE(leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy – 19 R	Init. Hdg: 047 deg.	Init. Alt: 10,500 ft	Apt Elev: 52 ft			
Newport Beach (KSNA), California  To  Reno (KRNO), Nevada	<b>Departure:</b> <b>To ELB VOR.</b> Prior to take-off tune NAV 1 to ELB VOR, 117.2. After take-off, maintain runway heading and begin minimum 500 fpm climb to 10,500 ft. When you reach the coast, make a standard left turn to 047 deg and fly direct to ELB VOR ... ..				047	15.3	00+07
	<b>Enroute:</b> <b>To Fix 03.</b> From ELB VOR turn left to 340 deg. Turn NAV 1 to POM VOR, 110.4 <sup>1</sup> . Waypoint reached when DME reads 6.4 nm. ... ..				340	18.0	00+08
	<b>To POM VOR.</b> Maintain heading of 339 deg and fly direct to POM VOR. ... ..				339	6.4	00+03
	<b>To Fix 4.</b> From POM VOR turn right to 349 deg and tune NAV 1 to EDW VOR, 116.4 <sup>2</sup> . Fly heading for approximately 7 min. ... ..				349	19.3	00+07
	<b>To EDW VOR.</b> Maintain heading of 349 deg and fly direct to EDW VOR. ... ..				349	35.0	00+13
	<b>To NID DME.</b> From EDW VOR, turn NAV 2 to NID DME, 111.6, maintain outbound heading of 348 deg and fly direct to NID DME ... ..				348	42.4	00+16
	<b>To Fix 5.</b> From NID DME, turn left to 327 deg and maintain heading up the Owens Valley for approximately 22 min. Tune NAV 1 to BIH VOR, 109.6. ... ..				327	58.5	00+22
	<b>To BIH VOR.</b> Continue on heading of 328 deg, and fly direct to BIH VOR ... ..				328	47.9	00+18
	<b>To Fix 6.</b> From BIH VOR turn left to 305 deg outbound from BIH and fly for approximately 7 minutes... ..				305	18.2	00+07
	<b>To Fix 7.</b> Continue on heading of 305 deg for roughly another 7 minutes to Mono Lake ... ..				305	19.8	00+07
	<b>To Fix 8.</b> Tune NAV 1 to SWR VOR, 113.2 <sup>3</sup> and begin climb to 12,500 ft. Continue on heading of 305 degrees (de'd reckoning for quite a while). Waypoint is over Lake Tahoe airport, DME reads 21.4nm... ..				305	81.1	00+29
	<b>To fix 10.</b> Make a standard right turn to 28 deg and begin descent as you are clear of the mountains surrounding Lake Tahoe. Tune ADF to NO NDB, 351.0. Waypoint reached when ADF indicates 344 deg course to NO NDB ... ..				28	14.8	00+05
	<b>Approach:</b> Turn left to 344 degrees for visual approach to Runway 34L, and welcome to Reno, Nevada, self proclaimed as "The biggest little city in the world" ... ..				344	23.6	00+09
	Land: Reno runway 34L                      Length: 11,008ft      Width: 150ft                      Surface: Asphalt						
<b>Flight 1066-03</b>	<b>Arrival Airport Elev: 4,412 ft</b>			<b>Estimated totals for this flight&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>		<b>400nm</b>	<b>02+30</b>

<sup>1</sup> FSNav shows a course error of -1deg for POM<sup>2</sup> FSNav shows a course error of -1deg for EDW<sup>3</sup> FSNav does not show a course error for SWR, but I suggest you use -2deg