

A BUSINESS TRAVEL UPDATE FROM ALL SEASONS TRAVEL

AIRLINES

OPEN SKIES MEANS MORE CHOICE FOR AIRLINE CONSUMERS

The EU-U.S. Open Skies air transport agreement means more choice for consumers. The treaty went into effect March 30, replacing 31 bilateral agreements between the EU's member states and the U.S. Until now, EU airlines could not operate flights to the U.S. from outside their home country. The most immediate effect was increased service into Heathrow, with Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines immediately starting flights into Heathrow. US Airways is also adding service to Heathrow. Air France-KLM is beginning flights from Los Angeles to the UK. The EU estimates that the agreement will increase traffic. Although logic dictates lower prices as a result of increased competition, high fuel prices and added airport surcharges at Heathrow, for example, are tempering any immediate fare decreases, according to the European Travel Commission. Source: EU, ETC press releases

AMERICAN AIRLINES RESERVATION CHANGES DUE TO AIRCRAFT INSPECTIONS

American Airlines is allowing customers who were scheduled on a flight that was recently cancelled due to inspections a full refund or they may apply the value of their ticket towards future travel on American Airlines. This includes non-refundable tickets. Call All Seasons Travel for assistance.

DELTA ADDS FEES

Delta will begin charging \$25 for a second checked bag for domestic passengers traveling on or after May 1st. SkyMiles Elite and First/Business Class passengers will be exempt from this fee and will continue to be allowed to check up to 3 bags at no additional charge. Some other changes effective April 1 include a new \$3 domestic curbside check-in administrative fee, an increase from \$100 to \$150 each way for oversized bags (63-80 linear inches) and an increase from \$75 to \$100 for reissues, cancellations and exchanges of domestic, non-refundable tickets. For more information ask your All Seasons travel counselor. Source: Delta Air Lines

NORTHWEST ADDS LUGGAGE FEES

Starting May 5, Northwest Airlines will charge coach class passengers \$25 each way for their second checked bag. Other changes include an increase from \$80 to \$100 for three or more checked bags, and an increase from \$25 to \$50 for overweight bags greater than 50 pounds. The announcement follows similar moves by United Airlines and US Airways. Source: Northwest press release

DELTA-NORTHWEST MERGER UPDATE

Delta and Northwest airlines announced a merger last night that will create the world's largest carrier to be headquartered in Atlanta. The mega-airline, which will be called Delta, will have more than \$35 billion in combined revenue and about 75,000 employees. The new airline will have domestic hubs in Atlanta, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, Detroit, Memphis and New York City and international hubs in Amsterdam and Tokyo. "We believe that consolidation in the airline industry is inevitable, and we want to control our future," Delta Chief Executive Richard Anderson said. "Combining our companies creates an airline with the size, scale and global presence to weather economic downturns and compete long-term in the global marketplace." The merger won't be final until the Justice Department signs off. That process could take months and the outcome is far from certain. Source: Atlanta Journal Constitution

DELTA ELITE CUSTOMERS 'BREEZE' THROUGH BOARDING

Elite customers flying Delta Air Lines within the United States now have a dedicated lane at each airport gate allowing them priority boarding anytime during the process – not just when their zone is called. The new lanes, called Breezeway and are marked by special red signage and blue carpet, recognize Delta's best customers for their loyalty and give them priority boarding at airports across Delta's U.S. network. Source: Delta Air Lines

SECURITY

CLEAR LAUNCHES AT WASHINGTON, D.C. AIRPORTS, OAKLAND AIRPORT

Clear, which expedites frequent travelers progress through airport security, has opened its expedited security lanes at Washington Reagan National and Washington Dulles as well as at Oakland International Airport. Clear members are pre-screened by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and, after application approval, are provided with a card that allows exclusive access to Clear's security lanes nationwide. The Clear Card verifies a fingerprint or iris image selected by members during enrollment. Clear cards are now accepted at 16 U.S. airports, including Cincinnati, Denver, Indianapolis, New York LaGuardia, New York Kennedy, Newark and San Francisco. Source: Clear press release

TSA EXPANDS SELF-SELECT LANES TO SIX MORE AIRPORTS

The Transportation Security Administration is expanding its self-select lanes that allow passengers to separate themselves by their familiarity with security clearance processes and their needs. There are three lanes: *expert*, for business travelers flying several times a month; *casual*, for less frequent travelers who are familiar with the security process; and *family/special assistance*, for passengers traveling with small children or strollers, elderly passengers and passengers who may need special assistance. Salt Lake City International and Denver International Airports instituted the self-select lane process first. The TSA is in the process of selecting the next six airports for the program. Source: TSA press release

AWARD

ALL SEASONS TRAVEL RECEIVES AWARD

All Seasons Travel recently received top honors at Abercrombie & Kent's 100 Club meeting held at the new Trump Towers Hotel in Chicago. A & K, known for their expertise in luxury travel to worldwide destinations, awarded All Seasons Travel for being the top producing agency for 2007.



SPOTLIGHT ON.....

CUTTING TRAVEL SPENDING

Topaz International, which has been analyzing travel expenditures for 30 years, has found that business travel itineraries booked by a designated corporate travel management company averaged \$56 less than the exact same itinerary booked on a public internet site. The company exactly replicated trips on public sites such as Expedia, Orbitz and Travelocity as well as on airline sites. It also looked at whether or not the volume of a corporation's airfare spending affected results. IT found:

- Smaller corporations generally have lower-priced airline tickets when compared to corporations with larger volumes of air spending.
- However, larger corporations are saving more per ticket than some of their small counterparts, probably because they get bigger discounts because of their high travel volume.

Bradley Seitz, president and CEO of Topaz, said that finding the lowest airfares remains a key focus of travel managers, a major headache given the fact that travel distribution remains highly fragmented. Source: Topaz press release

All Seasons Travel is committed to providing you with useful information on the latest developments in the travel industry. The information in this newsletter has been compiled from a variety of sources and is updated and distributed monthly.



2900 Cahaba Road
Birmingham, AL 35223
205.870.3003

CONTACT ALL SEASONS TRAVEL:

2742 Central Parkway
Montgomery, AL 36106
334.271.6647

3751 Lanier Drive
Douglasville, GA 30135
404.642.3443



Travel
Representative