

A BUSINESS TRAVEL UPDATE FROM ALL SEASONS TRAVEL

A NOTE FROM ALL SEASONS TRAVEL

All Seasons Travel's email itineraries will soon have a fresh new look. Called 'Travelport ViewTrip' travelers will have instant on-line access to travel plans 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Some of the features of this interactive, user friendly, email notification include a link to synch your itinerary with your calendar, flight status, maps, currency convert and weather. Travelers will receive a reminder email 24 hours before departure with a link for online check-in on certain airlines. As an added convenience, you can e-mail your itinerary or access your travel plans via any Internet-ready mobile telephone.

AIRLINES

DELTA ADDS FUEL SURCHARGE TO FREQUENT FLIER TICKETS

Showing the depths to which soaring fuel prices are pushing airlines, Delta Air Lines said that it will add a fuel surcharge to SkyMiles Award Tickets originating from the U.S. and Canada. As of Aug. 15, SkyMiles will charge \$25 for award travel between the 50 states and Canada and a \$50 for award travel between the 50 states/Canada and all international destinations, including the Caribbean, Latin America, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Pacific. Source: Delta Air Lines press release

UNITED FOLLOWS AMERICAN WITH \$15 FEE FOR FIRST CHECKED BAG

United Airlines is adopting American Airline's policy and charging passengers \$15 to check one bag for domestic travel each way. To check three or more bags, overweight bags or items that require special handling will increase from \$100 to \$125 or from \$200 to \$250, depending on the item. It will not charge first and business class passengers and customers with premier status with Star Alliance airlines. Source: United press release

CONTINENTAL EASES SAME-DAY CHANGE RULE

Continental Airlines now lets you change flights within 24 hours of your original scheduled departure for a fee. Within the 24-hour "same-day" period, customers with restricted tickets may change to another flight departing within 12 hours for the fee. Continental previously allowed customers to choose from flights departing within three hours. Fees are \$50 or \$25 for Continental's OnePass Platinum and Gold Elite members. Source: Continental press release

AIRLINES TIE LATEST FARE HIKES TO TRAVEL DATES

Airlines are starting to tie fare increases to specific dates, says Rick Seaney, CEO of FareCompare.com. Legacy airlines, along with Southwest, are starting to schedule some of their hikes by date of departure. United Airlines first increased prices on flights departing after Oct. 5. Then, Southwest Airlines announced an airfare increase of \$10 to \$20 roundtrip (\$5, \$8, \$10 each way) based on distance for flights departing after Nov. 1. Source: FareCompare.com

CONTINENTAL, UNITED PLAN TO MERGE IN ALL BUT NAME

Continental Airlines and United Airlines plan to link their services and networks worldwide in an effort to create new revenue opportunities and cost savings. Continental plans to join the Star Alliance, to which United already belongs. The two carriers plan to cooperate on frequent flier programs, lounges, facility utilization, information technology and procurement. Continental will also join United, Lufthansa, Air Canada and other Star Alliance carriers working together to establish trans-Atlantic and other international joint ventures. Source: United, Continental press

CARS

HERTZ CUTS REFUELING PRICES, INTRODUCES NEW EXPRESS CHECK-IN

Hertz is now basing its refueling pricing for both its the Hertz Fuel & Service Charge (FSC) and the Fuel Purchase Option (FPO) on the average price per gallon as set by the Oil Price Information Service (OPIS) in the geographical area where the car is rented. The FSC—for those who don't fill the tank--will be based upon local market fuel prices, plus a one-time refueling fee of \$6.99. The FPO--for those who do refill the tank--will reflect local market fuel prices minus a small discount of approximately \$0.15 per gallon. In addition, Hertz is starting a new self-service check in program that guarantees that you get your car in ten minutes or less. Source: Hertz press releases

SECURITY

TSA, DELTA OFFER MOBILE CHECK-IN AT LA GUARDIA

Delta Air Lines and the Transportation Security Administration are launching paperless mobile check-in on Delta and Delta Connection flights at LaGuardia Airport. Customers can download their boarding pass to their mobile devices via delta.com and drop their bags at the baggage drop counter. The TSA will scan the electronic boarding pass, check the customer's ID and process the customer through security; customers then present their electronic boarding passes to the gate agent at boarding time. Source: Delta press release



SPOTLIGHT ON.....

FREQUENT MILEAGE PROGRAMS

There has been plenty of bad news for members of the airlines' mileage programs in recent months. New fees have been imposed, and old fees have been increased. Award levels have been raised. And two airlines, United and US Airways, have scrapped their longstanding policies of awarding a minimum of 500 miles for short-haul flights. But even worse news lies ahead, and it has nothing to do with changes to the programs' terms and conditions. Slammed by soaring fuel costs on one side and squeezed by slumping demand on the other, the airlines have pinned their hopes for survival on downsizing. As has already been reported by industry-watchers, the flight cutbacks will result in the loss of service to smaller airports, more crowded planes, further erosion of customer service and higher prices. What has not been considered is the impact of fewer flights on frequent flyer programs.

Here's how the big picture will affect the small picture – all things being equal, a 10% reduction in seats overall will translate into a 10% reduction in award seats. Unless, that is, the airlines increase the percentage of seats they reserve for mileage redemption. Most likely they will reduce not only the absolute number of award seats, but the percentage of award seats as well. And while the amount a award seats shrinks, the airlines continue expanding their programs, giving consumers even more ways to earn miles...resulting in more miles chasing fewer seats.

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.



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