

DECEMBER 2007

Business Travel Update

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AIR TRAVEL INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY US-VISIT

Starting Nov. 29, the U.S. will augment the US-VISIT program by requiring that all [non-U.S. citizens] entering the U.S. provide all 10 fingerprints for entry - an increase from the two prints required under the existing program. The new regulation will be in place first at Dulles International Airport (IAD) on Nov. 29. In the first two quarters of 2008, the U.S. expects to implement the 10-fingerprint program at:

- Boston Logan International Airport (BOS)
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD)
- Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW)
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)
- George Bush Houston Intercontinental Airport (IAH)
- Miami International Airport (MIA)
- John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK)
- Orlando International Airport (MCO)
- San Francisco International Airport (SFO).

The program will go into effect at all ports of entry, including land and seaports, by the end of 2008. The U.S. government is introducing the new requirement in order to stem false identifications it has incurred using the two-fingerprint system. Travelers will still be required to be photographed. Once fingerprints are stored in the system, travelers will only be required to provide a flat-hand scan on subsequent visits. The new 10-fingerprint system will likely not increase entry processing times by more than a few minutes. *Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security US-VISIT*

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US AIRWAYS COMMITS TO SEVEN MORE A330s

US Airways has agreed to terms with Airbus for the order of five additional long-range, wide-body A330-200 aircraft. It has also entered into a letter of intent with International Lease Finance Corporation (ILFC) for the lease of two A330-200s. These additional aircraft will enable US Airways to continue its international growth plans of adding approximately three to four new markets per year between 2009 and 2011. The airline expects to take delivery of the five new aircraft from through 2011 and start using the two aircraft from ILFC in 2009. Combined with the 10 A330-200s currently on order from Airbus, US Airways' A330-200 fleet will grow to 17 by 2011. *Source: Business Travel Executive 11/21/07.*

AIRLINES ANNOUNCES COMPREHENSIVE HOLIDAY TRAVEL RELIABILITY PROGRAM

Northwest Airlines announced a "20 Point Plan" to minimize service disruptions and help provide the best possible customer experience during the December holiday. NWA's Holiday Travel Reliability Program, now in effect, is the first of its kind and a leader among the major U.S. airlines. The "20 Point Plan" was developed by Northwest's Task Force on Holiday Travel Reliability. The plan provides new options and added services for Northwest's customers, including advance notice of anticipated weather delays and more liberal rebooking policies for customers whose travel plans are disrupted by inclement weather, irregular operations involving air traffic delays and maintenance. "When a service disruption occurs or the forecast calls for bad weather, our Holiday Travel Reliability Program kicks in. *Source: NWA Sales Department 11/7/07*

SKYTEAM WELCOMES CHINA SOUTHERN AIRLINES AS FIRST CHINESE CARRIER

China Southern Airlines officially became the 11th full member of SkyTeam, making the alliance the first to welcome a carrier from mainland China. China is one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world, and the addition of China Southern allows SkyTeam to provide its customers around the world with greater travel options. *Source: NWA Sales Department 11/16/07*

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES TO LAUNCH TWICE DAILY NON-STOP FLIGHTS TO HEATHROW FROM NEW YORK & HOUSTON

Continental Airlines the world's fifth largest airline, today announced that it will launch nonstop flights to London/Heathrow from both its New York and Houston hubs on March 29, 2008, subject to government approval and slot approval. Continental will offer twice-daily nonstop service to Heathrow from both Newark Liberty International Airport and Houston George Bush Intercontinental Airport. The airline will continue to offer nonstop flights to London/Gatwick from both New York (twice daily) and Houston (daily), as well as Cleveland (daily, seasonal). "At last we will be able to give our customers something they have long requested -- the opportunity to fly to both London's main airports with their preferred airline," said Larry Kellner, Continental's chairman and CEO. "At the same time, we will be able to show transAtlantic travelers already using Heathrow what they have been missing. We look forward to the chance to compete at Europe's most important business airport." Effective March 29, 2008, Continental's London schedule will be as follows (subject to approval). Continental will own each of the Heathrow arrival/departure slots necessary to operate this schedule: *Source: CAL Press Release 11/15/07*

US AIRWAYS TO SERVE HEATHROW

US Airways plans to begin service between Philadelphia and London Heathrow on March 29, with tickets available for purchase on December 1. The Philadelphia-Heathrow route will be US Airways' seventh new transatlantic route since 2006. With the new service, US Airways' European destinations served from Philadelphia will increase to 20. *Source: Business Travel Executive 11/21/07*

UNITED TAKES WRAPS OFF NEW LIE FLAT SEATS

United Airlines' first international aircraft to complete the carrier's multimillion-dollar product enhancement has taken flight from Washington Dulles to Frankfurt. United says it is now the first US airline to offer 180-degree, lie-flat beds in business class on overseas flights. *Source: Business Travel Executive 11/21/07*

SKYTEAM'S vanWIJK PENDING CONSOLIDATION WILL RESHAPE ALLIANCES INDUSTRY.

SkyTeam Governing Board Chairman Leo van Wijk believes alliances will be around for years to come "because it is clear that a global airline with a single ownership is not yet possible" owing to regulatory issues, nationalism and the complexity of combining carriers. However, he does not think they will retain their current form. *Source: ATW 11-22-07*

DELTA SAYS '08 PLAN FOR JFK WILL ADD SERVICE & REDUCE CONGESTION

Delta is introducing a redesigned New York schedule for summer 2008 that accommodates growing customer demand at JFK Airport while taking steps to reduce airport congestion and delays. Delta plans to offer 14 new international routes, including nine destinations not served by any other US major airline from JFK, and says it will offer customers improved on-time reliability by reducing the number of Delta flights operating during peak hours. The nine new transatlantic routes are to Tel Aviv, Israel (effective March 10); Edinburgh, Scotland (May 1); Dakar, Senegal (June 2); Nairobi, Kenya (via Dakar, June 2); Cairo, Egypt (June 4); Malaga, Spain (June 4); Amman, Jordan (June 5); Lagos, Nigeria (June 9); and, subject to DOT approval, Cape Town, South Africa (via Dakar, June 3). The five new Latin America/Caribbean routes are to Panama City (Dec. 13); Guatemala City (Dec. 14); Port of Spain, Trinidad (Dec. 20); San Jose, Costa Rica (Feb. 15); and Liberia, Costa Rica (Feb. 16). *Source: Business Travel Executive 9-20-07*

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HOTEL INFORMATION

HYATT PLACE OPENS FIRST MASSACHUSETTS HOTEL

The Hyatt Place Boston/Medford, minutes from downtown Boston, has opened. The hotel, Hyatt Place's first in Massachusetts, features 157 guest rooms and public areas. The hotel offers guests a complimentary shuttle service within a four-mile radius to Tufts University and Davis Square, in addition to nearby shopping centers, restaurants and office buildings.

Source: Business Travel Executive 11/07

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