

ITandT Business Travel Solutions

Travel News Alert

April 2009

BRIEFING/AMERICA

Southwest Airlines Hits New York City With New Strategy

Last Updated: April, 7, 2009

Southwest Airlines announced that it would begin offering service June 28 at New York's LaGuardia Airport, its first foray into the business travel airport known for high fares. Southwest will provide five flights a day to Chicago's Midway airport starting with fares as low as \$80 one-way. It will offer three flights a day to Baltimore/Washington International airport for as little as \$49.

To start this new service Southwest is offering a \$99 one way coast to coast airfares sale for travel thru August 13, 2009. No travel permitted during the 4th of July Holiday (July 2-July 6).

Travel is valid everyday except Fridays and Sundays. This \$99 one way coast to coast airfares are valid to most Southwest destination including San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland (OR), Seattle, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Reno, Albuquerque, Denver, Minneapolis, Dallas, Houston, New Orleans, and many more.

In other Southwest news, the carrier announced that it plans to expand operations at Minneapolis-St. Paul with new daily service to Denver starting on May 26. The carrier opened shop at MSP last month when it began flying to Chicago Midway.

As always ITandT BTS has immediate access to Southwest Airlines in our GDS and can also process reservations directly on-line via Southwest's SWABIZ booking platform. And always remember that non-refundable tickets purchased on Southwest Airlines are transferrable. ITandT BTS will automatically monitor and track unused ticket inventories for our corporate clients and apply/exchange these tickets accordingly.

Southwest Airlines To Test Food Sales

Last updated: April 1, 2009

Southwest Airlines, which currently offers free snacks on flights, is considering selling food to boost revenue as air travel demand shrinks. The carrier said food sales would be a revenue generator and something they are in deed looking at. Southwest would still offer some free snacks such as peanuts, pretzels, cookies, or crackers.

AirTran Airways to Start Flights From Allentown

Last Updated: April 10, 2009

AirTran Airways announced plans to begin service between Lehigh Valley International Airport, Allentown, and both Orlando and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The service, effective June 25, will begin with promotional fares of \$79 to Orlando, and \$84 to Fort Lauderdale

End Of An Era – Northwest Airlines and Minneapolis-St. Paul

Last Updated: April 7, 2009

Northwest Airlines signs were swapped for Delta banners. Northwest, which started in 1926 as a Minneapolis-Chicago mail route carrier, merged with Delta last year, and the combined company is in the midst of phasing out the Northwest name. Some other operational details, such as software integration and union contracts, have not been completed as of yet. Airport agents still process the carriers' tickets separately during check-in. A vast majority of Northwest aircraft have yet to be repainted as well.

Liquids & Gels In Carry On Baggage – Do you Know the Rules?

Last Updated: April 7, 2009

There still seems to be a lot of confusion about what can, and can't, be taken through security and onboard the aircraft. We want to try and make your trip through the lines a little quicker.

EACH passenger is limited to **ONE** zip-loc style baggie, **QUART-sized**, in which you can place as many "**Comfortably-fitting**" (read easy to see) items of **MOST*** liquid or gel products, as long as **EACH** item is in a container that is **3 OUNCES**, or less, in size. (***NO** liquid or gel product can be of a flammable nature.)

You **CAN NOT** have a 6-ounce bottle that is half full. You **CAN NOT** have a 10-ounce tube of toothpaste or hair gel that is three-quarters empty. You **CAN NOT** have a 3.5-ounce bottle of mouthwash (and just try to find one of those at 3-ounces, or smaller).

Don't fill this limited space with everything you normally keep in your toiletry kit (hairbrush, floss, toothbrush, etc.). Put those items in your usual toiletry bag. Your zip-loc baggie of liquids/gels must be **OUT** of your carry-on baggage and sent through the screening machine separately.

So, what can you do if you need liquids or gels in larger quantities?

- You can place larger quantities in checked luggage.
- You can purchase larger-size products on the other side of security (but remember, you won't be able to bring them back through security on your return flight).
- You can transfer products to smaller, travel size bottles. Just be certain that they are marked, or are very obviously, 3-ounces or less.

- Check with your hotel to see what they already provide (many have expanded way beyond just shampoo and conditioner) which might allow you to bring the specific items you need that aren't already available, gratis, from your hotel.
- Consider substitute products. Liquid nail polish remover can be replaced with "acceptable" pads that are saturated with the product. The same goes for hand sanitizer cloths vs. a bottle of liquid hand sanitizer. We even hear that tooth polishing "powder" is making a bit of a comeback.

There are exceptions, of course. Certain medications (prescription or over-the-counter) may be acceptable in larger quantities. Breast milk, baby-food, or required hydrating products may be acceptable in larger quantities. Water, sports-drinks and other non-essential beverages must be consumed before passing through security (you can, however, purchase these items on the boarding side of security and take them onboard the aircraft).

Visit <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm> for additional information and exceptions to these guidelines.

Airline Checked Baggage Fee Chart

Last Updated: April 7, 2009

One of the biggest fees is for oversized checked luggage. This can be up to \$175, even if your bag has only 25 pounds of clothing.

The current baggage fees apply only for travel within the contiguous 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Travelers flying to other international destinations can still check two bags for free.

As of July 1, 2008, Southwest Airlines is the only major U.S. airline that will let passengers check two bags (50 lbs or less) for free for travel within the contiguous 48 states. Alaska Airlines began charging \$25 for a second checked bag starting on this date.

Passengers who purchase full fare unrestricted coach, business class or first class tickets can also check two bags for free. Military passengers flying on active duty orders may also still check two bags for free.

If you are an elite member of a frequent flyer program on one of the major airlines, you can still check two bags for free on that carrier. Some airlines also allow passengers who are listed under the same reservation as an elite member to check up to two bags for free. Be sure to check the contract of carriage for your airline for their policies.

Continental Airlines is the only major U.S. airline that lets their One Pass Elite members (and military travelers flying on active duty orders) flying in economy class to check two bags weighing 70 lbs each for free. All other airlines charge extra for bags weighing over 50 lbs. Continental's business class and first class passengers may check up to three bags weighing up to 70 lbs for free.

Virgin America is only U.S. airline that permits your first bag for free that weighs up to 70 lbs. For all other airlines, the cutoff point is 50 lbs for the first bag.

These are just a few of many fees the airlines have unveiled since February 2008. It's always best to contact your airline or check the contract of carriage on their website for any last-minute changes.

Airline	1st Checked Bag	2nd Checked Bag	3rd-5th Checked Bag	Curbside Check-In
American	\$15	\$25	\$100	Free
Air Canada	\$0	\$0	\$100	n/a
Air Tran	\$15	\$25	\$50	Free
Alaska	\$0	\$25	\$125	Varies
Continental	\$15	\$25	\$100	Free
Delta	\$15	\$25	\$125 3rd / \$200 4th & 5th	Free
Frontier	\$15	\$25	\$50	n/a
Hawaiian Air	\$15	\$25	\$100	n/a
JetBlue	\$0	\$20	\$75	\$2
Midwest	\$15	\$25	\$100	Free
Northwest	\$15	\$25	\$100	Varies
Southwest	\$0	\$0	\$25 / 3rd-5th \$50	Free
Spirit	\$15 online / \$25 at airport	\$25	\$100	\$2
United	\$15	\$25	\$125	\$2
US Airways	\$15	\$25	\$100	\$2
Virgin America	\$0	\$25	\$50-\$100	n/a

Airline	Overweight Bag Fee (50-70 lbs)	Overweight Bag Fee (71-99 lbs)	Oversized Bag Fee (62-80")
American	\$50	\$100	\$150
Air Canada	\$75	\$75	\$75
Air Tran	\$39	\$79	\$39-\$79
Alaska	\$50	\$50	\$50
Continental	\$50	n/a	\$100
Delta	\$90	\$175	\$175
Frontier	\$75	\$75	\$75
Hawaiian Air	\$25	n/a	\$100
JetBlue	\$50	\$100	\$75
Midwest	\$50	\$65	\$80
Northwest	\$50	n/a	\$100
Southwest	\$25	\$50	\$50
Spirit	\$50	\$100	\$100
United	\$125	\$125	\$175
US Airways	\$65-\$150	\$115-\$200	\$100
Virgin America	\$50	\$100	\$50

Airline Fees For Changes, Kids Flying Solo and Pets

Last Updated: April 7, 2009

One of the biggest fees for making changes to your airline reservation is on United, US Airways, Continental, Northwest and American Airlines. The change fees on domestic tickets is \$150 per ticket. Southwest Airlines currently has no change fee.

If you purchase a ticket at, let's say, \$150 roundtrip and you are traveling with a family of four and need to make a change to your reservation, you would be out the entire \$150 per ticket or \$600 big bucks.

If you had bought your tickets on another carrier, such as Southwest, you would still receive your full 100% of your ticket value back to be used in airline credits that you can use towards another airline ticket.

If you are flying on an airline that has high change fees, a travel smart move to protect your travel dollars is with trip insurance. This usually costs about \$6 to \$8 per \$100 of your airfare, and you should protect everyone traveling on the same policy. This umbrella gives the entire group protection.

If you have to cancel your trip due to an illness or family emergency, you can receive up to \$500 back to cover your change fee. You must insure the entire amount of the airfare or vacation package or cruise.

For example, let's say you buy four airline tickets that cost a total of \$1,000 on a major airline that charges \$100 to \$150 to make a change. You would pay approximately \$60 to \$80 for the travel insurance. If you cancel your trip, the airline is going to deduct \$400 to \$600 to change your tickets. The remaining balance can be used towards a future ticket on the same airline. Your travel insurance is going to reimburse you between \$400 and \$500 as part of your coverage for your \$60 to \$80 investment.

Another benefit under the same policy can be flight delay compensation, lost or misplaced baggage insurance and compensation for hotels and meals if you must stay overnight due to flight delays.

ITandT Business Travel Solutions uses AIG insurance. They have been around for years and have really taken good care of our business clients over the years.

Airline	Change Fees	Kids Flying Solo (age 5-7)	Kids Flying Solo (age 8-11)	Kids Flying Solo (age 12-14)	Kids Flying Solo (age 15-17)	Pets Flying In Cabin
Air Tran	\$75	\$39 (nonstop or direct)	\$39 (nonstop) or \$59 (connecting)	\$39-\$59 (optional)	Call airline for options	\$69
Air Canada	\$50	n/a	\$100	\$100	\$100	n/a
Alaska	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75 (optional)	\$100
American	\$150	\$100 (nonstop or direct)	\$100 (nonstop or connecting)	\$100 (nonstop or connecting)	\$100 (optional)	\$100
Continental	\$150	\$75 (nonstop only)	\$75 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$75 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$75-\$100 (optional)	\$125
Delta	\$150	\$100 (nonstop or direct)	\$100 (nonstop or connecting)	\$100 (nonstop or connecting)	\$100 (optional)	\$150
Frontier	\$150	\$50 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$50 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$50 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$50-\$100 (optional)	n/a
Hawaiian Air	\$150	\$75 (non stop or direct) \$100 connecting	\$75 (non stop or direct) \$100 connecting	\$75 (non stop or direct) \$100 connecting	\$75 (non stop or direct) \$100 connecting (optional)	n/a
JetBlue	\$100	\$75 (nonstop or direct)	\$75 (nonstop or direct)	\$75 (nonstop or direct)	Call airline for options	\$100
Northwest	\$150	\$75 (nonstop or direct)	\$75 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$75 (nonstop) or \$100 (connecting)	\$75-\$100 (optional)	\$150
Southwest	\$0	Free (nonstop or direct)	Free (nonstop or direct)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Spirit	\$90	\$100 (nonstop or direct)	\$100 (nonstop or direct)	\$100 (nonstop or direct)	\$100 (optional)	\$100
United	\$150	\$150 (nonstop or direct)	\$150 (nonstop or direct)	\$150 (optional)	\$150 (optional)	\$175
US Airways	\$150	\$100 (nonstop only)	\$100 (nonstop only)	\$100 (nonstop only)	\$100 (optional)	\$100
Virgin America	\$75	\$75 (nonstop only)	\$75 (nonstop only)	\$75 (nonstop only)	\$75 (optional)	\$100 (max 20 lbs including kennel)

BRIEFING/INTERNATIONAL

Ryanair To Abolish Airport Check-In

Last Updated: April 9, 2009

Irish budget carrier Ryanair plans to close all airport check-in desks by the end of this year as it explores further ways to cut its operating costs. The Dublin-based carrier said that from the start of 2010 it will make all passengers check-in for their flights online. Around 75% of Ryanair's passengers already use the Internet for the process. It currently charges 3 Euros to check-in at the airport and claims that it will pass on any savings directly to its passengers, through cheaper air fares.

Delta Airlines To Trim Trans-Pacific, Trans-Atlantic Flights

Last Updated: April 1, 2009

Delta Airlines, which has pinned its hopes for success on international expansion, said the recession will force it to cut trans-Atlantic flying capacity up to 13% and trans-Pacific flying up to 14% this year. This announcement comes six months after Delta acquired Northwest Airlines to become the world's largest carrier with the industry's largest global network. Last fall, Delta announces 15 new international routes for this summer to Europe, Africa and Asia, including new non-stop service between New York John F. Kennedy Airport and Tokyo Narita and between Atlanta and Johannesburg, South Africa. The newly announced cuts, slated to begin in September, come on top of Delta's previous plan to reduce overall capacity this year by 6% to 8%.

US Airways Eyes Foreign Seat Cutback

Last Updated: April 1, 2009

Dafter slashing domestic seat capacity in the last year, US Airways announced that it was looking to trim international seats and flight frequencies after the summer because of the deteriorating global economy. The carrier recently reduced international seat capacity by 2% for this summer, due to a rapid decline in business travel and a slump in premium first and business class demand.

New Passport Rules For Many Trips

Last Updated: April 1, 2009

Starting June 1, 2009 Americans will need to show a passport, a passport card, or other special documentation to return to the United States by land or sea from Mexico and Canada.

What You Need – Generally you need a passport to enter the United States by air from any foreign country. If you enter by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda, you may not need a passport, but you do need at least a birth certificate or other proof of citizenship, plus a government issued photo ID, such as a driver's license. Children under 18 or younger need only a birth certificate for land and sea entry from these areas.

What You Need Starting June 1 – The same rules apply for air travel – passport required. If you are arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda by land or sea, you will generally have several choices; a passport; a passport card – a new type of ID that the U.S. government began issuing last year; an enhanced driver's license – a new, high-tech version offered by a few states; or a "Trusted Traveler" card such as SENTRI and NEXUS for frequent border crossers.

There will be exception for land and sea crossing from destinations. U.S. and Canadian children younger than 16, for example, will require only proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate. Passengers on cruise ships that sail round-trip from a U.S. port may need only a birth certificate and a government issued photo ID. You will find a summary of the current and new rules at a web site maintained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection: www.getyouhome.org