

ITandT Business Travel Solutions

Business Travel News Alert

August 2009

BRIEFING/AMERICA

3-1-1 For Carry-Ons

Last Updated: July 31, 2009



Make Your Trip Better Using 3-1-1

3-1-1 for carry-ons = 3.4 ounce bottle or less (by volume) ; 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin. One-quart bag per person limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. 3.4 oz. container size is a security measure.

Consolidate bottles into one bag and X-ray separately to speed screening.

Be prepared. Each time TSA searches a carry-on it slows down the line. Practicing 3-1-1 will ensure a faster and easier checkpoint experience.

3-1-1 is for short trips. If in doubt, put your liquids in checked luggage.

Declare larger liquids. Medications, baby formula and food, and breast milk are allowed in reasonable quantities exceeding three ounces and are not required to be in the zip-top bag. Declare these items for inspection at the checkpoint.

Come early and be patient. Heavy travel volumes and the enhanced security process may mean longer lines at security checkpoints.

TSA working with our partners. TSA works with airlines and airports to anticipate peak traffic and be ready for the traveling public.

» [3-1-1 Gains International Acceptance](#)

Resources

- [Why the bag?](#)
- [Permitted and Prohibited Items](#)
- [Learn more about packing your liquids and gels](#)
- [Important information on duty-free items](#)
- [European Union security measures](#)
- [Information for travelers with disabilities and medical conditions](#)
- [Information on traveling with children](#)

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

Airline Fees For Phone Reservations, Priority Seating & More

Last updated: July 31, 2009

Airline Fees For Phone Reservations, Priority Seat Selection, Food And Drinks -- today, picking the right airfare may not be the overall cheapest airfare.

Many factors go into your total airline ticket these days, thanks to new fees being implemented by the major airlines for everything ranging from baggage to alcohol on board. These fees can add up quickly.

We have collected data on 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.

If we had to rank the airline with the more friendly fees, Southwest Airlines wins hands down. Please note that fees and policies are subject to change at any time.

Airline	Reservation by Phone (per person)	Priority Seat Selection	Meals	Beverages / Snacks	Alcohol
American	\$20	None	\$3-\$10	Free/None	\$6
Air Tran	\$15	\$6-\$20	None	Free	\$6
Alaska	\$15	None	\$5	Free	\$5
Continental	\$15	None	Free (flights 2+ hours)	Free	\$5
Delta	\$25	None	\$3-\$8	Free	\$7
Frontier	\$25	None	\$3-\$7	Free	\$6
Hawaiian Air	\$10-\$25	None	Free	Free	\$6
JetBlue	\$15	\$10-\$30	None	Free	\$5
Midwest	\$25	\$25-\$75	\$6-\$11	\$0-\$4	\$5

Northwest	\$20	\$5-\$35	\$7-\$10	\$0-\$5	\$5
Southwest	Free	\$10-\$30 (Business Select)	None	\$0-\$3	\$4
Spirit	\$20	\$5-\$35	None	\$2-\$5	\$6
United	\$25	\$14-\$109	\$6-\$9	Free	\$6
US Airways	\$25-\$35	\$5-\$30	\$5-\$7	Free/ \$5-\$7 Snacks	\$7
Virgin America	\$15	\$15-\$100	\$6-\$8	Free (beverages only)	\$5-\$6

Delta Enhancing Frequent Flier Miles

Last Updated: July 29, 2009

Delta Air Lines is taking a page from the cell phone industry and will allow frequent fliers to roll over miles earned above their qualification status in a given year, giving them an easier time maintaining that status or moving to a higher one the next year. The carrier announced enhancements to its SkyMiles Medallion program that will go into effect in the next nine months. Delta has three frequent-flier statuses – silver, gold and platinum – and will add a fourth, diamond. The carrier stated that it will allow customers to retain any Medallion qualification miles earned above a Medallion threshold at the end of the year, supplementing the ability to earn status the following year.

Continental hands Its Fliers the TV Remote

Last Updated: July 30, 2009

Venturing where only low-cost carriers have gone before, Continental has become the first big legacy airline to offer satellite TV, a move that could push its peers to follow suit at a time when competition is the fiercest it's been in years. Since April, Continental has installed DirecTV on 18 planes. By early 2011 the airline plans to have 77 channels of live TV available to passengers flying domestically on about 220 of its jetliners. It joins JetBlue, Virgin America and Frontier in offering passengers the chance to watch live sports, news and other programming on TV screens at their seats instead of programs taped earlier. JetBlue and Virgin America offer the TV service for free. Frontier charges \$6 to all but premium-fare ticket holders and some members of its frequent-flier club. Continental is charging \$6 in coach and letting first-class passengers receive the service free of charge.

Airline Checked Baggage Fee Chart

Last Updated: July 31, 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.

Please note that most airlines are changing their check in policies to allow pre payment of checked baggage. They are giving you a break on the price if you pre pay online, usually lowering the price by \$5 per bag. If you do not prepay on these select airlines you will be charged a surcharge at the time of check in at the ticket counter or kiosk.

Airline	1st Checked Bag	2nd Checked Bag	3rd-5th Checked Bag	Curbside Check-In	Standard Change Fees	Pet Flying In Cabin Fee
American	\$15	\$25	\$100	Free	\$150	\$100
Air Canada	\$0	\$0	\$100-\$225	n/a	\$75-\$100	\$50-\$100
Air Tran	\$15	\$25	\$50	Free	\$75	\$69
Alaska	\$15	\$25	\$50-\$100	Varies	\$75	\$100
Continental	\$15	\$25	\$100	Free	\$150	\$125
Delta	\$15 online- \$20 airport	\$25online/ \$30 airport/ \$50 International	\$125 3rd / \$200 4th & 5th	Free	\$150	\$150-\$275
Frontier	\$15	\$25	\$50domestic -\$100 international	n/a	\$150	\$100-\$200
Hawaiian Air	\$15	\$17 -\$25	\$100	n/a	\$150	\$35-\$175
JetBlue	\$0	\$30	\$75	\$2	\$100	\$100
Midwest	\$15	\$25	\$100	Free	-	-
Northwest	\$15 online- \$20 airport	\$25	\$125-\$200	Varies	\$150	\$150-\$275
Southwest	\$0	\$0	\$50	Free	\$0	\$75

Spirit	\$19 online / \$25 at airport	\$25	\$100	\$2	\$90	\$100
United	\$15 online/ \$20 at airport	\$25 online/ \$30 at airport	\$125-\$200	\$2	\$150	\$125-\$250
US Airways	\$15 online/ \$20 at airport	\$25 online/ \$30 at airport	\$100	\$2	\$150	\$100
Virgin America	\$15	\$15	\$15 A Piece	n/a	\$75	\$100

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-\$100	\$75-\$100	\$75-\$100
Air Tran	\$39	\$79	\$39-\$79
Alaska	\$50	\$50	\$50
Continental	\$50	n/a	\$100
Delta	\$90-\$150	\$175-\$300	\$175
Frontier	\$75	\$75	\$75
Hawaiian Air	\$25-\$50	n/a	\$25 interisland- \$100
JetBlue	\$50	\$100	\$75
Midwest	\$50	\$65	\$80
Northwest	\$50-\$150	n/a	\$100-\$175
Southwest	\$50	\$50	\$50
Spirit	\$50	\$100	\$100
United	\$125	\$125	\$175
US Airways	\$70-\$150	\$120-\$200	\$100
Virgin America	\$50	\$100	\$50

Cashing In Frequent Flyer Miles For Free Ticket Should Be Easier After August 17, 2009

Last Updated: August 4, 2009

We checked many of the airlines websites to see how easy it is to use frequent flyer miles for free tickets.

The bad news is if you want to cash out and take a trip before August 17, 2009 you may have to cash in double the amount of air miles.

Now if this is what you must do then checkout the first class awards. If you're going to cash out at 50,000 air miles for a coach ticket, I think you have a good shot at qualifying for a first class ticket for the same 50,000 air miles, if you are flexible on travel between now and August 17, 2009.

I know I would be sad if I had to cash in 50,000 air miles for coach, but if I can get first class for the same amount of miles I'm a little happier, still sad ,but crying in a bigger seat with those free adult beverages.

Also, if you have United Airlines miles they are currently running a promotion where you can fly on 20% mileage reduction rate.

United also stated that they will no longer be charging and expedite fee if you cash in your miles under 21 days before departure. Hopefully the other airlines will fall in place behind them.

A few years ago if you booked your ticket after the 21 day advance purchase you did have to talk to a human but those days are over. How can the airlines in their right minds, have an expedited service fee, especially when you booked your reward ticket online. You don't talk to humans, so why the fee? If they have a seat they should give it to me for no free without a fee.

BRIEFING/INTERNATIONAL

British Airways Announcements

Last Updated: July 31, 2009

- ⇒ British Airways will make changes to its free checked baggage allowances and baggage charges, effective October 7, 2009. Customers travelling in the World Traveler economy cabin to and from the USA, Canada, Bermuda, Argentina, Mexico and the Caribbean will now have a one bag free allowance of 51 lbs. The changes will affect customers booking from October 7, 2009 for travel from this date. Customers with existing bookings or new bookings up to and including October 6, 2009, for travel anytime, will be unaffected and the current two-piece free allowance and existing charges will remain.

- ⇒ British Airways has announced departure airport changes from London Gatwick to London Heathrow. Effective October 25, 2009 the following flights will switch from London Gatwick to London Heathrow:
 - London Gatwick to Barcelona
 - London Gatwick to Gibraltar
 - London Gatwick to Madrid
 - London Gatwick to Pisa
 - London Gatwick to Malaga

All passengers will be re-accommodated to alternate flights from/to London Heathrow.

US Airways Suspends Three Europe Routes This Fall

Last Updated: July 31, 2009

US Airways advised its employees that it would suspend daily roundtrips between Philadelphia and three European cities this fall – Milan, Brussels, and Zurich. The carrier stated that it is planning to resume service next spring.

Star Members Given US Go Ahead

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Officials at the US Department of Transportation (DOT) have given a nod to concerns expressed by the Justice Department about new antitrust immunity among members of the Star Alliance. In an attempt to ease Justice's anxiety the DOT has opted to expand the number of city pairs, or carve outs, exempt from the immunized agreement. The DOT in April gave its tentative support to antitrust immunity among 10 Star carriers including prospective member Continental Airlines. It also awarded preliminary endorsement to a transatlantic joint venture proposed by Air Canada, Continental, Lufthansa and United Airlines.

Consolidation Enters End Game

Last Updated: July 31, 2009

Star Alliance carrier Lufthansa lodging a fresh concessions offer to European regulators over its move to take over Austrian Airlines could be taking the German airline closer to completing its planned consolidation moves. Lufthansa has been trying to obtain clearance to purchase Austrian to meet an end of the month deadline, but has been locked in a stand-off with the European Commission after regulators ruled the German airline's proposals did not go far enough to allay competition concerns. The EC has been looking at the planned acquisition since February after raising concerns Austrian was not being sold to Lufthansa at a fair market price, and that the privatization procedure has not been sufficiently transparent. With the clock ticking Lufthansa has now submitted a new final proposal. The EC has yet to indicate if the revised offer will be sufficient, although sources familiar with the negotiations suggest that a deal may be imminent.

Austrian is just one of a number of acquisitions Lufthansa has been working on. IN June it secured EC approval for its acquisition of a 45% stake in Brussels Airlines and broke a deadlock over its acquisition of a 50% plus one share stake in UK operator bmi later the same month. j