

A BUSINESS TRAVEL UPDATE FROM HESS CORPORATE TRAVEL 150 NORTH MAIN STREET BOUNTIFUL UT 84010 – (801) 292-8687

Airlines

Third Quarter Air Travel Index Hits 11 Year High

The Air Travel Price Index (ATPI) for the third quarter of 2006 reached the highest third-quarter level recorded in 11 years, 7.5 percent higher than the previous third quarter high in 2005, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics. The fare index rose 7.5 percent in the third quarter of 2006 from the third quarter of 2005, the biggest year-to-year rise since third quarter 2000. While reaching a third-quarter high, the ATPI declined 2.6 percent from the record high set in the second quarter of 2006. Quarter-to-quarter changes may be affected by seasonal factors. (Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics press release).

FAA Reports Third Annual Drop in Air Traffic Control Staff

Air traffic controller staffing levels have dropped for the third straight year, to a new low of 14,206, according to the most recent Federal Aviation Administration "Administrator's Fact Book." The fact book reports that the overall total number of controllers working in its 300- plus facilities dropped from 14,227 at the end of fiscal year 2005 to 14,206 in fiscal year 2006. The figures are listed as being current as of October 31, 2006, taking into account hiring and attrition statistics a full month into the current fiscal year. Controller staffing totals reached as high as 15,386 as recently as September 2003. But a year later, in October, 2004, the FAA reported that total had fallen to 14,736 as the long-expected controller retirement wave began to increase in size. (Source: National Air Traffic Controllers Association press release).

BA, Air France to Launch Clear at JFK

Air France is sponsoring the Clear Registered Traveler program at John F. Kennedy International's Terminal 1. This means all airlines from Terminal 1, and their passengers, can take advantage of the Clear program. The program allows business traveler and other frequent fliers to pay an annual fee of \$99.95 and provide background information about themselves to the Transportation Security Administration for pre-screening. If approved, they get a biometric ID card that gives them expedited access through airport security checkpoints. Last month, British Airways opened its Clear Lane at JFK's Terminal 7. (Source: Air France press release).

Air Canada Relocates U.S. Transborder Flights to Pearson Terminal 1

Air Canada has relocated all of its U.S. transborder Toronto flight to Terminal 1 at Pearson International Airport. This means all of Air Canada's U.S. operations out of Toronto have been consolidated with its current domestic and international operations in the terminal. Air Canada will no longer operate from Terminal 2. Air Canada expects this to dramatically improve the customer experience, reducing distances between gates and making connections much easier. (Source: Air Canada press release).

Virgin Atlantic Brings To Chicago an Antidote to Transatlantic Travel

Virgin Atlantic announced their newest route from Chicago O'Hare to London Heathrow, aptly named The High Riser, to honor those pioneers who envisioned a city that could touch the sky, and for today's jetsetters who elevate business to new heights. Daily service commences April 23, 2007.

Increased Air Passenger Duty Levied By The UK Government

From February 1, 2007, the UK Government has increased Air Passenger Duty (APD) from £20 to £40 per passenger for Economy passengers, and £40 to £80 per passenger for Premium Economy and Upper Class passengers. The tax applies to every passenger (excluding infants and some transit passengers) leaving on a flight from any UK airport. APD is a government tax which has been paid by passengers since it was introduced 13 years ago. The government says the extra APD raised will be targeted at helping our environment and tackling climate change.

Hotels

Hilton Launches eTravel Directory

Hilton Hotels has launched of its new eTravel Directory of hotels, allowing travelers to see the most current information about the brand's more than 500 hotels worldwide at the click of a button. The Hilton eTravel Directory can be downloaded to travelers' desktops in both Windows and Mac formats and is compatible with BlackBerry and most PDAs. It can also be printed from a PDF file allowing users to add handwritten notes. The online directory is updated daily. Icons indicate amenities such as restaurants, gyms, wireless access, meeting rooms and similar items. (Source: Hilton press release).

Car Rental

Enterprise Opens in Puerto Rico

Enterprise Rent-A-Car has entered the Puerto Rico market, where it is serving customers at neighborhood locations in Isla Verde and Bayamón. One of its locations is at the Ritz-Carlton San Juan Hotel, Spa & Casino on Isla Verde. It will open a full-service, on-site office at Luis Muñoz Marín International in Carolina, Puerto Rico, in spring 2007. Until then, airport customers are being picked up and served at the Ritz-Carlton location. It also plans to expand with as many as eight additional branch offices throughout Puerto Rico for island-wide service in 2007. (Source: Enterprise)



Spotlight On.....

Lost Luggage

According to the Department of Transportation, complaints about lost, delayed and damaged luggage are at an all time high. In fact, figures released recently by the Department indicate that 2006 is on course to be the worst year for lost and mishandled baggage since 1991. And, these high levels of lost and mishandled luggage scenarios will likely persist in 2007 because airline restrictions regarding carry-on items, in place now and for the foreseeable future, mean travelers will continue to check their luggage. American Express recommends that travelers tag their baggage on the inside as well as the outside and take photos of their luggage to facilitate finding it if it's lost. Shipping luggage such as sports equipment is another option, as are carrying spare clothing and essentials such as medicine in your carryon. Finally, remember baggage insurance. their customers. American Express, for example, provides a fee-free baggage insurance plan on many of its charge and credit Card products. (Source: American Express press release).