

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

Airlines

Industry Calls for Increased Oversight of Aircraft Maintenance

The Professional Airways Systems Specialists, AFL-CIO (PASS), is calling on the Federal Aviation Administration to increase its' staffing for the oversight of outsourced air carrier maintenance. The union is concerned that such outsourced maintenance is increasing and that the FAA is dealing with it by turning toward a more data-driven approach for determining risk, diminishing the critical role inspectors play in the oversight process. The union said that aviation safety depends on having an adequate number of inspectors in place to oversee the outsourced work, but a staffing crisis is looming with nearly half of this workforce eligible to retire by 2010. A recent study released by the National Academy of Sciences called attention not only to insufficient inspector staffing but also to the FAA's lack of a viable inspector staffing model. PASS believes that it is critical that the FAA develop a staffing model to determine the number of inspectors needed to accomplish the responsibilities of the job. According to the Department of Transportation, 62 percent of aircraft maintenance spending is with outsourced work. (Source: PASS press release).

Travel Price Index Up Again

The Travel Price Index (TPI) for the month of February 2007, the latest available, rose 2.8 percent compared to February 2006. Airfares were up 1.4 percent against twelve months earlier and 2.4 percent from January. Gas prices were down 1.4 percent from one year ago. Lodging prices were up 4.3 percent compared to February 2006 and 4.4 percent from January 2007. In comparison, the Consumer Price Index, or CPI-U, was up 2.4 percent from February 2006. The TPI is compiled by the Travel Industry Association of America. (Source: TIA press release).

Delta Adds Flights at LAX, NYC and Salt Lake

Delta Air Lines is adding two cities and four domestic routes from Los Angeles, Salt Lake City and New York City. The new routes beginning June 7 are: Los Angeles to Portland, Ore., New York-JFK to St. Louis, Mo.; New York-LaGuardia to Myrtle Beach S.C., and Salt Lake to Birmingham, Ala. Starting June 11, it will offer flights from Salt Lake to San Luis Obispo, Calif., and on June 14 it will start New York-JFK service to Nantucket, Mass., service. (Source: Delta press release).

DOT Offers Advice on Traveling With Laptop Batteries

The Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has issued guidelines for air passengers traveling with batteries and battery-powered devices. Passengers should, according to the advisory, keep spare batteries in their original retail packaging; keep loose batteries covered with insulating tape to protect them from contact with metal objects; place each battery in its own protective case, plastic bag, or package; and pack spare batteries in carry-on baggage, rather than checked baggage. Also, passengers should use only chargers designed for the battery type and take steps to prevent crushing, puncturing or dropping batteries. It issued the guidelines after a fire in a JetBlue overhead bin that may have been caused by a loose battery. And, the PHMSA also received a report that a battery had overheated or ignited on board an American Airlines aircraft flying from Argentina. Both flights landed safely after airline staff promptly doused the fires. (Source: DOT press release)

Jet Blue Expands in Westchester, Partners With Cape Air

JetBlue has begun daily nonstop service between White Plains' Westchester County Airport (HPN) and Orlando, Florida. Beginning April 2, the low-cost carrier will offer one daily nonstop flight to Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, and a second daily flight to Orlando. In addition, it is partnering with Cape Air to operate connecting service between nearly two dozen destinations served by JetBlue and four popular destinations served by Cape Air: Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Provincetown, and Hyannis, Mass. (Source: Jet Blue press releases).

Hotels

Crown Plaza to Open Near BWI

IHG (Intercontinental Group Hotels Group) is planning new Crowne Plaza with 300 guest rooms and suites two miles from Baltimore Washington Airport (BWI). It will be part of a \$350 million resort and conference center complex. The hotel is expected to break ground later this year and open early 2009. (Source: IHG press release).

Car Rental

Hertz Expands Prestige Collection

Hertz has expanded its Prestige Collection, which consists of luxury and high performance vehicles. The new additions include models by Audi, Infiniti, Lincoln, and Volvo (exclusive to Hertz), bringing the total number of Prestige vehicles available for rent to 16. The Hertz Prestige Collection is available at select major airport locations throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and New Zealand. Models added include the Audi Q7 SUV, the Audi A4, the Lincoln MKX SUV, the Volvo XC90 SUV and the Infiniti G35 sedan. (Source: Hertz press release).

Dollar, Thrifty Join Northwest Biz Perks Program

Dollar Rent A Car and Thrifty Car Rental have joined the Northwest Airlines Biz Perks program. Biz Perks members who sign up for a DOLLAR or Thrifty Car Rental corporate account via the Northwest Airlines Biz Perks website will earn 250 points per qualifying rental transaction with Dollar or Thrifty. Additionally, members will receive 1,000 Biz Perks bonus points, which will be awarded after the third rental. (Source: Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group).



Spotlight On.....

Business Travel Monitor

Airlines are flexing new pricing muscle both domestically and internationally and travel costs are rising across the board, according to the just-released 2006 American Express Business Travel Monitor. The industry's pricing benchmark for air, hotel and car rental rates has found:

- ***Capacity constraints, strong demand and high fuel costs drove transient travel prices higher***
- ***U.S. domestic airfares rose \$15, international airfares saw double-digit increases***
- ***Hotels were up, with U.S. budget hotels seeing the sharpest price increase***
- ***Car rental rates are higher because the cost of fleets has increased from 12 to 20 percent, causing car rental companies to increase their prices by about 4.5 percent***