

A Business Travel Update from Milne Business Travel Services. 24 Airport Road, West Lebanon, NH 03784 (603) 298-6644

Airlines

United, U.S. Airways Start Charging for Second Checked Bag

United Airlines and U.S. Airways in May will begin charging economy passengers \$25 for their second checked bag on domestic flights. U.S. Airways is charging the fee on all flights within the U.S., to/from Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe. Dividend Miles Preferred members (Silver, Gold, Platinum and Chairman's Preferred), confirmed First Class and Envoy passengers at time of check in, Star Alliance Silver and Gold status members, military personnel in uniform with an ID, unaccompanied minors and those checking assistive devices will not be charged. United is charging for domestic flights as well as for travel beginning in the U.S. to and from Canada, San Juan, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas. Mileage Plus Premier status and Star Alliance Silver status passengers will not be charged. Spirit Airlines has upped its checked bags fees from \$5 to \$10 per checked bag for baggage booked on its website and \$20 for checked baggage requested at the airport. (Source: US Airways, United and Spirit press releases).

DOT Reports More Complaints About Airlines Mishandling Baggage, Flight Delays

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Air Travel Consumer Report said that carriers' rate of mishandling baggage rose from 6.73 per 1,000 passengers in 2006 to 7.03 reports per 1,000 passengers in 2007. Air travel delays also increased. The 20 airlines reporting on-time performance with DOT recorded an on-time arrival rate of 73.4 percent in 2007, down from their 75.4 percent mark in 2006. (Source: DOT press release).

American Express, Delta Introduce Pay with Miles

American Express and Delta Air Lines have introduced the Pay with Miles program, a new feature of Delta's SkyMiles program, which is exclusively for Gold and Platinum Delta SkyMiles American Express cardmembers. The program allows these travelers to book flights on delta.com and use Miles to pay for all or part of a Delta ticket in any class of service on any route, with no blackout dates or inventory restrictions. (Source: American Express press release).

Air France Introduces Half-Price Business Class Fare

Air France has introduced a new Business Class Leisure Fare available year round. It is about fifty percent off the normal price and is available to passengers who book their travel 30 days in advance of their departure date. Sample one-way fares are: Washington-Barcelona, \$1,681; Chicago-Madrid, \$1,880; Los Angeles-Rome, \$2,419. All flights connect through Paris-CDG. Fuel surcharges are included; government-imposed fees and taxes are approximately \$80 to \$150 extra. (Source: Air France press release).

American Airlines Pilots Support BA Pilots Opposition to New OpenSkies Airline

OpenSkies, a stand alone airline backed by British Airways that is designed to take advantage of the new U.S.-EU Open skies agreement, is hitting some bumps. Eighty-six percent of BA's pilots have voted to authorize a strike in response to management's plans for OpenSkies. That's because pilots for the six 757s flying in the mostly upper class plane will not be drawn from the existing BA pilots' seniority list. The Allied Pilots Association (APA), the collective bargaining agent for American Airlines pilot has expressed its "unequivocal support" for BA pilots. (Source: APA press release).

Continental Starts Nonstops From Cleveland to Greensboro, Omaha and Savannah

Continental Airlines has begun new daily nonstop service from its Cleveland hub at Hopkins International Airport to three new cities -- Greensboro, N.C.; Omaha, Neb.; and Savannah, Ga. The new cities are part of Continental's expansion program underway at Cleveland that will add 12 new domestic nonstop destinations this year, in addition to previously announced new service to Paris, France. Other new destinations from Cleveland will include Birmingham, Ala., Charleston, S.C., Green Bay, Wis., Tulsa, Okla., Little Rock, Ark., Memphis, Tenn., Lansing, Mich., Des Moines, Iowa and Kalamazoo, Mich.

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Hotels

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Opens in Downtown Boston

InterContinental Hotels Group is opening a 72-room Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites in downtown Boston. The hotel is expected to open this summer after a \$2 million renovation to a historic 100-year-old building. It is on Friend Street, directly across from the TD Banknorth Garden, and within walking distance to Boston's famed historical attractions, including Fanueil Hall, Boston Commons, Beacon Hill and the Old North Church. (Source: InterContinental press release).

Cars

Hertz NeverLost Launches Online Trip Planning

The Hertz NeverLost in-car navigation system has added a new feature: Online Trip Planning. It means you can plan your trips online from your home or office by going to www.neverlost.com, then save it on a USB storage device and then insert it into the Hertz NeverLost system. Online Trip Planning incorporates information from the Yellow Pages, establishments along highway corridors, city guides and other information. (Source: Hertz press release).

Rail

Amtrak Institutes New Security Procedures

Amtrak is deploying its new specialized Amtrak Mobile Security Team to patrol stations and trains and randomly inspect passenger baggage. The Mobile Security Team supplements ongoing patrols already in place. The Mobile Security Team's squads may consist of armed specialized Amtrak police, explosives-detecting K-9 units and armed counter-terrorism special agents in tactical uniforms. They will screen passengers, randomly inspect baggage and patrol stations. These squads also may sweep through trains using K-9 units. (Source: Amtrak press release).

Miscellaneous

New Hampshire and Maine Travelers May Face Secondary Security Screenings

Beginning May 11, the federal government will begin enforcing the REAL ID program. REAL ID is a nationwide program that requires strict rules surrounding the issuance of drivers' licenses and other government issued photo IDs. Maine and New Hampshire are among 5 states that have yet to agree to go along with the new program. Residents of those states that do not comply with the program may find themselves subject to secondary screening at airport security checkpoints.

Secondary screening typically includes a pat down by TSA personnel and a thorough search of all carry on bags.

To avoid the secondary search, travelers can show an additional form of identification such as a military ID or passport.

Take me out to the ballgame!

Vacations for Less Featured Program

Milne Travel's **VACATIONS FOR LESS** program is a free benefit for employees of our corporate travel customers. We also extend this program to employees' family members and to our customer's clients as well. Save up to 5% on your next vacation. **This month we are featuring 2008 RED SOX TOURS to Fenway Park** Check out our 2008 schedule of 82 games at Fenway. Go to www.milnetravel.com then call us for reservations. **Save 5%**— mention you work for a Milne corporate travel customer and pay by cash or check to get the discount!

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