

# Business Travel Update

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A Business Travel Update provided by Professional Travel

Issue #8

## FEATURED ARTICLE

### TOP 10 MEETING TRENDS

With bargains aplenty on everything from hotels to airline tickets, choosing where to host a business meeting while sticking to a budget can be stress-free. "Right now, you can get great deals on rooms, food and beverages," says Janet Libert, editor of Executive Travel magazine. "This is a great time to have a meeting and to plan for future meetings. You have a high leverage in negotiating a great rate, since business meetings have been hard hit by the economy." High on the list of features to look for when considering a city: the enjoyment factor. "You want people to be excited about it," Libert says. "People should be really looking forward to going to the meeting." SmartMeetings May ([Full Story](#))

### PICKING THE RIGHT LOCATION FOR YOUR BUSINESS MEETING

With bargains aplenty on everything from hotels to airline tickets, choosing where to host a business meeting while sticking to a budget can be stress-free. "Right now, you can get great deals on rooms, food and beverages," says Janet Libert, editor of Executive Travel magazine. "This is a great time to have a meeting and to plan for future meetings. You have a high leverage in negotiating a great rate, since business meetings have been hard hit by the economy." DailyNews 5/2/09 ([Full Story](#))

### TRAVEL COSTS

Did you know you'll pay more than \$35 a day just in taxes in several U.S. cities when you rent a car, sleep in a hotel and eat in restaurants? Can you guess the city where combined travel and sales taxes USA Today 08/27/09 ([Full Story](#))

### AIRPORT CHECK-IN: ATLANTA SHOWS OFF UPCOMING RENTAL CAR CENTER

Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson offered the public its first peek of the new rental car center that opens in November, becoming the latest location to embrace a growing airport design trend. USAToday 08/18/09 ([Full Story](#))

### HEATHROW'S NEW TERMINAL PLANS

Star Alliance airlines will be based under a single terminal at Heathrow under plans unveiled today. The £1 billion new Terminal 2 will become the home for members of the alliance. TravelMole 08/10/09 ([Full Story](#))

### DELTA, US AIRWAYS TO SWAP LAGUARDIA, D.C. NATIONAL SLOTS

Delta Air Lines and US Airways this month announced an agreement to trade East Coast airport slots, through which Delta would gain 125 daily arrival and departure slot pairs at New York's LaGuardia Airport and US Airways would gain 42 daily slot pairs at Washington, D.C.'s Reagan National Airport. BTN 08/17/09 ([Full Story](#))

### LUFTHANSA IS OFFERING COMPLIMENTARY LUXURY SEDAN SERVICE IN DUESSELDORF

As the only airline offering Premium service between North America and Duesseldorf, we are pleased to offer our First and Business Class passengers complimentary luxury sedan service upon arrival at Duesseldorf International Airport. Lufthansa 7/29/09 ([More Information](#))

### BRITISH AIRWAYS ENDS FREE MEALS ON SHORT FLIGHTS, BLAMES RECESSION

British Airways is scrapping all free meals — except breakfast — on its short-haul flights as the airline continues to trim costs amid a recession-driven downturn in demand for travel. USAToday 7/29/09 ([Full Story](#))

### CONTINENTAL INSTALLING LIVE SATELLITE TV ON PLANES

Venturing where low-cost carriers have largely gone before, Continental (CAL) is now offering 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 (DTV) 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. USAToday 7/30/09 ([Full Story](#))

### BUMPED FROM YOUR FLIGHT? YOU'VE GOT RIGHTS

Airlines are operating fewer flights this summer, meaning that planes are packed even with the slump in travel. Often the airlines sell more tickets than there are seats on the plane. Last year, more than 63,000 passengers were bumped, according to government figures, and this year is shaping up as more of the same. So what should you do if you get bumped? What if your flight is delayed so long that you miss your niece's wedding? Yahoo 7/29/09 ([Full Story](#))

### NOAA LOWERS HURRICANE SEASON OUTLOOK, CAUTIONS PUBLIC NOT TO LET DOWN GUARD

According to its August Atlantic hurricane season outlook, NOAA now expects a near-to below-normal Atlantic hurricane season, as the calming effects of El Niño continue to develop. But scientists say the season's quiet start does not guarantee quiet times ahead. The season, which began June 1, is entering its historical peak period of August through October, when most storms form. NOAA 08/09/09 ([Full Story](#))

### AIRLINES ARE SWEETENING FREQUENT-FLIER PROGRAMS

After years of shrinking benefits and increasing fees, frequent-flier programs are courting their most loyal customers again. In recent weeks, American Airlines introduced new awards for one-way flights; United dropped its \$75 to \$100 fees for booking an award within three weeks of travel; and Delta Air Lines made it easier for elite frequent fliers to retain their V.I.P. status. NYTimes 08/24/09 ([Full Story](#))

### AIRLINES' BAGGAGE CHARGES WEIGH DOWN TRAVELERS

U.S. airlines are slowly ratcheting up their bag-check fees, like US Airways Group Inc did on Wednesday, but analysts warn that carriers risk alienating customers with excessive fees. MSNBC 08/26/09 ([Full Story](#))

## USEFUL LINKS

### BAGGAGE FEE INFORMATION

[American Airlines](#) • [Continental Airlines](#)  
[Delta Air Lines](#) • [Northwest Airlines](#)  
[Southwest Airlines](#) • [United Airlines](#)  
[US Airways](#) • [Virgin America](#)

### TRAVELING INTERNATIONALLY? WHY WAIT IN LINE

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