

# Business Travel Update

July 29, 2009

A Business Travel Update provided by Professional Travel

Issue #7

## FEATURED ARTICLE

**NORTHWEST AIRLINES & DELTA AIR LINES  
LINK ACCOUNTS AND COMBINE MILES  
BEFORE JULY 31, 2009**  
Northwest ([More Information](#))

### CONTINENTAL TO JOIN STAR ALLIANCE

This fall, Continental has plans to join Star Alliance and to cooperate with United Airlines, linking our networks and services worldwide to deliver new benefits to our customers. Continental intends to end its participation in the SkyTeam Alliance after the last scheduled flight on Oct. 24, 2009.

Continental 07/10/09 ([More Information](#))

Continental will discontinue OnePass partnership with Alaska Airlines, Horizon Air and American Eagle Airlines.  
Continental ([More Information](#))

### CONTINENTAL, UNITED TO SEEK SHARED TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM

Continental and United plan to forge a common information technology system as part of their new relationship as Star Alliance partners, Continental CEO Larry Kellner said.  
Travel Weekly 07/24/09 ([Full Story](#))

### NEW CANADIAN VISA REQUIREMENTS

Beginning on July 14, 2009, Czech and Mexican nationals require a passport visa to travel to Canada, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney announced. For the first 48 hours, such citizens may apply for entry on arrival in Canada. After 11:59 p.m. EDT July 15, 2009, a visa will be required. In the cases of both countries, citizens had previously been able to seek admission to Canada at a port of entry without first obtaining a visa.

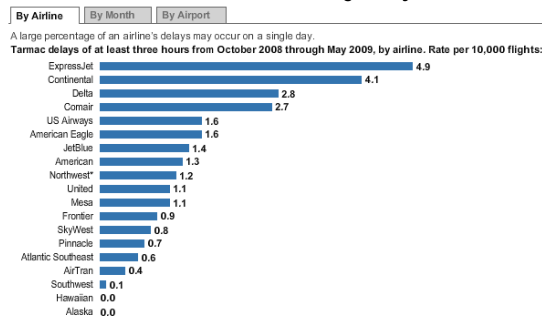
Canada Immigration ([Full Story](#))  
Travisa - [Visa Instruction Sheet](#)

### AMERICAN RAISES BAGGAGE FEES BY \$5

American has raised its baggage fees by \$5, meaning you'll pay \$20 for the first checked bag and \$30 for the second. The new fee will affect all tickets booked on or after August 14 for travel within the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Unlike recent moves from US Airways, United, Delta, and Continental, there is no escaping this fee hike. Those carriers added a \$5 surcharge to bag fees paid at the airport, but customers can dodge the surcharge by paying the fee online.  
SmarterTravel 07/24/09 ([Full Story](#))

### STRANDED ON THE TARMAC

Congress is considering legislation to let passengers off planes stuck on airport tarmacs. Airlines reported that 577 domestic flights delayed on the tarmac at least three hours from October 2008 through May 2009.



Note: Based on domestic flights operated by 19 U.S. airlines. \* Includes one flight with two separate three-hour tarmac waits.  
Source: USA TODAY analysis of Bureau of Transportation Statistics data. Credits: Barbara Hansen, Juan Thomassie, USA TODAY

USAToday 07/28/09 ([More Information](#))

### HOUSE BILL WOULD RESTRICT LAPTOP SEARCHES

A bill pending before a House subcommittee would require the Homeland Security Department to provide official notice and conduct a rule-making if that department wants to continue its laptop searches and data seizures that affect U.S. citizens at all the nation's borders.

FCW 07/23/09 ([Full Story](#))

### A RACE TO PROVIDE WI-FI

THOUGH it is not yet clear how extensive the market is for in-flight Wi-Fi service, the competition to provide it is heating up. Row44, a California company whose in-flight Wi-Fi technology uses satellite connections, is emerging as an aggressive competitor to the market leader, Aircell, whose system uses ground-based stations.

NYTimes 07/20/09 ([Full Story](#))

### HOW TO KEEP YOUR E-MAIL SAFE WHILE TRAVELING

When Daniel Carter logged on to a shared computer at a hostel in Rome to check e-mail, he had no idea he was in a hacker's sights. After his trip was over, he discovered someone had hijacked his e-mail account and sent a message to hundreds of his contacts asking for money.

Yahoo 07/21/09 ([Full Story](#))

### CAR RENTAL COMPANIES SLAM N.J. EXCISE TAX

Car rental companies and the National Business Travel Association criticized New Jersey lawmakers for including an excise tax in the New Jersey Economic Stimulus Plan of

2009. New Jersey's Assembly and Senate were scheduled to vote on the bill on Thursday. The bill includes a provision allowing certain municipalities, including Newark and Elizabeth (where Newark Airport rental locations are located), to impose up to a 5% excise tax on rental transactions.  
TravelWeekly 06/25/09 ([Full Story](#))

### PROMOTING PRODUCTIVITY, NOT LUXURY

Hoteliers and other groups are trying to contradict the image of lavish meetings with promotions that include The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company's program called "It's not Extravagant, if it Produces Results." "Not every company in America has accepted TARP money, and even if they have, meetings and incentives are an integral part of corporate success in America.  
TravelMole 07/28/09 ([Full Story](#))

### SUMMER AIRPORT STRIKES LOOM

Holidaymakers are in for long waits next week as immigration officers at UK airports including Heathrow prepare to strike. A ballet announced yesterday at the Public and Commercial Services union revealed 78% of the 1,100 immigration workers it represents had opted to take strike action following discord over the plans to merge customs and immigration into a single UK Border Agency.  
TravelMole 07/28/09 ([Full Story](#))

## USEFUL LINKS

### TSA - FLY SECURE PROGRAM

#### THE START DATE

August 15<sup>TH</sup> for Domestic Reservations  
October 15<sup>th</sup> for International Reservations

[Secure Flight Program - TSA](#)

[How it works - TSA](#)

[Secure Flight Communications Toolkit - TSA](#)

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