

# Business Travel Update

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## FEATURED ARTICLE

### SMART BUSINESS NETWORK TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

#### *The business of travel - How to approach business travel in today's volatile market*

There's much more to business travel than simply buying an airline ticket, renting a car and staying in a hotel. Especially now, with travel costs expected to increase 10 to 12 percent over the next 12 months, says Rob Turk, the executive vice president of Professional Travel. "Travel typically represents the third largest controllable expense that a company has behind payroll and IT," Turk says. "However, many companies don't properly manage it. They need to create strategies to overcome and adapt to its escalating costs." ([Full Story](#))

#### *Safe practices - How the right approach to travel risk management can benefit your company*

While travel is an integral component for continued business growth, there are risks to be aware of. Travel puts employees in unfamiliar environments where incidents may occur. They may be in locations where they stand out from the local population and are unfamiliar with the local health risks, culture and customs. Travel risks affect not only your current employees but also future employees and your company's security and operations. It's important to be prepared for any type of risk that may happen and to manage those risks appropriately. ([Full Story](#))

#### *Getting back to business - How to effectively manage and mandate travel within your company*

Your company has policies on everything, from proper attire to vacation time to culture. But what about travel policies? Having a travel policy in place, and managing and mandating that policy effectively, can save you time and energy if travel problems occur. ([Full Story](#))

#### *The perfect spot - How to select your next meeting destination*

The key to a successful meeting is having the right location. If you're just meeting for training, you want a place where your employees will be strictly focused. If you're having a multi-day conference, you may want to break up the meetings with activities and give employees some recreational options. ([Full Story](#))

#### *USTA Study Claims High Return On Business Travel*

The U.S. Travel Association today released a study that draws a direct link between business travel and corporate revenue and profit growth. According to the study, conducted by global research firm Oxford Economics, for every dollar invested in a company meeting, the return is in the range of \$15 to \$19.99. Conferences and trade shows are in the \$4 to \$5.99 range. Data also showed that in order to achieve the same effect of incentive travel, an employee's total base compensation would need to be increased by 8.5 percent. ([Full Story](#))

BTN 9/15/09 ([Full Story](#))

#### *Airports Are Ready For Passengers Seeking Flu Shots*

You've been reminded of these figures a lot already and in the next few weeks and months you'll hear them a lot more. But if you spend time on the road shaking hands, opening doors, or sitting on an airplane or in an airport terminal, it will be worth your while to take a few seconds for a quick review: According to experts at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, each year 5% to 20% of the U.S. population will get the flu. More than 200,000 people will end up hospitalized from flu complications. And about 36,000 people will die from flu related causes. ([Full Story](#))

#### *Continental Will Join Star Alliance, Modify Mileage Program*

On October 27, [Continental](#) will become a member of the [Star Alliance](#), in place of its tie-up with the [SkyTeam](#) alliance which ends on October 24. In addition to a major change in mileage earning and redemption partners—from the Delta-focused SkyTeam airline partner network to the Star group, anchored by United and Lufthansa, and including US Airways—the shift will be accompanied by a host of policy changes to Continental's OnePass program, most of which are designed to align OnePass with the programs of other Star airlines. The changes will be phased in over the next few months, as follows: ([Full Story](#))



#### *Continental Airlines Onboard Medical Oxygen - Customer Provided*

*Oxygen Concentrators* - Generally the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prohibits the use of personal oxygen units during flight because they contain

compressed gas or liquid oxygen which are defined as hazardous material.

CO Airlines ([More Information](#))

#### *Air France to launch A380 in November*

Air France has confirmed it will launch A380 services this November, with Paris-New York being the first route served by the superjumbo. The announcement means Air France will be the first carrier to offer transatlantic flights from Europe to the US using the A380. ([Full Story](#))

BusinessTraveler 9/7/09 ([Full Story](#))

#### *Southwest Airlines adds \$10 charge each way to board the plane sooner*

Unlike other carriers, Southwest Airlines doesn't give passengers assigned seats, but now for \$10 each way it's giving customers a better shot at scoring a window or aisle seat. ([Full Story](#))

ABCNews 9/2/09 ([Full Story](#))

#### *Seatback Pockets: Barf Bags Only, Please*

According to Joe Sharkey over at the *New York Times*, things might be a little different on your next flight. Is it a new fee? Perhaps an airline charging for the bathroom? ([Full Story](#))

SmarterTravel 9/2/09 ([Full Story](#))

Professional Travel's Business Travel News is published monthly. The information is gathered from current articles and news worthy information regarding the travel industry that we feel is important for those individuals who manage their corporations travel programs. If you have any questions please call us at 1-800-247-0060.

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