

Featured Articles

U.S. passport fees set to rise

The cost of getting a passport will hit \$100 starting Friday. The increase is one of a series of changes this week that affect U.S. citizens traveling outside the country. Saying it needs more money "to cover the cost of providing efficient and secure passport services," the U.S. State Department said today that it will raise passport fees from \$97 to \$100 for adults and from \$82 to \$85 for children younger than 16. It said renewals, now \$67, would cost \$75.

[\(Full Story\)](#) Source; LA Times 1-28-08

New Passport Fees – Effective 2-1-08

	Application Fee	Execution Fee	New Total Fee
Passport Book Adult	\$75	\$25	\$100
Passport Book Child	\$60	\$25	\$85
Passport Card Adult	\$20	\$25	\$45
Passport Card Child	\$10	\$25	\$35
Adult Passport Renewal	\$75	Not Applicable	\$75

Renewal of a U.S. Passport

You can renew by mail if: Your most recent passport is available to submit and it is not damaged; you received the passport within the past 15 years; you were over age 16 when it was issued; you still have the same name, or can legally document your name change. You can get a passport renewal application form by downloading it from this site. If your passport has been, altered or damaged, you cannot apply by mail. You must apply in person. For more information on how to renew a passport, please visit [How to renew a passport](#) page.

Source: US Department of State website

iJET Enhances Worldcue® Global Control Center with Employee Threat Exposure Dashboard

iJET Intelligent Risk Systems, a leading provider of global intelligence and business resiliency services, today announced enhancements to its Worldcue® Global Control Center, which enables multinational organizations to monitor and assess global threats to their people, facilities and supply chain assets. Enhancements include an Employee Threat Exposure Dashboard as well as new reporting and mapping capabilities. Similar in design to iJET's Worldcue® Asset Threat Exposure Dashboard, the Employee Threat Exposure Dashboard provides travel, security and other managers a single snapshot of travelers and expatriates at risk around the world. Fusing iJET's proprietary Country Security Assessment Ratings (CSARs) with real-time threats, the Dashboard's color-coded interface shows the number of travelers and expatriates at risk within each of five CSAR levels and across three Alert levels of threat (Critical, Warning and Informational). The Employee Dashboard also allows users to contact all employees affected by a specific Alert, directly from the Alert's synopsis.

Source: Ijet Newsletter 2-4-08

Continental Domestic Flights To Get Live TV And E-mail

Continental Airlines has entered into an agreement with LiveTV that will enable the carrier to offer 36 channels of in-flight, satellite-based programming provided by DIRECTV. The service is expected to be available to customers on flights operating within the continental US, beginning in January 2009. In addition, Continental will be introducing onboard Wi-Fi services, including e-mail and instant-messaging connectivity, also offered by LiveTV. Customers will be able to use the complimentary service with Wi-Fi-enabled phones, BlackBerries and laptops. Source: BTE Feb 2008

United Airlines Announces New Checked Bag Policy

As part of its continuing effort to offer customers choice, flexibility, and low fares, United is announcing a new, simplified checked bag policy for customers who purchase nonrefundable domestic economy tickets. United's new checked bag policy is available at united.com/baggage. Customers who purchase nonrefundable domestic economy tickets and do not have status in Mileage Plus or Star Alliance may check one bag for free and a second bag for a \$25 service fee. For all customers, the cost to check up to four additional bags will be \$100 per bag. Previous charges ranged from \$85-\$125 per bag. The cost to check items that require special handling because they are large, overweight or fragile will now be either \$100 or \$200, depending on the item. [\(Full Story\)](#) Source UAL 2-4-08

Denver Airport Scraps Wireless Access Fee; Now It's Free

Denver International Airport has scrapped a \$7.95 charge for daily Internet access, and now offers the wireless service for free. According to FreeFi Networks, the company providing the service, Denver International is the largest airport in North America to offer free wireless Internet access throughout its terminals.

Source: Business Travel Exec Feb 2008

Crowne Plaza Opens Hotels In Cleveland And Memphis

The 230-room Crowne Plaza Memphis will open within a month following a multi million dollar renovation and conversion from a Wyndham Garden Hotel. The 11-story hotel is in downtown Memphis, within walking distance of Memphis Cook Convention Center. Also, the 238-room Crowne Plaza Cleveland Airport, a renovated hotel, has opened. It is Crowne Plaza's second property in the Cleveland market.

Source: Business Travel Exec Feb 2008

Canada Border agency to expand surveillance program to buses, trains, cruise ships

Canada's border agency wants to expand its surveillance of travellers entering the country, with plans to force buses, trains and cruise ships to provide advance electronic lists of passengers and their personal details. Since October 2002, the Canada Border Services Agency has collected advance information from airlines on arriving passengers. The mandatory reporting, enforced with \$3,000 fines, now allows the agency to run computer checks on about 96 per cent of all air travellers coming to Canada. [\(Full Story\)](#) Source: CA Press 2/3/08

Atlanta Airport Is Nation's Busiest For Third Year with 994,466

Flights For the third year in a row, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport has retained its title as the nation's busiest airport in terms of flights, according to preliminary government data released Wednesday. The Atlanta airport logged 994,466 flights in 2007, up 1.8% from 976,447 flights. Source: Wall Street Journal 1-3-08

Biometric Data Collected at Heathrow

Heathrow Airport introduced a new security system for some of its passengers Friday, requiring them to undergo iris scans and be fingerprinted before boarding their flights. The biometric data will be taken at Heathrow's Terminal 1, which has separate domestic and international lounges. The information is only required for domestic passengers at the terminal who want to visit the larger international lounge before boarding their flights, or passengers who arrive on an international flight and transfer to a domestic one, said a spokeswoman for Heathrow Airport owner BAA PLC. [\(Full Story\)](#) Source: Assoc Press 2/2/08

Northwest's New Interline E-ticketing Agreements

JALways (JO), Japan Transocean Air (NU), and Nationwide (CE) have joined the list of airlines that participate in interline e-ticketing with Northwest. To date, 126 airlines participate in interline e-ticketing with Northwest. To view all 126 airlines, visit the Resource Center tab on WorldAgent Direct and select Interline E-ticketing. Source: NWA Sales 1-25-08

Midwest Airlines purchase is complete

Northwest Airlines and a [private equity](#) group closed Thursday on purchasing Milwaukee-based Midwest Airlines, said Midwest spokesman Michael Brophy. The day before, the U.S. Justice Department cleared Northwest and TPG [Capital](#) to buy the airline for \$451 million. [\(Full Story\)](#) Source, Detroit Free Press

Northwest Announces New Nonstop Service between Detroit and Monterrey, Mexico

In mid-January, Northwest announced that it will begin daily nonstop service between its Detroit WorldGateway and Monterrey, Mexico on May 2, 2008. The new Detroit-Monterrey service will be operated by Northwest Airlink partner Compass Airlines using 76-seat Embraer 175 aircraft. Source: NWA Newsletter Jan 2008

US airline travelers: route cutbacks are coming

Route switching for US airlines has started getting serious as the carriers attempt to cope with soaring fuel prices and a slowing economy. Air travelers will begin to notice the difference as some areas face cutbacks in service. One of the latest to "refine" its schedule is Southwest, which announced it would eliminate 40 existing roundtrip flights from its May flight schedule. markets" such as Denver. [\(Full Story\)](#) Source: TravelMole 1-10-08

British Airways To Launch U.S.-European Carrier

British Airways plans to launch an airline serving the United States from continental Europe in June. In a nod to the historic agreement that makes an operation outside its home country possible, the new carrier is to be called OpenSkies. It will be run by industry stalwart and U.S. citizen Dale Moss, who left BA in 2006 after 30 years with the airline. BA said the first route to be flown by OpenSkies will be from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to either Paris or Brussels. It will introduce a second aircraft by year-end to serve whichever of those two destinations is not chosen for the inaugural route. [\(Full Story\)](#) Source: BTNOnline -1-9-08

Travelers coping with higher pricing

It's no surprise travel across the board is costing more: Cruise ships are adding fuel surcharges, airlines are charging for soft drinks and even car rental companies are finding new fees. So what to do? Some advice from travel experts on air and other travel venues: ---Airport check-in times have been made earlier, so you need to get there even earlier. Allow plenty of time for check-in, since you will not be entitled to denied-boarding compensation and will be forced to fly stand-by. ---Print boarding passes at home to save time ---Spirit and Frontier do not even take cash on board, because they found revenues increase when passengers charge, so take some cash if you want something to eat. [\(Full Story\)](#) Source: TravelMole 1-15-08

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.