



## Airline News

**Alitalia** - Alitalia announced it has started flying a new route between Milan's Linate and London's City airports. The airline said the service made its debut March 26 using new Embraer E-190 aircraft. There will be two flights in each direction Monday through Friday and one flight on Sundays.

**Delta Air Lines** - Delta announced it will drop Huntington, WV from its flight map in June. Delta currently serves the airport with two daily round-trip flights to Detroit, MI. The flights are operated by Delta Connection partner Pinnacle on 50-seat Canadair regional jets, but the last Delta-branded flight to Huntington is now set for June 1.

Delta announced its renovated and expanded domestic hub in Terminal C at New York's LaGuardia airport will offer five chef-driven restaurants, an expansive food hall, fresh markets, the integration of Apple iPads, pop-up retail stores and concierge services for frequent fliers on the go. Building on Delta's successful dining experience in Terminal D at LaGuardia, the new program at Terminal C brings together culinary talent, with names such as Andrew Zimmerman, Andrew Carmellini, Anne Burrell and Aaron Sanchez. Delta previously announced the largest single expansion by any carrier at LaGuardia in four decades, with total flights increasing by more than 60 percent, and total destinations growing more than 75 percent. By summer 2012, Delta will operate 264 daily flights between LaGuardia and more than 60 cities, more than any other airline. Delta again has selected OTG Management to lead the enhanced dining experience at Terminal C. Delta's LaGuardia dining enhancements follow similar upgrades to its concourse and gate areas at Terminals 2 and 3 at John F. Kennedy International Airport and Concourse G at Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.

Delta Airlines will add a round trip flight from Fort Smith to Atlanta, GA, starting June 7, 2012, according to Airport Commissioners, who made the announcement on Tuesday March 27, 2012 at the group's regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The new flight will be part of Delta's current three-flight rotation, said Fort Smith Regional Airport Executive Director John Parker, who noted that "instead of three daily Memphis flights, they (Delta) will go to two Memphis flights and then the one to Atlanta."

**Frontier Airlines** - Frontier announced that it will expand its existing service between Madison, WI and Washington Reagan, DC three times weekly to daily. The changes go into effect June 7.

**Iberia** - Pilots at Spanish airline Iberia called 30 days of strikes on Tuesday in a dispute over the start-up of a low-cost carrier they see as a threat to jobs and conditions. Pilots say the launch of Iberia Express contravenes deals struck when Iberia and British Airways merged to form International Airlines Group. IAG and Iberia believe starting the new airline is the only way to make the loss-making Spanish unit profitable. In a statement, the Spanish airline slammed the union as "irresponsible", called the strike "unjustified, damaging and disproportionate" and invited

the pilot's union to sit down and talk this week in an effort to avoid industrial action. European airlines are battling soaring fuel prices, weak demand from cash-strapped passengers and the burden of new taxes on air travel as well as fierce competition from low-cost carriers such as Ryanair. Iberia Express is designed to complement Iberia's more profitable long-haul flights, flying to 17 national and European destinations including Dublin, Naples and Amsterdam. Iberia estimates it will attract 2.5 million passengers. Iberia pilots will strike every Monday and Friday from April 9, 2012 to July 20, 2012 their union SEPLA said. "The company intends to divert 40 planes from the main group to the new subsidiary, which would mean the elimination of 8,000 jobs," SEPLA said.

**Great Lakes Aviation** - Great Lakes Aviation announced it will begin service at Mason City, IA on Wednesday, April 11. Great Lakes said the proposed schedule is four round trips to Minneapolis, MN Monday through Friday and three each on Saturday and Sunday. Great Lakes will operate with a 19-seat pressurized Beechcraft 1900D turboprop aircraft.

**LOT Polish Airlines** - is the first airline to announce that it will offer a Chicago O'Hare flight aboard a revolutionary [Boeing](#) 787 Dreamliner aircraft. LOT will begin service in January 2013 between Chicago and [Warsaw](#), Poland, its CEO said Wednesday at a news conference in Chicago. "Chicago is our biggest market, not only in the U.S. but worldwide," said LOT Polish Airlines CEO Marcin Pirog. Last year, the airline flew 160,000 passengers between Chicago and Warsaw, he said.

**US Airways** – US Airways announced starting March 25 it will begin a series of updates at New York LaGuardia, NY in an effort to streamline operations and improve the airport experience. New US Airways Shuttle gates will be 7, 8, 9 and 10. The Elite Limo sedan service desk will move to the baggage claim level as you exit security. The US Airways Shuttle schedule will stay the same. US Airways ticket counters will move to the far left side of the building as you enter. All US Airways flights will depart from gates 1 – 12 in Terminal C. The US Airways Club will become a Delta Sky Club. Club members will be able to visit the Delta Sky Club until it closes for remodeling on April 8. Between April 8 and July 10, the Delta Sky Club will be closed and there will be no club access. When the Delta Sky Club reopens, you'll be able to visit it until our new US Airways Club is finished in late 2012.

## **Hotel News**

**Omni Hotels** - Omni announced that Select Guest will no longer offer frequent flyer miles when staying at Omni Hotels effective April 30, 2012. Omni partnered with 15 frequent flyer programs including American, United, British Airways and others as well as Amtrak. In lieu of earning miles/points, stays after April 30 will earn free room night credits for every qualified night you stay with Omni Hotels & Resorts. Your Select Guest profile will automatically be set to reflect this update. If you have any questions, call Omni at (877) 440-6664.

## **Miscellaneous**

State Dept. Travel Warnings and Public announcements - For the full announcements or further details on Travel Warnings and Public Announcements please see <http://travel.state.gov>.

**Mali** – On March 23 the U.S. Department of State issued the following updated Travel Warning for Mali: "The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens against all travel to Mali at this time because of current political instability in the country, and continuing threats of attacks and kidnappings of Westerners in the north of the country. Malian mutineers have taken control of the presidential palace and closed the country's land borders and airport. Radio and television stations are off the air. The situation on the ground remains fluid and unpredictable. This Travel Warning replaces the Travel Warning for Mali dated March 16, 2012, to update information on current events in Mali. "On Wednesday, March 21, a protest march from Kati, a few miles outside of Bamako, to the Presidential Palace resulted in a military mutiny by a group of lower-level officers and enlisted men who declared themselves to be in charge of the country. This group detained, or attempted to detain, a number of government ministers and others. Law and order is not assured. There are random reports of looting of gas stations and other businesses. A number of vehicles have been stopped and

seized by the mutineers. While there has been no violence directed specifically against U.S. citizens or westerners in general, the overall situation remains unsettled and potentially dangerous. There have been sporadic reports of gunfire throughout the capital city of Bamako and other regional capitals, including Gao and Mopti-Sevare. The airport and all border crossings remain closed. The mutineers declared a curfew to be in effect until Tuesday, March 27, at 7:30 a.m. More precise details about the curfew have not been released. The Embassy advises U.S. citizens presently in Mali to shelter in place until further notice. "The U.S. Embassy in Bamako has designated northern regions of Mali as "restricted without prior authorization" for purposes of travel by U.S. government employees, contractors, grantees, and their dependents. Prior to traveling to these areas, U.S. government employees in Mali are required to have the written approval of the U.S. Ambassador to Mali. This designation is based on the presence of Al-Qaeda in the Lands of the Maghreb (AQIM), as well as banditry in the region. These restrictions are in effect for the regions of Kidal, Gao, and Timbuktu."

**Paraguay** - On March 21 the U.S. Embassy in Asuncion released the following Message for U.S. Citizens: "In light of increased reports of home invasions in Asuncion, the U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens residing in Paraguay to be aware of their surroundings at all times and keep the following information in mind. Home Invasions: Robbers usually enter a residence when the pedestrian or garage gates have been left open while someone is doing chores outside, such as sweeping the sidewalk, watering the lawn, removing trash, etc. Remind your family members and staff that residential gates and doors should never, under any circumstances, be left open, and garage doors and pedestrian entrances should be locked at all times. Thieves are opportunistic, and can quickly gain entry into your home. Vehicle Vandalism and Robberies: The Paraguayan National Police informed us of two tactics criminals use to rob unsuspecting victims: Thieves frequently place sharp objects under tires of vehicles parked at supermarkets, shopping malls, etc. When the driver departs, the object deflates a tire. Once the driver realizes they have a flat, they pull to the side of the road. The thieves approach to offer assistance. When the driver accepts assistance and exits the vehicle, the thieves rob the driver and any passengers of all their belongings. In several cases, the driver was transported in a separate vehicle to their residence, which was subsequently robbed. Thieves routinely place fruit (lemons, limes) in the tailpipes of vehicles that are parked at supermarkets, shopping malls, etc. When the driver departs, they soon have engine trouble. Once again, when the driver pulls over, the thieves approach to offer assistance. When the driver gets out, the thieves rob the driver and any passengers of all their belongings. Before getting in your car, make a quick inspection to ensure your vehicle has not been tampered with. If your car develops tire or engine problems while driving, attempt to safely continue to a populated, well-lit area and contact the police. Tell them where you are, and request that a patrol be dispatched to your location until your vehicle is serviced or repaired, to ensure that you are not being targeted by thieves."

**Yemen** – On March 27 The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the high security threat level in Yemen due to terrorist activities and civil unrest. The Department urges U.S. citizens not to travel to Yemen. U.S. citizens currently in Yemen should depart. Effective September 1, 2011, the Department of State lifted the Ordered Departure status for U.S. government employees at the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a. The embassy remains a restricted staffing post. As staff levels at the embassy are restricted, our ability to assist U.S. citizens in an emergency remains limited and may be further constrained by the fluid security situation. This Travel Warning supersedes the Travel Warning for Yemen issued on September 2, 2011 to provide updated information regarding the security situation in Yemen.