

A BUSINESS TRAVEL UPDATE FROM **DAVISVILLE TRAVEL** 420 SECOND STREET – DAVIS, CA 95616 – (800) 255-4567

*In order to serve you, our clients better, **Davisville Travel** has added additional agent staff!*

Corporate Agents

Events, Seminar Planning and Business Travel

Sharon Pugh, Department Supervisor

Jennifer Mendisco

Karen Klever

Wendy Rogers

Leisure Agents

Cruises, Tours and Adventure Travel

Elaine Albertson

Mike Clark

Susan Krempin

Jenni Navas

Sharon Strikland (also known as Lela)

The rest of us work for the agents! ☺ Thank you from all of us for your business!

Diane, Shirlee, Karen P., Mara, Marsha, Melissa & Bonnie

Airlines

Business Travel Costs to Increase

Runzheimer International, a management consulting firm, predicts that high fuel costs will hit corporate travel in more ways than one. Its' business travel forecast predicts that overall business travel costs will increase 12 percent in 2006, from car rental costs to airfares, because of increasing fuel costs. Jet fuel price increases are forcing some airlines to hike their fares, fuel increases for trucks delivering food makes meals more sensitive to price increases, too. Car rental prices have been and are expected to continue increasing because of fuel costs and increasing fleet costs, meaning car rentals will be a less advantageous travel alternative. (Source: Runzheimer press release). **Call you agent at *Davisville Travel* (800) 255-4567 for quality, fair price travel assistance!**

Oil Prices Climb; Airlines Cancels Some Flights

The International Air Transport Association reported that airlines are struggling to deal with a ballooning fuel bill that is expected to reach US\$97 billion—more than double the US\$44 billion in 2003. Year-on-year comparisons for August showed slower growth than for the previous seven months for international passenger and cargo traffic at 6.1% and 2.8% respectively. These trends are taking a toll, with airlines announced service cuts due to high fuel prices. American Airlines announced that it was canceling 15 round-trip flights in markets it serves from its two largest hubs, Chicago's O'Hare and Dallas/Fort Worth. The airline is suspending the flights October 5 through October 29, when it will evaluate jet fuel prices and decide whether or not to restore flights. Continental Airlines also said that it expects to suspend flights in selected locations on account of unprecedented jet fuel prices. Northwest Airlines has suspended its daily Minneapolis to London flight from October 30 to March 9 and has said that it would reduce its Detroit to Paris flight from daily to five per week from January 16 to March 9, according to Houston Chronicle. (Source: IATA press release, American Airlines statement, Houston Chronicle, Wall Street Journal).

Delta Plans Cutting Up to 9,000 Jobs, Pay Cuts, Reduces Domestic Capacity

Delta Air Lines CEO Gerald Grinstein announced the airline's 'transformation' plans to "save Delta in the near term, so that it can compete and win in the long term." In a memo to the airlines' 52,000 employees about the airline's Chapter 11 restructuring, Grinstein said the airline's goal is to be profitable in just over two years. It plans to cut 7,000 to 9,000 jobs by 2007, cut management pay by up to 25 percent and reduce the salaries of most frontline workers by 7 to 10 percent. It plans to reduce domestic capacity 15 to 20 percent, reducing its fleet by more than 80 aircraft by the end of 2006, eliminating four aircraft types to bring its fleet down to seven types of aircraft. It is also evaluating reductions to its Delta Connection/Comair regional fleet. It plans to increase international capacity by 25 percent in 2006. Delta recently announced new service between New York and Copenhagen starting in May 2006. **Check with *Davisville Travel* for alternate carriers to your destinations.**

American Debuts Same Day ‘Confirmed Flight Change’

American Airlines now has an alternative to going standby for travelers hoping to take a different flight on the same day as their originally scheduled flight. The new program, Confirmed Flight Change, lets passengers confirm a seat on an alternate flight on the same day, within three hours of the scheduled departure time of the alternate flight. Seats will be confirmed for \$25 if space is available. (Source: American Airlines press release).

Hotels

Starwood Launches ‘aloft’ W Brand

Starwood Hotels & Resorts has announced its’ new ‘aloft’ brand in its select-service category. These hotels will offer urban-inspired, loft-like guest rooms, enhanced technology services, landscaped outdoor space and a lounge scene. Five are in development in Lexington, Mass.; Tucson, Ariz.; San Francisco Airport; Philadelphia Airport; and Cherry Creek, Colo. Starwood anticipates the first hotels to break ground in early 2006 and open in early 2007, with 500 properties worldwide expected by 2012. (Source: Starwood press release).

Rail

Amtrak Implements Fare Increase in Stages

To cope with a 40 percent increase in fuel costs of the past year, Amtrak is phasing in fare increases. The first, effective October 4th, will be 5 to 7 percent, which for the most part means tickets will go up \$3 or \$4 on most trains, including 7 percent increases for the Acela Express and long-distance coach and 5 percent on regional and long-distance sleeper trains. The second change is in pricing for commuter tickets. Amtrak will reduce discounts on commuter tickets in two steps, with the first half of the change going into effect October 16 and the second half in February, 2006. Meanwhile, Amtrak has completed the final phase of restoring its Acela service. There are now eight weekday roundtrips between Boston, New York and Washington, D.C., and 14 daily roundtrips between New York and Washington. Sunday service has also been increased. Amtrak suspended Acela service from April through July to redesign brake discs. (Source: Amtrak press release).



Spotlight On.....

Virgin Atlantic Upper Class Suite

Virgin Atlantic Upper Class is a completely different way to travel. It's less like an airplane, and more like hotel. A hotel where every room is a suite and every passenger is a VIP. The legendary Virgin Atlantic service begins with a relaxing ride in a complimentary limo to the airport, and continues in the clubhouse where you can opt to catch up on work, or unwind with a drink and a bite to eat. Once onboard, mix, mingle and network at the onboard bar with a signature Virgin cocktail. After a pre-dinner drink, choose from the three-course Freedom Menu with gourmet selections and an award-winning wine list. For those who need to work, a private power source is conveniently located at each suite, along with an ottoman for guests. When sleep beckons, slip into your Sleep Suit while your flight attendant converts your suite into a fully flat bed, complete with comfy duvet and a proper pillow. Of course, nothing can compare to a relaxing massage at 37,000 feet from the in-flight masseuse, complete with aromatherapy oils and lotions. If relaxation by film is your pleasure, immerse yourself in the personal 10.4" wide-screen TV with up to 43 audio/video channels of television and unedited first-run movies. Upon arrival, de-plane for a Revivals Lounge stop where you can freshen up with a shower or enjoy a hot breakfast before your limo ride to your London destination.

Upper Class Suite is available now on all JFK, EWR, SFO, MCO and LAS flights to London and select flights from LAX, BOS, IAD, MIA.

Davisville Travel is committed to providing you with useful information on the latest developments in the travel industry. The following information has been compiled from a variety of sources and is updated monthly.