

January 2008

Travel Resources **INDUSTRY INSIDER**



2008

Travel Resources wishes our clients
a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

Air Canada Launches Service "Down Under"



AIR CANADA

Air Canada has launched daily, non-stop service between Vancouver and Sydney, Australia. Service is aboard AC's new flagship Boeing 777 aircraft, with an elapsed time of approximately 15 hours southbound and 14 hours northbound, shaving more than three hours off the previous one-stop routing via Honolulu.

Air Canada flight AC033 departs Vancouver at 11:45 p.m., arriving in Sydney at 9:50 a.m. two days later due to time zone differences. Return flights depart Sydney at 11:35 a.m., arriving in Vancouver the same day at 6:40 a.m. The 777-300ER aircraft are configured to provide a choice of 42 Executive First Suites and 307 seats in Economy Class.

The new 777-200LR that will be operated on the Sydney route starting in February will be configured with 42 Executive First Suites and 228 seats in Economy Class.

WestJet Offers Ottawa/Montreal Special — TWO DAYS ONLY!



Book by January 8, 2008 at 11:59 p.m. M.S.T.*

Travel until March 5, 2008.

Toronto to Ottawa **OR** Toronto to Montréal

Two days only!

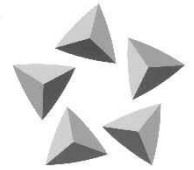
*Book by January 8 (MST) for travel until March 5, 2008. Advertised fare is limited and may not be available on all flights; next available fare starts at \$49. Taxes, fees and surcharges are extra where applicable. New

bookings only. 100% non-refundable. Offer combinable with other fares and is available for one-way or round trip travel. Flights may not operate on certain days. **All fares shown are one-way.**



Air China, Shanghai Airlines Join Star Alliance

Air China and Shanghai Airlines formally joined Star Alliance in December at a ceremony held in the new Terminal Three at Beijing Capital International Airport. With the addition of the two Chinese airlines, Star Alliance now has 19 member carriers, including Air Canada, operating 17,000 daily flights to 897 destinations in 160 countries, offering international travelers more choice than any other airline alliance. On domestic routes alone, Air China and Shanghai Airlines have added more than 40 new destinations to the Star Alliance network.



Air China is China's national flag carrier and sole designated passenger airline partner of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Shanghai Airlines is China's first commercial airline with multiple investments. It was the first Chinese airline to list on the stock exchange and issued A Shares in 2001.

DOT Bans Loose Lithium Batteries



The U.S. Department of Transportation has begun enforcing limits on loose lithium batteries, which are used in many laptop computers, cameras and cell phones, in carry-on and checked luggage to prevent fire outbreaks.

DOT is allowing "two extended-life spare rechargeable lithium batteries" in carry-on bags if they are stored in plastic bags or original packaging and only in checked bags "if they are installed in electronic devices."

"Doing something as simple as keeping a spare battery in its original retail packaging or a plastic zip-lock bag will prevent unintentional short-circuiting and fires," said DOT's deputy administrator Krista Edwards.

NEXUS now Available in Edmonton

Edmonton recently became the final Canadian airport to launch the NEXUS program since its expansion into Canada in February 2007. Designed to speed up the border clearance process for low-risk, pre-approved travelers into Canada and the United States, the program is currently available at eight major Canadian airports (Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Halifax, Calgary, Winnipeg and Edmonton) and 11 land border crossings.

In addition, effective December 1, the application fees for NEXUS were reduced to \$50 CAD (from \$80 CAD) in response to the strong Canadian dollar. This brings the application fee in line with the current cost of application fees in the United States at \$50 USD. The NEXUS cards are also accepted as alternative documents to the passport under the U.S. Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI).

Cell Phones to be used for Flight Check-In

In the next few years, printed boarding passes may not be required at the airport. A bar code, scanned from a traveler's cell phone, may be the way of the future.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that major airlines had agreed upon a global standard for such a bar code, which could be text-messaged to a traveler's cell phone or PDA. An alternate option would be that the passenger could receive the bar code by email and print it.

Establishing the global standard for the bar codes is the first step, followed by the creation of standardized processes and guidelines for global implementation.

The deadline for implementing 100 percent bar-coded boarding passes is 2010. If successfully deployed, this option could help the airline industry greatly reduce the need for paper boarding passes and save more than \$500 million USD annually.

Flight-Status Alerts Available from Multiple Sources

With the number of delays and flight cancellations affecting business travel today, travelers often seek out flight status updates offered in convenient formats. Following are some ways to access current flight status information:

Updates from the airline — Most airlines offer an optional service that sends the traveler an email or text message regarding flight status and sometimes gate information.

Flight-tracking/status Websites — Websites such as FlightExplorer.com and FlyteComm.com provide real-time flight location and estimated time of arrival. FlightStats.com offers flight status alerts to email addresses or mobile phones.

Phone — Travelers can call the airline directly to get updated flight status and gate information. Some frequent travelers save time by programming their most frequently used airlines' customer service numbers into their mobile phones.

Depending on the airline or the Website used to receive updates, the accuracy and frequency of the alerts can vary. Travelers who question the accuracy of the flight information received should consider checking more than one source to confirm that the information is correct.



Should you have any questions please contact a member of our Management Team at 905-480-9986:

- *Lucy La Vigna, Director of Operations - lucyl@travelresources.net*
- *Selina Johnston, Manager, Client Services - selinaj@travelresources.net*

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