

May 11, 2010

Travel Resources **INDUSTRY INSIDER**

US Entry Requirements for Non-Canadian Citizens — Reminder



Since January 12, 2009, **any person entering the United States under the Visa Waiver Program has been required to hold an approved ESTA Travel Authorization.** ESTA stands for Electronic System for Travel Authorization. ESTA is an online application system developed by the

United States government to pre-screen travelers before they are allowed to board an airplane or ship bound for the United States. For more information about ESTA see <http://www.esta.us/>

The Visa Waiver Program is a U.S. government program that enables citizens and nationals **from the 36 Visa Waiver Countries** (http://www.esta.us/visa_waiver_countries.html) to enter the United States for tourism or business purposes for up to 90 days **without obtaining a visa.** The advantage of entering the United States under the Visa Waiver Program is that you can travel to the United States on short notice without obtaining a visa.

Volcanic Ash Cloud Update — May 11, 2010



European air traffic agency, Eurocontrol has reported that the area affected by volcanic ash from Iceland is **expected to move northeast this afternoon, cutting across the Iberian peninsula and into southeast France.**

The ash will move at high altitudes and **is not expected to affect airports.**

The ash cloud was affecting southern and central Spain as well as Portugal including the Canary Islands and Madeira this morning, according to Eurocontrol. All airports on the Canary Islands, except Las Palmas, were closed this morning as well as some airports in Morocco.

Eurocontrol has reported that the areas of high ash concentration on high altitudes in the middle of the North Atlantic are dispersing, however, easing the previously difficult situation for transatlantic flights, The agency said it expects 29,000 flights to-day, which is close to normal for this time of year. Yesterday, there were 29,155 flights.

Morocco has closed several airports to-day as the cloud approaches northwest Africa.

Strikes Still a Possibility at British Airways

BRITISH AIRWAYS



The British Airways cabin crew union, Unite, has announced a **new wave of potential strikes starting on May 18**. The union, which conducted a fresh ballot on industrial action last week, has said **a total of 20 days of strikes are planned over a 23-day period**.

The right to take industrial action expires one month after a ballot, so Unite had to announce potential walkouts before June 6.

The latest industrial action will disrupt travel plans over the busy May bank holiday and school half-term holidays. The strikes will end as the Fifa World Cup starts in South Africa.

The walkouts, part of an ongoing dispute over cabin crew pay and conditions, are planned to take place in four groups of five days with just one day in between.

The confirmed dates of the potential strikes are:

- **May 18 to 22**
- **May 24 to 28**
- **May 30 to June 3**
- **June 5 to 9**

Travel Resources will be contacting our clients who may be affected by this action to provide them with assistance in securing alternate flight arrangements.

Air Canada to Offer Codeshare Service with Brussels Airlines



Beginning April 20, for travel effective June 12, Air Canada will offer codeshare service via Brussels in cooperation with Brussels Airlines, a Star Alliance Member as follows:

- From Canada: Marseille, Toulouse, Lyon, Milan Malpensa, Rome and Madrid
- To Canada: Marseille, Toulouse, Lyon, Milan Malpensa, Rome, Madrid, Nice and Malaga

Medical Insurance Required for Cuba



As of May 1, 2010, all travelers must purchase a medical insurance policy when travelling to Cuba. The insurance must be purchased from the country of departure and travelers may be required to present a policy valid for the duration of their stay in Cuba. For more information, visit the Cuban Embassy website at <http://embacu.cubaminrex.cu/Default.aspx?tabid=17941>

United and Continental Sign Merger Deal



United Airlines and Continental Airlines are merging. The two carriers have signed a 'definitive' merger agreement that will see the new airline operating to 370 destinations, with the deal providing "a platform for improved profitability and sustainable long-term value for Shareholders." **Aircraft will have the Continental livery, logo and colors with the United name and the announcement campaign slogan will be "Let's Fly Together."**

The new company's corporate and operational headquarters will be in Chicago and it will maintain a significant presence in Houston, which will be the combined company's largest hub. Additionally, the CEO will maintain offices in both Chicago and Houston.

The combination of United and Continental brings together the two most complementary networks of any U.S. carriers, with minimal domestic and no international route overlaps. The combined company will offer enhanced service to Asia, Europe, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East from well-placed hubs on the East Coast, West Coast and Southern and Midwestern regions of the United States.

The combined company will have 10 hubs, including hubs in the four largest cities in the United States and will provide enhanced service to underserved small- and medium-sized communities. The combined carrier will continue to serve all the communities each carrier currently serves. Together, Continental and United serve more than 144 million passengers per year as they fly to 370 destinations in 59 countries.

The companies expect to complete the transaction in the fourth quarter of 2010. During the period between signing and closing of the merger, the CEOs of both companies will lead a transition team, which will develop a specific integration plan.



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

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