

January 27, 2012

Travel Resources **INDUSTRY INSIDER**

twitter



Follow Us on Twitter!

For breaking Travel News all the time, don't forget to follow us on Twitter @Travel_Resource



AIR CANADA

Air Canada Talks with Pilots Talks Break Down

Contract talks between Air Canada and its 3,000 pilots have broken off, signaling more labor trouble ahead for the country's biggest carrier.

The two sides have been holding talks with the help of a federal conciliator since late November, but the pilots have accused Air Canada of walking away from the table, starting the countdown to a possible strike or lockout.

Under federal law, the pilots and Air Canada now **enter a 21-day "cooling off" period, before either party can take any further action that could include a lockout or strike.**



AIR CANADA

Air Canada Launches New Route – Toronto/JFK

Air Canada has announced that it will launch triple-daily, non-stop flights between Toronto Pearson and New York City's John F. Kennedy International Airport beginning May 3, 2012 and increase to hourly its flights to LaGuardia Airport.

The new services further secure Air Canada's position as the leading airline serving New York City and makes it the only carrier that operates to all three major New York City area airports: John F. Kennedy International Airport, LaGuardia Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport. Air Canada, which began flying to New York 71 years ago, will operate up to 38 non-stop return flights a day between Canada and New York City this summer.

Air Canada's New York service, with hourly flights, is ideally-suited for business travelers. Customers will have a choice of three airports across the New York City region, the option to purchase flight passes, access to Maple Leaf or Star Alliance partner lounges at all airports with priority ground services where applicable. In addition, Air Canada flights to LaGuardia and Newark feature Executive Class; the only Canadian airline offering business class service.

Beginning May 1, 2012, Air Canada will add an additional daily return flight between Toronto and LaGuardia, providing customers convenient hourly service each business day. The new Toronto-JFK service will be operated by Air Canada Express using a 50-seat CRJ regional jet. The JFK flights will have early morning, afternoon and evening arrivals and departures. With the new services, Air Canada will operate a total of up to 38 return flights a day to the New York metropolitan area from Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver.



WestJet Signs Codeshare Agreement with JAL

WestJet has signed a codeshare agreement with Japan Airlines (JAL) and is now accepting connecting guests on WestJet flights.

Under the agreement, which will allow Japan Airline's guests to travel seamlessly into WestJet's network, Japan Airlines will place its "JL" flight indicator on WestJet-operated flights between Vancouver and six Canadian cities -- Calgary, Edmonton, Kelowna, Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg.

In addition to Japan Airlines, WestJet now has codeshare agreements with Cathay Pacific, KLM and American Airlines. The airline also has interline agreements with 17 airlines around the world, allowing guests to book flights with multiple airlines using a single ticket and facilitate the transfer of baggage to a final destination.



WestJet Seat Increase

WestJet has increased its pre-reserved seat fees for regular and exit-row seats on all flights. Seat fees will continue to be charged based on flight distance.

New pricing:

One (1) hour or less per segment:

- Regular seat - Current fee \$3; New fee \$5
- Exit-row seat – Current fee \$5; New fee \$10

One (1) to two and half (2.5) hours per segment:

- Regular seat – Current fee \$7; New fee \$10
- Exit-row seat – Current fee \$10; New fee \$15

Over two and half (2.5) hours per segment:

- Regular seat – Current fee \$10; New fee \$15
- Exit-row seat – Current fee \$15; New fee \$30

WestJet will continue to offer seat selection at no cost starting 24 hours before scheduled time of departure.



Delta, WestJet Launching Codeshare Service

WestJet and Delta Air Lines have signed a codeshare deal for flights within the United States and Canada -- further expanding the partnership between the two carriers.

In 2011, the two carriers introduced an interline agreement that allowed customers to purchase connecting flights on one ticket, receive boarding passes for all segments at their first check-in, and tag bags through to their final destination.

Under the first phase of the new codeshare agreement, Delta will place its code on WestJet flights to more than 15 cities, while the WestJet code will be added to Delta flights on five markets, expanding the networks of both airlines for customers flying between the two countries.

Members of the Delta Air Lines' SkyMiles program and WestJet's Frequent Guest Program will be able to earn miles or rewards on the code-share flights, providing customers another benefit of the enhanced relationship.

The Delta code will go on WestJet-operated flights between Toronto and Edmonton, Halifax, Kelowna, Ottawa, Regina, Thunder Bay, Vancouver, Calgary, Charlottetown and St. Johns. Between Calgary and Las Vegas, Kelowna, Regina, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Victoria. Between Vancouver and Honolulu, Las Vegas and Kelowna. Between Edmonton and Kelowna and Victoria. Between Winnipeg and Montreal. And between Halifax and St. Johns. The WestJet code will go on Delta flights between Detroit and Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City and Toronto. And between Boston and Toronto.

A portion of travel for some itineraries may be on Delta Connection carriers: Chautauqua, Comair, Compass Airlines, ExpressJet Airlines, Inc., GoJet Airlines, Mesaba, Pinnacle Airlines, Shuttle America dba Delta Shuttle, and SkyWest.



Porter Goes to Washington – Service Starts April 16, 2012

Porter is preparing to break the gridlock in D.C. with up to three daily roundtrip flights between Dulles International Airport and Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

You're guaranteed to have a capital time in one of America's most historic regions. Service starts April 16, 2012.



Finnair Back in Toronto

Finnair will reintroduce scheduled flights between Toronto and Helsinki this spring. The flights will also offer connections to over 50 destinations in Europe and 10 destinations in Asia.

The non-stop flight between Toronto Pearson International Airport and Helsinki Airport will fly five days a week beginning May 24, 2012.

Finnair is also offering spring round-trip fares starting from CDN\$965 from Toronto to Helsinki, and these are valid for travel May 1 to June 25, 2012.

Other destinations include Copenhagen, Stockholm, Moscow, Prague, Warsaw, Budapest, Bangkok, Seoul, Delhi, Hong Kong, and Beijing.



Global Hotel Rates Post Record Rise

Pegasus Solutions Data (PSD) reports that the **global hotel market enjoyed record increases over 2010 in the average daily rates (ADR) paid by consumers during December 2011.**

PSD released its data in The Pegasus View, revealing that leisure hotel rates grew by 8.3, while the corporate market realized more moderate rate gains of 3.2% compared to 2010.

In North America, leisure rates climbed a near-record 6.3%, second only to June's 6.5% increase, as markets outside North America returned an impressive 7.5% jump above December 2010. Corporate rates in North America beat the global increase with +5.4%, while the rise outside of North America was +1.7%.

Right now, reservations on the books point to leisure bookings easing in January with rates maintaining, and possible gains for both measures expected over 2011 from February through April. Corporate bookings are also expected to grow during the same period as rates stay ahead of prior year levels from January to the first of second quarter.



Lufthansa Calgary Says Goodbye to Lufthansa

Four years ago Lufthansa launched direct flights between Calgary and Frankfurt with much fanfare. Now **the German airline has announced it will be pulling out of the Western city next month.**

The carrier is currently offering four non-stop flights per week, but **the last flight out of YYC is now scheduled for February 4.**

The declining demand was from both Canadian and European customers and the airline was losing money on the route. Lufthansa has rebooked all

passengers who have been affected by the move.

Lufthansa last offered Frankfurt-Calgary service in the 1980s but pulled out during the bust when air travel declined.

Lufthansa's Star Alliance partner Air Canada, which currently offers seven Calgary-to-Frankfurt flights per week, will switch from using a Boeing 767-300 on the route, and instead, as of February 4, will operate a 265-seat Airbus A330-300 aircraft year-round.

That will represent a 25% increase in seats for the winter season.

Meanwhile Dutch airline KLM confirmed it will be increasing its direct Calgary to Amsterdam flights this summer, from four flights per week to five per week by April, six per week by May, and daily flights before the summer.

The decision to increase flight frequency was made long before the news that Lufthansa was pulling out, said Fabien Pelous, vice-president and general manager for Air France-KLM Canada, who noted it had been part of KLM's development plan since it launched non-stop Calgary-Amsterdam flights in 2009.

Amsterdam is considered a major travel hub and connects to up to 157 destinations in the world, making it an important connection for both business and tourism reasons, Pelous added.



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
-