

✈ UP IN THE AIR

AA formalizes Million Miler Plan

American Airlines is formally launching its AAdvantage Million Miler program on December 1, offering benefits including lifetime elite tier status, albeit with stricter eligibility rules than the unofficial program it is replacing. The carrier is now formalizing these benefits under the Million Miler program.

Published benefits of the Million Miler scheme include:

- At one million Million Miler miles, AAdvantage members will receive lifetime AAdvantage Gold status and 35,000 AAdvantage bonus miles
- At two million Million Miler miles, AAdvantage members will receive lifetime AAdvantage Platinum status and four one-way system wide upgrades
- At each additional Million Miler mark, AAdvantage members will receive four additional one-way system wide upgrades

For more information, visit www.aa.com.

TSA to Pilot Expedited Airport Security Screening

As business travelers know, there often are two components to the airport security waiting game: first, a queue that leads to a document checker who glances at boarding passes and IDs; then, a subsequent and separate line that culminates in the actual security screening. This fall, TSA is to begin piloting its new trusted-traveler expedited security-screening program with frequent flyers of American or Del-

ta and U.S. citizen participants in U.S. Customs and Border Protection trusted-traveler programs at airports in Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit and Miami. TSA has yet to specify how it intends to expedite the screening process for participants, although a source noted the potential for travelers to keep shoes on their feet and laptops in their bags.

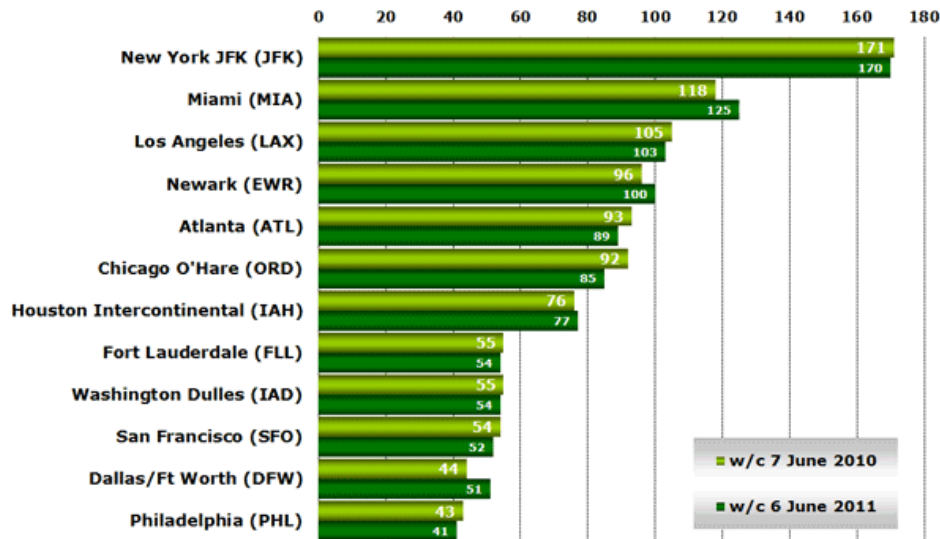
Industry groups, including the American Society of Travel Agents, the Business Travel Coalition and the Global Business Travel Association generally applauded TSA's trusted-traveler pilot program.

RIDIN' THE RAILS

On track?

DOT Secretary Ray LaHood announced plans to dedicate \$745 million for rail construction projects along the Northeast Corridor. About \$450 million will be used to use upgrade electrical systems and tracks between Trenton, NJ, and NYC, improving performance and an initial increase in top operating speeds up to 160 miles per hour. Another \$295 million will be used to create new routes in and out of New York City.

US airports with most international services
 Number of airline/airport services



HOTEL NEWS

Hilton China Hotels to Rise

Bloomberg—Hilton Worldwide said it will have 100 hotels in China by 2014, four times the number of properties it manages in the country now, making it their biggest market after the U.S.

Hilton, which also operates under brands including Waldorf Astoria and Doubletree, is expanding as the number of domestic tourists climbed 11 percent in 2010 and will continue to expand into smaller cities including Xian in the north, and Nanjing and Shaoxing in the east. The company has 3,750 hotels in 85 countries.

Health is Hot for Hotels

With Americans becoming more health-conscious and employers looking for ways to reduce insurance costs and increase productivity, hotels are adding nutrition, fitness and even cleaner air to the amenities with which to court business travelers. These changes could not come at a better time for corporate road warriors. Here are some hot health trends to watch for when deciding where to check in:

- **In-room equipment:** About 21% of luxury and 15% of mid-price hotels offer in-room exercise equipment.
- **Smartphone apps:** Amenities for joggers and walkers, which include providing workout clothes, are becoming more prevalent.
- **Healthy break-outs and team-building:** Some hotels have activities that extend corporate wellness programs beyond company doors. More nutritious food and exercise help employees sleep better and wake up rejuvenated and productive.
- **Allergy-free rooms:** If you have allergies or asthma, or you're just concerned about air quality, book a room that features air purifiers, hypoallergenic bed encasements, and undergo cleaning treatments to remove allergens and bacteria.
- **Paraben-free amenities:** Parabens, a type of chemical often used as a preservative and antibacterial agent in personal-care products, can trigger skin allergies.
- **Organic, locally produced food:** Beyond low-calorie, low-fat choices, hotels also are incorporating more locally produced, natural and organic ingredients into their restaurant and room-service menus.

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Hotel Tablet Apps on Horizon

The tablet format, made popular by the iPad, is at the forefront of connectivity and interaction in

the guestroom. Only a handful of hotels so far have developed tablet application that cater to guests during their stays, but this is changing. Ordering room service, booking spa time or learning about hotel features and area resources is the trend of the future.

Some hotels are also electing to provide iPads in-room for tech-savvy guests.

THE SMART MONEY

Reward travel for employees makes a comeback

USA TODAY—Travel industry experts say companies are again rewarding employees as corporate profits have started to rebound. "The reality is, it's back because these programs work, especially in decentralized organizations," says Melissa Vn Dyke, president of the Incentive Research Foundation. "They're still creating experiences that are memorable and meaningful."

Resorts that traditionally have relied on incentive travel groups are reporting higher sales.

At Atlantis Paradise Island in the Bahamas, group sales are about 20% higher than a year ago, and incentive meetings comprise about 65% of all group sales at the resort. Industry veterans say businesses have returned to the realization that rewards and incentives can get their sales forces to be more productive and distributors working a little more aggressively on their behalf. Studies indicate that for every dollar spent on incentive travel, \$3 to \$5 are added to a company's bottom line, says Steve O'Malley, senior vice president of Maritz Travel. The Incentive Research Foundation has found that spending now averages about \$2,500 a person, and

67% of trips include some type of meeting or business aspect.

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Vacations Refresh and Recharge

All vacations pay dividends in your health and enhance your return on life. But some getaways go the extra mile to rev up your energy, recharge your batteries, renew your spirit, and give you a new outlook on life. (Some vacations even add years to your life...) Whether you're looking for peace and quiet or an invigorating challenge, consider these top spots with amenities such as spa or dining credits, massages, upgrades, extra nights, or airport transfers only available through Protravel:

- Canyon Ranch Hotel & Spa, Miami
- Elbow Beach Bermuda
- Hyatt Grand Champions Golf Resort
- Montage Beverly Hills (below)
- Orient-Express Hotels--Secluded retreats to Mexico, French West Indies or SE Asia
- Sanctuary Camelback Mountain
- Shangri-La Hotel, Vancouver
- Tambo Del Inka
- The Benjamin, NYC
- the Connaught, London
- The St. Regis Monarch Beach

