

## ✈ UP IN THE AIR

### JFK Runway Reopens

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey reopened the longest runway at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport after a four-month closure for construction. The Bay Runway handles about 1/3 of the traffic at Kennedy, one of nation's busiest airports. The PA said the reconstruction came in a few days ahead of the July 1 schedule, and under budget, costing \$348 million, and is expected to last 40 years. The project also added exits and taxiways to the runway to speed aircraft takeoffs and landings and reduce delays. These measures are expected to cut delays by 10,500 hours a year.

### State Department Hikes Fees

On July 13, the U.S. State Department raised the price for **visas, passports and other consular services**—some by more than \$300—to reflect what the department determined is the true cost to provide such services. For an adult passport, the State Department will begin charging \$110 (\$35 more than the current price) plus a \$25 execution fee. Meanwhile, the cost for some visas will jump by even greater amount. For example, an employment-based immigrant visa will cost \$720 under the new pricing scheme, compared with the previous \$355.


### Airline Passenger Bumping Highest Since 2001

**Bloomberg**—Almost 220,000 passengers couldn't get on flights in the first quarter of 2010, even though they bought tickets. At that pace, so-called denied boardings in 2010 would reach the highest total since 2001. Pent-up demand for summer vacations means there won't be many empty seats in the coming months, probably resulting in more bumping.

Airlines routinely sell more coach tickets than they have available, betting that not all passengers will show up. About 89 percent of first-quarter bumpings were voluntary, with travelers accepting inducements such as vouchers to switch flights. The rate of involuntary bumpings jumped 37 percent from a year earlier. **Carriers try to shield first- and business-class travelers, elite frequent fliers and unaccompanied minors from involuntary bumpings.**

Southwest, the largest discount carrier, typically sells tickets to as many as 3 to 5 more passengers than it can accommodate on a flight. Carriers can generate \$5,000 or more on some flights by selling an extra 5 or 10 tickets even when the plane is already booked full. "Airlines are deciding whether it's worth taking on one more person paying a much higher fare versus the cost of a bump," Snyder said. "The higher fare usually wins."

#### TRAVEL TRIVIA

In one year,  passengers consume 6 tons of caviar, 22 tons of smoked salmon, 557,507 boxes of chocolate and 90 thousand cases of Champagne. THAT's the way to fly!

## THE GREAT ESCAPE



### Forbes list: World's most luxurious beaches

- **Akyarlar:** Bodrum, Turkey
- **Bahia:** Trancoso, Brazil
- **Bondi:** Sydney, Australia
- **Castelo:** Albufeira, Portugal
- **China Beach:** Danang, Vietnam
- **Grace Bay:** Providenciales, Turks and Caicos
- **Las Minitas:** Casa de Campo, DR
- **East Hampton,** N.Y.
- **Myrto:** Kefalonia, Greece (pictured)
- **Nueva Andalucia:** Puerto Banus, Spain
- **Pink Sands:** The Bahamas
- **Plage de Pampelonne:** St. Tropez
- **South Beach,** Miami, FL
- **St. Restitude:** Corsica, France
- **Wailea Beach:** Maui, Hawaii

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## HOTEL NEWS

### ESP at Ritz-Carlton?

Cornell's Center for Hospitality Research reported that building on its tradition of legendary guest service, The Ritz-Carlton Company has created an employee training program called "Radar On—Antenna Up," which is designed to anticipate guests' needs, even before they express them.