

✈ UP IN THE AIR

AA's New Chicago-Beijing Service

American Airlines has launched its first flight between Chicago O'Hare International Airport and Beijing Capital International Airport. American is serving the route with a Boeing 777 outfitted with 14 first, 37 business and 194 economy seats.

EU to lift liquids ban

At the end of April 2013, the European Union will lift its ban on liquids passing through security checkpoints as it sets into motion a final deadline for EU airports to install new screening equipment capable of detecting liquid explosives.

The United States also has explored enhanced screening equipment as a way to overturn a similar liquid ban.

DOT Plans To Unveil New Airline Passenger Rules

The U.S. Transportation Department plans to propose new rules shortly that will broaden and extend the airline passenger protections it enacted last month.

DOT secretary Ray LaHood said the new proposal will "strengthen consumer protections in a number of areas. In April, the DOT enacted a number of new passenger protections, including requiring domestic carriers to let passengers deplane any aircraft held on the taxiway for three hours or face hefty federal fines.

Delay data to be posted

The Transportation Department has given airlines until July to comply with a new rule requiring them to post their domestic on-time performance record on their web sites.

THE SMART MONEY

Travel insurance sales on the rise

Purchases of travel insurance, which had been rising over the last two years, appear to be spiking as Icelandic volcanic ash, Thailand's civil unrest and other worrisome events weigh on the minds of travelers.

Most are looking to protect themselves against trip cancellations. A broader range of travelers now want to ensure that they are reimbursed for nonrefundable travel expenses in cases where unforeseen circumstances ranging from bad weather to a job loss force a trip cancellation.

According to industry figures, travel agents' clients generally spend between 4% and 8% of their trip cost for insurance policies.

Protravel International: First Responders in Volcanic Ash Crisis

A model of how a well-run, well-connected agency protected its clients from one of the worst air-travel disruptions in history....

<http://www.protravelinc.com/firstresponders.html>

“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.”
— St. Augustine

HOTEL NEWS



World's most unusual hotels

- Floating Hotel in Sweden
- Sand Castle in United Kingdom
- Jungle Hotel in Mexico
- Ice Hotel in Canada
- Capsule Hotel in Japan
- Survival Pod in Netherlands
- Cave Hotel in Turkey
- Airplane Hotel in Sweden
- Treehouse Hotel in India
- Prison Hotel in Germany
- Underwater Resort in Fiji
- Drain Pipe Hotel in Austria

OUR EARTH

Aviation's Climate Impact is Small

Aviation is responsible for:

- 2% of global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions
- 12% of CO₂ emissions from all transport sources, compared to 74% from road transport
- 3% of the total man-made contribution to climate change

By 2020, airlines are aiming for at least an additional 25% improvement in fuel efficiency and CO₂ emissions, through technology and operational enhancements.