

CWTSatoTravel *Compass*

Quarterly newsletter providing industry information and advice for government travel managers

Update: The Secure Flight Rule for Airline Travel

As previously communicated, the Department of Homeland Security is in the process of implementing the Secure Flight Program for air travelers. Following is the timeline for the implementation.

TSA Implementation timeline:

- **May 15, 2009**—TSA requests that travelers begin using their full name (as it appears on the government-issued identification they plan to use at the airport) when making airline reservations*
- **August 15, 2009**—Passengers will be requested to provide date of birth, gender and redress number (if applicable) when booking airline flights (for flights that operate **within** the United States)
- **October 31, 2009**—Passengers will be requested to provide date of birth, gender and redress number (if applicable) when booking airline flights (for flights **into, out of, and over** the United States)
- **Early 2010**—The TSA plans to conduct watch list matching for 100 percent of passengers on all domestic commercial flights
- **End of 2010**—The TSA plans to conduct watch list matching for 100 percent of passengers on all international commercial flights

**The TSA has stated that small differences between the passenger's ID and the name on their reservation (such as including no middle name, only a middle initial or full middle name) will not be an issue for passengers in the near future. TSA recommends that over time, passengers should aim for consistency between the name on their government-issued ID and their travel information.*

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Air Travel Today: Fees on Top of Fees

In an economic climate defined by increased fuel charges and diminishing profits, airlines are continuing to find new channels for revenues. As recently as a year ago, flyers typically only encountered fees if they checked more than the allotted 2 bags per person, or if they exceeded the baggage weight limit. Now travelers are encountering fees for food, beverages, and a host of other travel-related conveniences:

- In addition to the fees passengers on United Airlines, Delta Airlines, Northwest, and US Airways pay to check bags, the airlines have imposed a \$5 fee for passengers paying baggage fees at the airport rather than online.
- Several airlines have imposed fees for "premium" seat selection, which includes exit row seating and other locations deemed "desirable." Airlines imposing these fees include (but are not limited to) United, US Airways, Northwest, KLM, JetBlue, and Air Tran. One Airline (Vueling, a Spanish airline) has gone so far as to charge passengers to pick a seat—any seat—for their flight. Prices vary based on seat selection, ranging from "basic" to aisle/window seats with a guaranteed empty middle seat.

As airlines continue to weather the economic storm, additional "a la carte" fees continue to be a possibility. In fact, European discount carrier Ryanair has entertained the idea of charging fees for lavatory use and sick bags. While these fees, which stretch the imagination, have not officially been implemented, it is important that travelers check with airlines before traveling to stay up to date with emerging fees.
Sources: Washington Times, Kayak.com

Leisure Travel Savings with SatoVacations

SatoVacations, the leisure division of CWTSatoTravel, is able to offer deep discounts on leisure travel because of its strong relationships within the travel industry. Following is just a sample of some of the discounts SatoVacations is able to offer:

- Up to 30% off lowest published fares on select sailings on Carnival Cruise Lines
- Up to 50% off rack rates on select sailings through Royal Caribbean
- \$50 per person off of any package through Trafalgar
- Additional 5% discount off of all rates and sailings with Norwegian Cruise Lines
- Additional 10% off of lowest published rates with Sandals/Beaches
- Up to 50% off of select sailings with Celebrity cruises

SatoVacations.com
Your Military Discount Specialists

SatoVacations is more than just a discount travel provider. SatoVacations' agents receive daily communications on the most current product information and are able to determine what best fits our client's needs in order to provide them with the vacation experience they expect and deserve. To learn more about CWTSatoTravel's leisure products and services, visit SatoVacations.com or contact the Vacation Center at 877-698-2554 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. central time.

Passports Now Required at North American Land/Sea Borders

As of June 1, North American travelers crossing U.S. and Canadian borders via land and sea are required to present a valid passport or other government-approved documentation under the U.S. government Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). Key points of the initiative follow:

Applies to: Travelers 19 and older. Children 18 and under will need to present a birth certificate, naturalization certificate, or passport.

Where: Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, Caribbean region (includes 17 nations).

Required documentation: Passports, enhanced security driver's licenses, Canadian NEXUS or Free and Secure Trade (FAST) cards, or other approved identification.

How to apply for a passport in the U.S.: Online, by mail, or in person.

Application timelines: 4-6 weeks.

Cost: \$75-\$100.

The U.S. government recommends that travelers plan ahead and apply for passports early to avoid any potential future delays in processing. Urgent or expedited services are generally available at an extra charge. Under certain circumstances, travelers are required to apply for a U.S. passport in person. Exceptions apply to certain age groups, nationalities, cruise members, and members of the military.

For more information (including a complete list of acceptable documentation, passport agencies in your area, etc.), visit the [Department of Homeland Security Website](#) or [U.S. Department of State Website](#).

Sources: *CWT Traveler, travel.state.gov, dhs.gov, thestar.com, news.yahoo.com, ctv.ca, ppt.gc.ca*

Increase Productivity on the Road

Typically, business travel means spending hours in airports, airplanes, and hotel rooms—miles away from the convenience of traditional work spaces. With a little planning, travelers can overcome travel obstacles to increase efficiency on the road. Following are a few tips productivity experts recommend:

- Always book travel through a travel agency. Agents are available to assist in making alternate travel arrangements, if the situation arises.
- Dress professionally for flights. If luggage goes missing, the professional attire worn on the flight can ensure a traveler is presentable at a business meeting.
- Schedule flights to maximize time zone differences. If traveling west, try to leave in the evening. For eastbound flights, leave mid-afternoon.
- Take steps to ensure a good night's sleep.

Sources: *CWT Traveler, Calgary Herald; internet-news.com*

Hotels Made Easy

Simplify your day. Let CWTSatoTravel book a hotel for you the next time you're making a travel reservation.

Our agents can book your preferred hotel within seconds, and you can still earn loyalty points on every reservation.



The next time you call to make a reservation, simply tell your agent you'd like to book a hotel as well. CWTSatoTravel will include your hotel confirmation in your travel itinerary—a single source of information for your travel.



Most importantly, by booking a hotel through CWTSatoTravel, you can be confident that your hotel accommodations meet government travel requirements.