



Travel News

July 15, 2010

■ Air Travel News

- **HEADS UP!** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is getting serious about enforcing the **Secure Flight Rule** that it has been phasing in for several months. The rule requires that every air reservation contain the passenger's full legal name, gender and birth date so the information can be compared to government watch lists no later than 72 hours prior to flight departure. The TSA now says that **effective November 1, 2010** travelers with air reservations that are not in compliance will **be denied boarding**.
- We have just been notified by **American Airlines** that **effective September 15, 2010**, they will require Secure Flight data in all reservations at the time of ticketing or they will **inhibit the issuance of the ticket**. We expect all affected airlines flying to, from or through US airspace to issue similar directives (Delta Airlines recently made a similar announcement). The message is this: The TSA allows no exceptions; compliance is mandatory. If you have not yet provided your Burkhalter agent with this information, do so without delay!
- **Delta SkyMiles members** probably won't like this rule change: All award travel booked within 21 days of departure will require a **Friday or Saturday night stay**. There are a few exceptions – the program's highest-tier fliers are exempt and no weekend stay is required for awards using double miles. For the lowest award category requiring 25,000 miles per trip, even silver Medallion members will have to abide by the new rule.
- There's good news and there's bad news. The **good news** is business travel is surging as more of you return to the skies. The **bad news**: airlines that dramatically cut capacity during the 2009 economic downturn are slow to return more planes to service, creating tightly packed flights and fewer options to rebook when a flight is cancelled due to weather or other conditions. **Our advice**: don't wait until the last minute to book flights, hoping for a bargain. You'll either be out of luck or you'll likely pay a much higher fare.
- **United Airlines** and India's **Jet Airways** have announced a code-sharing partnership. The agreement will put United's UA code on Jet Airways flights between London-Mumbai, Hong Kong-Delhi and Hong Kong-Mumbai. Ask your Burkhalter agent for full details.

- **Continental Airlines** and Brazil's **TAM**, both members of the Star Alliance, are now code-sharing.
- Northern California's **Mineta San Jose International Airport** has officially opened its new Terminal B. A new consolidated rental car garage, walkable from Terminals A and B, also just opened.
- **Air France** has added a new premium economy seating option on its Detroit-Paris service.
- **American Airlines** has equipped its airport staff at several US airports with handheld devices that can print on-the-spot boarding passes, give flight and gate information, print bag tags and display maps of other airports as part of new service push they call **YADA** (Your Assistance Delivered Anywhere). They plan to eventually have a YADA device at every gate.
- **UPS** has launched an aggressive campaign to promote alternatives to checking luggage on flights. With their "**luggage box**" option travelers can pack and ship ahead, eliminating the need to deal with carry-ons and/or checked luggage during flights. Look [here](#) for luggage box specifics and [here](#) to search for UPS Store locations nearest you.
- **Continental Airlines** announced it would begin serving specialty cocktails such as Stirrings Mojito, Stirrings Pomegranate Martini, and Red Bull Energy Drink. The drinks with spirits will set you back \$9, but the virgin versions can be purchased for \$3. In addition to the new drink choices, Continental said it will also be providing healthy food choices this fall.
- Buddy the Badger is the newest "spokes animal" to fly the skies with **Frontier Airlines**. According to an article in the Dallas Morning News, "The badger was the logical choice for a Frontier animal, since Frontier... is trying to build its brand awareness and local connection in Wisconsin. The University of Wisconsin's mascot is Bucky Badger, you know."

■ Other Travel News

[New Passport Fees Now in Effect](#)

The increase in the **cost of passports** that we alerted you to in the April issue of **Burkhalter Travel News** is now a reality. The cost of a new (first time) passport for travelers age 16 and older is now **\$135**. Adult renewals now cost **\$110**. And this will not be good news to frequent international travelers: **the cost of adding more pages to your passport will now cost \$82 per page**. This service previously was free.

[New Rental Car “GOTCHAS”](#)

Watch for these tricky new rental car fees: (1) You drove the car less than 75 miles? There could be a refueling fee tacked on when you return it. (2) Want to share the driving with an associate or family member? The extra driver fee now averages \$10 to \$12 a day. (3) Your business trip wraps up a day or so early. Your rental car company might reset your weekly rate to a higher price because you brought the vehicle back before the contracted date and time.

[New York City Updates its Subway Map---Finally](#)

According to the New York Times, the city’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority has unveiled a resized, recolored and simplified edition of the well-known but out of date subway map. You can check it out [here](#).

[Handy Foreign Language Website](#)

You’ll find an impressive array of foreign language online dictionaries and free translation links [here](#)

[Service Upgrades on Heathrow Express](#)

Heathrow Express has debuted improved service and interior upgrades between central London and Heathrow Airport’s Terminal 4. The new set timetable synchronizes with the existing Heathrow Express services, reducing platform changes at Heathrow Central Terminals 1 and 3. Passenger journey and wait times have been reduced by 25 percent.

[Curb Your Crankiness or You Might Land on a List](#)

Airport passengers who loudly vent their frustrations, fling a suitcase or punch a wall because they’re unhappy with the security screening process could find themselves in a little-known Homeland Security database. The TSA recently acknowledged that it keeps records of people who threaten screeners, bully or intimidate TSA staff, kick equipment, or excessively display anger and scare workers. The database was created back in 2007 as the TSA launched a program to prevent the nation’s 50,000 airport screeners from being attacked. Information gathered could include names, birth dates, Social Security numbers, home addresses and phone numbers of people involved in airport incidents, including aggressors, victims and witnesses.

[Time for a Vacation!](#)

But first, a pat on our Burkhalter back:

We’re very pleased to announce that the readers of the Wisconsin State Journal and Madison.com have voted Burkhalter Travel the winner of the “**Best Travel Agency**” award! This “Star of Madison” award means that the valued clients we serve and who voted for us have had positive travel experiences thanks to the professional skills, travel savvy and dedication of our Burkhalter staff. Many thanks to all who made this possible!

Tour Preview Review – See You at the Show!

We have so many exceptional Burkhalter Tours ready to preview that we decided to highlight **four upcoming preview shows**. We encourage you to **join us** at our Burkhalter headquarters, 6501 Mineral Point Road in Madison for a fascinating in-depth look at these terrific new offerings. Bring your curiosity and your questions! There's no cost to attend, but you do need to let us know that you're coming. To RSVP, call 800-556-9286 or 608-833-1525, ext. 260 or 261. We hope to see you there!

Thursday, July 22 – 6:30 pm: Visions of Vietnam and Angkor Wat

This exciting 15-day itinerary explores north and south Vietnam and Cambodia's Buddhist temple, the largest in the world. The tour explores the secrets of this intriguing culture! Come to the show and learn about this fascinating destination and the exceptional itinerary.

Wednesday, August 11 – 6:30 pm: Sunny Portugal

Portugal's rich maritime history along with its ancient castles, Roman ruins and quaint picturesque villages make this a truly unique destination. And---without the inflated prices of more well-known Mediterranean resorts! You'll love Portugal---we know; we've been there. Come and find out more!

Thursday, August 19 – 6:30 pm: Down Under Discovery

Explore the myths and mysteries of Australia and New Zealand on this in-depth 21-day exploration of the lands "down under." We can't emphasize enough that this is the trip of a lifetime---come to the Preview Show and find out why!

Tuesday, September 14 – 6:30 pm: Heart of Europe

This is the Classic, the Burkhalter Tours customized group version of the popular overview of seven European countries---a favorite of Burkhalter travelers for many years. This itinerary takes you to Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium and Holland. Wow! Come to the Preview Show for all the details!

Don't forget to RSVP! (See details above.....)

Read about all the latest Burkhalter Tours in this [newsletter](#)

■ Burkhalter Travel Locations

Madison	6501 Mineral Point Road	608-833-5218	800-556-9286
Madison	615A North Sherman Avenue	608-241-7500	800-414-7166
Oregon	763 N. Main Street	608-835-8474	800-537-0419
Fitchburg	3050 Cahill Main	608-441-0151	888-522-4269
Baraboo	141 Third Avenue	608-356-4999	800-660-8359
Stoughton	Chalet Travel, 226 S. Forrest	608-873-8133	800-733-6970
Brookfield	Olson Travel, 17550 W. Bluemound	262-782-0110	800-847-5921
Dubuque IA	Travel Headquarters, 2095 JFK Rd	563-588-3456	800-383-0563



We are a local company with a global presence.