Travel Industry Update
June 18, 2020

JetBlue adds 30 routes beginning in July

- Between July and October, the New York-based airline will add 30 new routes tailored to leisure travelers.
- Some of the new routes, including daily flights between Newark, New Jersey, and Los Angeles and San Francisco, include Mint Service, JetBlue's premium passenger experience, which features lie-flat seats, free entertainment, special meals and pre-takeoff cocktails.
- In addition, JetBlue is restoring nine routes that were temporarily halted during the height of the pandemic as well as service to several popular summer destinations such as Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, Massachusetts; Providence, Rhode Island; and the Puerto Rican cities of Aguadilla and Ponce.

Travel Spending In U.S. To Drop 45 Percent In 2020

- According to a forecast prepared for the U.S. Travel Association by Tourism Economics, domestic travel spending is forecast to drop 40 percent (from $972 billion in 2019 to $583 billion in 2020) while international inbound spending is expected to freefall 75 percent ($155 billion to $39 billion).
- Total domestic trips taken by U.S. residents are expected to fall 30 percent from last year to 1.6 billion—the lowest figure since 1991, another recession year.
- “The data is telling us that travel and tourism has been more severely damaged than any other U.S. industry by the economic fallout of the health crisis,” said U.S. Travel Association executive vice president for public affairs and policy Tori Emerson Barnes, in a statement. “Given that travel employed one in 10 Americans and was the No. 2 U.S. export before the pandemic, supporting this industry through to the recovery phase ought to be a national priority.

More than 35,000 sign petition to keep Disneyland closed amid coronavirus pandemic

- Walt Disney's announcement that it plans to reopen Disneyland and sister theme park Disney's California Adventure on Wednesday, July 17 (the 65th anniversary of Disneyland's opening), was met with a petition asking the Anaheim, California, parks not to do so.
- The petition has garnered more than 35,000 signatures toward its goal of 50,000 as of Monday.
- "Many people have lost loved ones due to this pandemic and by reopening the parks they are endangering cast members (Disney's term for its employees) and guests to be exposed to Covid-19," the petition reads.
There are more cases now than when the parks closed on March 13th, 2020,” it says. “Health Officials have stated that the 2nd wave of Covid-19 will be worse. So reopening before the 2nd wave even hits us is irresponsible and greedy."

Las Vegas

- **Nevada, Clark County sees largest daily spike in COVID-19 cases since pandemic began**
  - Nevada and Clark County are reporting the largest uptick in COVID-19 cases in a day since the pandemic began.
  - Nevada health officials reported the highest uptick in cases overnight with 379 new cases Tuesday with more than 6,300 tests completed on Monday. Officials also reported the highest single-day growth rate since May 22.
  - Health officials are linking the spike in cases in the state to Nevada entering Phase 2 of its reopening about two and a half weeks ago.

- **Mayfair Supper Club at Bellagio closes after employee tests positive for coronavirus**
  - The Mayfair Supper Club, Bellagio's newest attraction featuring upscale dining and live entertainment, has closed its doors a second time in its mere five and a half months of existence.
  - The supper club remained closed Wednesday after an employee who worked in the kitchen tested positive for COVID-19 after receiving a diagnosis before reporting to work.

- **Nevada businesses get more than 600 coronavirus-related complaints**
  - Nevada agencies tasked with making sure businesses operating amid the pandemic are doing so in line with the governor’s protocols have received more than 600 complaints since Nevada began reopening in early May.
  - “Employees are not being allowed to wear masks or face coverings, potentially exposing them to COVID-19 hazards,” reads one description of a complaint sent May 28 to the Nevada Occupational Safety and Health Division.
  - “The owner of the establishment is ignoring the (governor’s) orders for the COVID-19 reopening roadmap by allowing parties with up to 200 people to take place, despite the current limit of no more than 50,” reads another, dated June 8.

Travel restrictions at US-Mexico border extended to July 21

- Acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf announced in March that travel between the United States and Mexico would be limited to essential travelers to help decrease the virus’ spread between the two countries.
- The restrictions exclude commercial trade with Mexico.
- The restrictions were set to expire next week, but Wolf announced they will be extended until July 21.

Germany bans large events for another four months

- Germany intends to ban large events until the end of October.
- The leaders of all 16 German states met with chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday and agreed to extend the ban on big gatherings, including festivals and fairs.
Australia’s Borders Likely to Stay Closed to International Tourists Until 2021

- Australia is unlikely to reopen its border to international travelers until next year but will look to relax entry rules for students and other long-term visitors, trade minister Simon Birmingham said on Wednesday.
- Birmingham said a quarantine rule for returning citizens could be applied to international students and other visitors who plan to stay for a long period of time.
- The return of international students will be a boost for universities facing big financial losses with the border closed as international education is Australia’s fourth-largest foreign exchange earner, worth $26.14 billion a year.