



Travel Industry Update

November 2, 2020

United and Amtrak cut ties; end mileage earning and lounge access

- For years, United and Amtrak have had a codeshare partnership, allowing you to purchase a flight to or from Newark with a connection on the Northeast Regional train to or from your final destination.
- As part of the tie-up, flyers could earn redeemable miles for the train segment. (Amtrak Guest Rewards members could credit United flights to Amtrak as well.) Plus, the two transportation providers offered reciprocal lounge access for certain premium passengers and elite members.
- Effective Dec. 24, you'll no longer be able to earn United MileagePlus miles through Amtrak and vice versa. Reciprocal lounge access ends on Feb. 4, 2021, as first reported by Live and Let's Fly.

Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary blasts government lockdowns as traffic falls 80%

- Ryanair said Monday it will operate a "significantly reduced flying scheduled" in the next six months compared to its original expectations as governments across Europe tighten social restrictions.
- The statement comes just two days after the U.K. government announced a second lockdown in England starting on November 5. Last week, the French and German governments also put forward plans for a second nationwide lockdown. Meanwhile, many governments across Europe have also stepped up restrictions over the past few days as they grapple with a second wave of coronavirus infections.
- "The WHO (World Health Organization) themselves confirmed that lockdowns should be the last option, lockdowns are essentially a failure," Michael O'Leary, CEO of Ryanair told CNBC's "Squawk Box Europe" on Monday.
- "If we had more aggressive test and tracing provision, or as (U.K. Prime Minister) Boris Johnson promised world class testing and tracing, which clearly we don't have in the U.K., we could and would have avoided a second lockdown," O'Leary added.
- "It is clear that air travel is in the frontline of this pandemic ... And we think the only way out of this is for governments, the British, the Irish and other European governments, to introduce pre-departure testing," O'Leary told CNBC.
- "We expect intra-European air travel capacity to remain subdued for the next few years," Ryanair said in a statement.
- O'Leary added that there will be "a core amount of essential travel that will take place this winter, but fundamentally we are talking about a number that is less than a third of our normal."
- However, the firm believes the crisis "will create opportunities" going forward, such as a growing of its fleet and lower airport costs.

Explained: The CDC ‘Conditional Sailing’ Order for Cruise Ships

- On October 30, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control lifted the cruise ship ban in North America. But just because the no sail order has expired doesn't mean cruising will resume on November 1.
- The CDC, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is implementing a phased approach to resuming cruise operations in the U.S.
- Before a cruise line can even consider applying for a Conditional Sailing Certificate for a particular ship, and within 60 days of the framework being issued, cruise lines must obtain samples from 100% of crew members currently onboard vessels and submit the samples to an approved laboratory onshore for PCR testing.
- The cruise lines must notify the CDC at least seven days in advance of collecting and submitting the samples to a laboratory so the sample collection process and laboratory choice can be approved. When results are received from the lab, the cruise line must report them in full to the CDC.
- Any crew members embarking the ship in the future must receive a PCR test on the day of embarkation that is immediately transported to a lab for testing, crew embarking the ship must be quarantined for 14 days, and embarking crew who receive a positive test may be subject to additional isolation.
- Going forward, cruise lines must test every crew member at least weekly and report the results to the CDC.
- The CDC reserves the right to visually observe all crew sample collection via a remote connection to ensure compliance with the guidelines.
- 100% of passengers and crew must receive rapid-result testing at both embarkation and disembarkation; individuals will not be allowed to board the ship until they receive a negative test result, and those disembarking the ship will not be allowed to continue to their final destination until a negative test result is obtained.
- During the initial 60 days from the order being issued, cruise lines must develop onboard PCR testing capabilities for symptomatic crew, passengers and their close contacts. The CDC must sign off on the equipment chosen; antigen testing will be discouraged in favor of PCR tests with high sensitivity.
- For any ships that have not been in U.S. waters from March 14 through October 31, the cruise line must begin filing EDC reports at least 28 days prior to the ship re-entering U.S. waters.
- Full CDC conditional sail order available [here](#).

Walt Disney World lays off over 11,000 Florida employees amid pandemic

- Walt Disney World is letting go of 11,350 workers as the Orlando theme park's financial woes continue amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- At the end of the year, 10,903 workers at Walt Disney World and 447 employees from smaller Disney properties will be affected by layoffs, according to a notice filed Thursday by Jim Bowden, Disney's Vice President of Employee Relations.
- The layoffs are part of The Walt Disney Co.'s plans to eliminate 28,000 jobs in its parks division in California and Florida because of restrictions and costs from the pandemic. Two-thirds of the planned layoffs involve part-time workers.