



Travel Industry Update

December 18, 2020

Stimulus Package, Including Travel Relief, Appears Imminent

- The elusive second round of relief aid from the federal government appears to be imminent.
- A group of bipartisan Senators and Representatives has apparently reached an agreement on the proposed \$908 billion package, which will include \$17 billion for airlines, billions more for other travel industry sectors, as well as another stimulus check to Americans.
- “The stimulus package is encouraging. It looks like it’s very, very close,” President-Elect Joe Biden said on Wednesday. “It’s a down payment. An important down payment that’s going to have to be done ... It’s very important to get done.”
- A vote to pass the proposed bill could come within days.

All the U.S. Airlines Offering COVID-19 Testing

- In an effort to make traveling easier, several U.S. airlines have set up testing programs to facilitate state travel restrictions and comply with international rules that require proof of a negative test to enter. From at-home saliva tests to COVID-19-free transatlantic flights, drive-thru testing, and setting up testing centers inside airports, airlines throughout the country have turned to innovative solutions to get travel back up in the air.
- Click [here](#) for a guide to U.S. carriers that offer testing to passengers to make planning your next trip a little simpler.

Passenger With Coronavirus Dies On United Flight

- Unfortunately a passenger died on United Airlines flight 591 from Orlando to Los Angeles on Monday:
- About two hours into the flight a passenger sitting in seat 28D stopped breathing; according to other passengers, he was having a hard time breathing from the beginning of the flight
- The crew asked if there were any doctors onboard, and a few people ended up trying to help the passenger; you could apparently hear his bones cracking during chest compression, and then the man turned blue
- Reports suggest that the passenger’s wife initially admitted he was experiencing shortness of breath and a lack of taste and smell, and when talking to EMTs in New Orleans, the wife admitted the man had tested positive for coronavirus
- After the passenger was offloaded in New Orleans, his seat was wiped down, and the plane continued to Los Angeles

BA drops 15 long-haul routes including Seoul and Seychelles

- The news comes as many airlines cut staff and drop routes as passengers cut travel amid the pandemic.
- Routes to cities in North America such as Pittsburgh, Calgary and Charleston have gone, alongside flights to Seoul, Kuala Lumpur and Osaka.
- The Seychelles, a popular winter holiday destination, has also been removed.
- Muscat, Jeddah and Abu Dhabi routes are axed, and BA will also temporarily suspend flights to Sydney, Bangkok and San Jose during the summer of 2021.

New Alitalia will fly with half the number of workers and planes

- A revamped Alitalia will operate with less than half the number of planes and employees it had before its latest rescue when the Italian airline starts flying again in April, daily Il Sole 24 Ore reported on Thursday.
- Under its new, five-year business plan, the state-owned company, which will be renamed ITA (Italia Trasporto Aereo), will have 5,000 employees compared with 11,000 before the crisis, the newspaper said, without identifying its sources.
- It will fly about 50 planes, down from 104, it added.
- “The long-haul planes will be reduced from 26 to six, with a huge fall in the capacity of intercontinental flights, about 70%,” the paper said.

Business Travelers Want to See Major Changes From Airlines

- As the decimated air travel industry looks to rebuild operations in 2021, one thing is certain: airlines will be competing to win back the all-too-valuable business traveler.
- Here are five ways experts see the business traveler’s flight experience changing next year.
 - Airlines might add fare classes with different perks
 - Tickets and loyalty programs will remain flexible
 - Airline and booking apps will have more functionality
 - Service will be reduced, with fewer touch-points
 - Business-class seats will feel even more private

Marriott will offer on-site COVID-19 tests to try to bring back in-person conferences and business meetings

- Marriott will be rolling out new optional coronavirus protocols to help safely bring back in person meetings and conferences.
- These include mobile health screenings, temperature scans, and both on-site and pre-travel self-administered COVID-19 tests.
- The new protocols will be available at the hospitality giant's Gaylord Hotels and Resorts in Florida, Tennessee, Texas, and Colorado starting next month.

Disney World to Reopen 4 Resort Hotels in 2021

- Disney's All-Star Movie Resort, Beach Club Resort, Wilderness Lodge, and Polynesian Village Resort will be reopening next year.

- Opening dates vary.