



Travel Industry Update

January 11, 2021

British Airways' New Economy "Speedbird Cafe"

- In 2017 British Airways started charging for all food and drinks in short haul economy. British Airways became the first major, "full service" European airline to have such a policy, and it's something that other airlines have adopted since.
- During the pandemic British Airways temporarily introduced free bottled water and a small snack in short haul economy, in order to minimize contact between passengers and crew. Well, the airline is now permanently adjusting its short haul economy service.
- Going forward, customers traveling in British Airways Euro Traveller (short haul economy) will receive complimentary refreshments, consisting of a bottle of water and a snack, such as a breakfast bar or crisps.
- In addition to a complimentary bottle of water and snack, Euro Traveller passengers will continue to be able to purchase food and drinks... but only in advance.
- With British Airways' new Speedbird Cafe concept, customers can order a variety of food and drinks at least 12 hours before departure. Orders will need to be placed through highlifeshop.com, which is British Airways inflight retail website.
- British Airways has dropped its partnership with M&S, and will now partner with Michelin-starred chef Tom Kerridge for the new menu.

EasyJet signs new five-year term loan facility

- UK airline EasyJet announced a new five-year term loan facility of \$1.87 billion (c.£1.4 billion) on Friday, which will be secured on aircraft upon drawing. "This facility will significantly extend and improve EasyJet's debt maturity profile and increase the level of liquidity available," CEO Johan Lundgren said in a statement. The facility is underwritten by a syndicate of banks and supported by a partial guarantee from UK Export Finance under their Export Development Guarantee scheme, the airline said.

Emirates Eyes US with 3 Route Resumptions And Increased Frequencies

- Today, UAE carrier Emirates revealed that it is to ramp up its services to and from the United States. The increase will see new services readded to the schedule, alongside increased frequencies to existing destinations over the coming months.
- According to the carrier, it is set to add three destinations to its current schedule. First up will be Seattle, with non-stop services resuming on February 1st.
- The next batch of route resumptions will come on March 2nd when the carrier resumes Dallas and San Francisco services. These flights will be operated four times per week and three times per week, respectively.
- In addition to the route resumptions to Dallas, San Francisco, and Seattle, Emirates is also planning to up its capacity on other routes in the United States. Specifically, from

February 1st, Emirates will start flying to New York's JFK Airport twice a day. Meanwhile, from the same date, the airline's connection to Los Angeles International will become daily. Emirates points out that passengers can enjoy seamless connections across the US thanks to its codeshare partners Alaska Airlines and JetBlue.

'This is not our fault': Pandemic job losses fall hardest on hospitality workers

- Workers in the leisure and hospitality industry have fared worse than most during the pandemic and, barring a highly successful vaccine rollout that finally brings COVID-19 to heel, they face bleak prospects for a return to work.
- Job losses seen in December, the first since the early months of the pandemic, fell disproportionately on people working in hotels, bars, restaurants and casinos and other businesses forced to retrench when the virus spread.
- Leisure and hospitality firms shed another 498,000 jobs last month as virus infections rose, leading to more restrictions on businesses and causing more people to stay home. Employment in the industry in December was down 23% from pre-pandemic levels in February, more than any other industry.

Several cruise trips have already been cancelled this year. See when major cruise lines plan on operating again.

- No major US cruise line will be setting sail around the country until, at earliest, March.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still recommends avoiding cruise trips as the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage on.
- Norwegian has hit the pause button on all of its cruises that were set to sail through March.
- Princess Cruises originally paused its trips through March, according to a notice posted on November 20, 2020. However, on January 6, the cruise line extended this timeline, announcing it would halt further sailings through May 14.
- No Carnival cruises will be setting sail until after March 31, although several ships will stay docked even further into the future.
- Royal Caribbean will be suspending any cruise trips through February 28, according to a December 17, 2020 update. The two exceptions to this are Australia-based sailings, which will stay suspended until April 30, and the new Odyssey of the Seas ship, which will stay docked until March 26.
- Celebrity Cruises has suspended all trips through February 28, and South America sailings with the winter 2021 program through April 7, according to a travel alert posted on December 2.
- Holland America will be pausing all cruise trips through April 30, according to an update on January 6. Alaska cruises originally set to depart through mid-May have also been canceled, although some will be halted even further into June.
- According to a travel alert posted on December 11, 2020, Disney Cruises has halted all trips through February 28. Cruises longer than seven nights have been suspended even further.