

# News & Notes

TRAVEL • MANUFACTURER • RETAIL

TRAVEL

## European Airports Going Carbon Neutral



Earlier this year, in support of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, European airport operators agreed to make 100 airports carbon neutral by 2030. Now Finavia, the operator of 21 European airports, says its Helsinki Airport will reach its carbon neutral goal this year. Finavia is building the largest airport solar power plant in a Nordic country atop the roof of Helsinki Airport's Terminal 2. Expected to begin production by this fall, the 500 kWp photovoltaic system will be fully operational by 2019. The company has also converted airport buses to renewable fuels made entirely from waste and residue and smaller airport vehicles are almost entirely powered by electricity. Finavia's goal is to encourage other companies operating at its airports to use renewable fuels as well.

SOURCE: FINAVIA

### Travel at the Happiest Times

**S**aturdays may be some of the least expensive travel days, but that comes with a tradeoff: travelers on Saturdays and Sundays report the lowest passenger satisfaction compared to any other day of the week. This dissatisfaction is amplified for redeye travelers between midnight and 2 a.m. The happiest day at the airport, according to a study from global customer satisfaction firm HappyOrNot, is Wednesday. The survey also found that the heat of summer – July and August – have the lowest passenger satisfaction ratings, while November, October and February represent the top three months with the highest satisfaction ratings.

SOURCE: HAPPYORNOT

### Judges Tell FAA to Regulate Legroom

**A**fter the Federal Aviation Administration rejected a request by a consumer group called Flyers Rights to regulate airline seat size and pitch, Flyers Rights sued on behalf of air travelers. And now the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has told the FAA that it should in fact reconsider whether airline seats should be regulated. One judge even called it “the case of the incredible shrinking airline seat.” It's a rare reprimand for the airlines, though one that serves more as a public rebuke than an official requirement for implementing seat size standards. The FAA is considering how to address the Court's request.

SOURCE: USA TODAY

### USTA Travel Outlook

**T**he U.S. economy may be stuck in low gear going forward. This according to the USTA based on a continuing pattern of weak GDP growth in the first quarter of the year followed by a resurgence of growth in the second quarter. This has created a frustratingly restrained 2% growth rate. While the consumer confidence index decreased briefly in May it rebounded in June and the USTA's Travel Trends Index (TTI) has defied expectations and continued to grow for 13 consecutive months. Summer air travel was expected to grow by nearly 10 million passengers over 2016, while data suggests that nearly 78% of U.S. residents searched for lodging within the U.S. in June. For the first time in 17 years gasoline prices were lower on July 4th than they were on New Year's Day. Global business travelers report that they prefer to avoid human interaction while traveling unless they encounter a problem, and interest in the United States as a destination for international travelers has remained consistent at 12.8% of international travel searches.

SOURCE: USTA



### What Do Millennial Travelers Want?

**M**illennials who travel want experiences, not just beach time. That's the consensus of 81% of respondents in travel technology company iSeat's travel survey. These travelers primarily purchase day trips, excursions and sightseeing tours, as well as visit museums, galleries, cultural attractions and do outdoor activities as well. Pre-booking activity decreases with age, with millennial travelers far more likely to pre-book activities than baby boomers, who prefer to book once they've arrived at a destination and usually on the day of the activity itself.

SOURCE: ISEATZ

## New TSA Inspection Rules



The United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has announced it will now require the removal of any electronic device larger than a cell phone from carry-on luggage. Electronics such as tablets and cameras will now need to be placed separately in bins for X-ray screening, similar to the way laptops have long been examined. The new requirements for screening are currently in place at a dozen U.S. airports and will be phased in at airports across the country over the next several months. “Whether you’re flying to, from, or within the United States,” said TSA Acting Administrator Huban A. Gowadia, “TSA is committed to raising the baseline for aviation security by strengthening the overall security of our commercial aviation network to keep flying as a safe option for everyone.” The new requirements do not impact travelers who have enrolled in TSA Pre Check when using TSA Pre Check security lanes. SOURCE: TSA

## Trump’s Cuba Change Not Impacting Travel

In a fiery speech this summer, President Trump said he would roll back the Obama administration’s agreement with Cuba that opened the island nation to U.S. travel and trade. It appears, however, that the adjustments to the rules for Cuban travel will not have a significant impact on cruises to the island nation. In fact, Miami based cruise line Norwegian has decided to add new departures from Port Canaveral, FL to Cuba, bringing their total to six cruise routes from the U.S. to the Caribbean island, a route that was closed to U.S. travelers for more than 50 years. Norwegian is booking four-night trips aboard the Norwegian Sun beginning next May, departing on Mondays. Norwegian has been sailing to Cuba from Miami since May. SOURCES: CNN, USA TODAY

## Protecting Against Lost Luggage and Travel Interruptions

Airlines are now 70% less likely to lose a checked bag than they were 10 years ago. A 2018 deadline to comply with a new baggage tracking resolution adopted by airlines will mean even fewer lost bags than ever. Still, it does happen on occasion – especially for passengers making connections. That’s why it’s good news that more than one-third of credit cards offer travel insurance against lost bags. A WalletHub study found that while 1 in 6 Americans experienced trip interruptions, only 22% of them had the necessary travel

insurance. Protection could be as close as a traveler’s wallet, however, as 93% of credit cards provide travel accident insurance. Just 36% of cards cover lost luggage, while 25% cover delayed luggage and 9% insure against both. The top four credit cards for travel insurance are Chase Sapphire Preferred, JP Morgan Reserve (also branded Chase Sapphire Reserve), Citi ThankYou Premier and Citi Prestige. With the right credit card, the headaches of travel interruptions and lost luggage could almost completely disappear.

SOURCE: FOX NEWS, WALLETHUB

## Most Interesting Modes of Travel

Travelers who gravitate to the exotic will appreciate the new infographic put together by insurance provider GoCompare.com. It highlights the most interesting methods of transportation in the world. Included are the Wuppertal Suspension Motorail, the world’s oldest elevated railway with hanging cars; Felucca, a wooden Egyptian sailboat that’s been in use for thousands of years; and Habal-Habals in the Philippines which seat up to 13 people on a single motorcycle. Also included are burro taxis in Spain, rickshaws in Japan and Cuba’s two-seater Coco-taxis. To view the full infographic, visit [gocompare.com/van-insurance/global-transport-methods](http://gocompare.com/van-insurance/global-transport-methods).



The infographic from GoCompare.com shows many of the most interesting modes of transport in the world.

SOURCE: GOCOMPARE.COM

## The World’s Happiest Destinations

Looking for a travel idea? Why not visit one of the happiest destinations in the world? According to CNN, there are 16 places around the world that offer travelers a unique bit of bliss. For instance, one can visit Bangkok’s Health Land Spa and Massage, where an old stately home has been converted into a relaxing spa in the heart of the city. Or travelers might consider Kyoto, Japan when the cherry blossoms are gloriously blooming along Okazaki Canal. Or maybe adorable wildlife is more your thing, in which case the Giant Panda Research Base in Chengdu, China, where visitors can hold a baby panda, is sure to please. At the other end of the exotic spectrum are a couple of domestic destinations that may be less glamorous but are no less blissful. First is Wrigley Field, home of the World Champion Chicago Cubs, and where six months of the year a beer and a hotdog can

put a smile on any face. Or try the Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn in Owensboro, KY. This roadside landmark has grown from a small 30-seat restaurant to a destination with enough space to accommodate more than ten times that number of hungry customers. Other suggested happiness-inducing destinations include chocolatier Mary, in Brussels, Belgium; Table Mountain in Capetown, South Africa; a remote atoll in the Maldives called Gaafu Dhaalu, where villas on stilts perch over the Indian Ocean; and the Okavango Delta in Botswana, one of the world’s premier ecotourism destinations. Chile’s Casablanca Valley, Ulva Island in New Zealand, Nyhavn in Copenhagen, the Osho International Meditation Resort in Pune, India, Uluru (commonly called Ayers Rock) in the Australian outback and Iguazu Falls on the Argentine-Brazilian border round out the list.

SOURCE: CNN

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## American's New Bag Tracking App

American Airlines recently debuted its Customer Baggage Notification System which allows travelers to use mobile phones in order to track the location of their bags at any given moment. Though the service can be accessed by downloading the American Airlines app, the download is not mandatory. Travelers can also sign up for an AAdvantage account or provide a mobile phone number when booking flights to receive alerts pertaining to a variety of situations. For instance, if a bag arrives early at the destination airport, the app will alert travelers to visit the baggage service office rather than the luggage carousel. SOURCE: TRAVEL+LEISURE

## Airlines See Profit in Energy Efficiency

Airlines are carrying more passengers than ever but using less fuel. Though the amount of jet fuel consumed by U.S. airlines increased by 3% in 2015 and 2% in 2016, airlines are still using 11% less jet fuel than a decade ago. U.S. airlines with annual operating revenue of more than \$20 million – meaning virtually all of the U.S. airline operating property and equipment – consumed 17.7 billion gallons of fuel in 2016. With fuel prices down from record highs nearly a decade ago and sustained high prices from 2011 to 2014, the increased fuel efficiency – measured in seat miles per gallon – translates directly to increased profitability for U.S. airlines. Since 2007, fuel economy increased from 52 available seat-miles per gallon to 63 available seat-miles per gallon in 2016, an increase of 22%.

SOURCE: U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

## Get Better Sleep on a Plane

Editors for *TIME Health* have put together a list of six ways to get better rest on an airplane. The first suggestion is to take melatonin, a natural hormone that prepares the body for rest. Next, consider eating prior to boarding to help your body start to feel tired. Wear a sleep mask to block light, use a neck pillow for comfort and skip the nightcap because alcohol can act as a stimulant. Finally, set your watch or smartphone clock to the correct time at the destination to which you're traveling so your mind will begin to adjust to the new time zone. SOURCE: USA TODAY

## Boutique Hotels Get Smaller

In a world where everything is boutique, how does a hotelier compete? For some, the answer is to get even smaller and more unique with tiny hotels that offer luxurious, unique, completely custom experiences. For instance, Prague's One Room Hotel, which offers a fully staffed hotel experience for its single room, is about as tiny and boutique as it gets. In operation since 2014, The 404 in Nashville offers travelers who value privacy the choice of one of five guest rooms in its tiny hotel. Berlin's Linnen maintains six guestrooms or two apartments for longer stays. The Hotel Covell in Los Angeles is five posh bedrooms above a wine bar. New Zealand's Oyster Inn, on Waiheke Island, has just three rooms and includes complimentary pick-up from the ferry terminal, complimentary breakfast and luxury in-room amenities. While some stays are quite expensive – Prague's One Room, for instance, is approximately \$1,500 per night – others are reasonably priced (less than \$300) given the level of attention provided to just a handful of guests at any one time. SOURCE: USA TODAY

# LongLat's Portfolio Grows to Include Kathy Ireland

New Jersey-based LongLat, a designer, manufacturer and marketer of travel goods, has inked an exclusive partnership with Kathy Ireland Worldwide, the fashion brand named for the supermodel CEO

and designer. "As we grow our portfolio of luggage brands, Kathy Ireland Travel is a perfect fit for our company," noted LongLat President Gary Perella. "The Kathy Ireland brand represents fashion and functionality; both are the cornerstone of the LongLat culture. Also, strong, loyal relationships within the retail buyer community are always looking for brands to offer their customers that



Kathy Ireland partnered with LongLat to launch a new travel collection of hard- and soft-sided bags, upright spinners and totes.

will be representative of classic designs with exceptional quality, which is what the Kathy Ireland brand is known for." The Kathy Ireland Travel Collection will include a full range of styles and silhouettes including hard- and soft-sided bags, upright spinner bags, companion totes and lunch totes. The collection will be available at retailers nationwide in September.

SOURCE: LONGLAT

## Endless Acquires Antler

In July 2017, mid-market private equity firm Endless acquired the century-old British luggage-maker Antler Limited. Endless has a proven track record as a proactive, responsible investor. "We are delighted to have invested in this iconic British brand," said Tom Jack, partner at Endless. "With fresh investment and hands-on support from Endless, we believe Antler is capable of delivering strong sales and profit growth in the future. We look forward to working with Antler and we're excited about the opportunities ahead." Antler's existing management team, company registration and VAT registration numbers will all remain unchanged. It's also business as usual for ordering, delivery, invoicing and payments. SOURCE: ANTLER

## Barracuda's Kickstarter Triumph

Luggage maker Barracuda experienced huge crowd-funding success on the way to announcing its new smart backpack, the Konzu. The company far exceeded its goals when it garnered more than \$500,000 toward the development and production of the Konzu via investors on the Kickstarter and Indiegogo platforms. The backpack, which features a built-in battery that wirelessly charges and a single lever that mechanically locks all zippers, will be available starting October 2nd at barracuda.co.



Barracuda raised more than \$500,000 in crowd-funding for its new Konzu backpack.

SOURCE: BARRACUDA

## Sprayco Launches New Miamica Website

Sprayco Consumer Products, a leader in the travel plastics, beauty accessory and spray bottle categories, has launched a new and improved website for its Miamica brand. The new site provides fast and easy access to the complete line of Miamica products, including new releases as well as old favorites. Many products feature multiple images to give shoppers a more complete understanding of the product. "Our new site fits the busy lifestyle of our fashion-forward consumer," says Devra Miller, Vice President of Miamica, "and showcases our portfolio of trendy travel accessories." To learn more, visit the new site at miamica.com.



The new website for Sprayco's Miamica brand provides quick and easy access to Miamica's complete line of products at www.miamica.com.

SOURCE: SPRAYCO CONSUMER PRODUCTS

## Airports Are a Retail Bright Spot



The news is not good for traditional brick and mortar retail, yet travel retail is

a bright spot in an otherwise harsh selling landscape. A particularly appealing growth opportunity for travel retailers can be found in airports. Global airport spending hit \$38 billion last year and is expected to grow 27% to \$49 billion in the next four years. Vacation travelers are in the mood to spend and there's often free time available in airports, making travelers a retailer's ideal captive audience. "Airports appreciate the extra revenue and are willing to invest in creating a more inviting space for travelers," says Maureen Hinton, group research director at GlobalData Retail. "For example, in Singapore's Changi airport you can catch a movie, browse new art, play games, pamper yourself in a spa and entertain your kids – the airport equivalent of a modern shopping center."

SOURCE: GLOBALDATA

## Travel Trek Launches New Website

In an effort to capitalize on the growing popularity of adventure travel, retailer Travel Trek Luggage and Travel Gear has launched a new website specializing in high-quality products for outdoor adventure travelers. Travel Trek seeks out products from start-ups and established brands, in every case opting for quality merchandise with utilitarian flare such as weather protection. Backpacks, duffels, totes, accessories and luggage are featured from brands such as Matador Outdoor Gear, Lewis N. Clark, Eagle Creek and Titan. The company also sells luxurious Italian leather bags, briefcases and backpacks manufactured in Tuscany and four-wheel spinner luggage in Makrolon polycarbonate from Germany. Visit the site at [traveltrekluggage.com](http://traveltrekluggage.com).



The new Travel Trek website at [traveltrekluggage.com](http://traveltrekluggage.com).

SOURCE: TRAVEL TREK

## These 3 Retailers Have a Chance of Survival Against Amazon

Navigating the retail landscape has become a challenge for most retailers, especially with industry leaders like Amazon helming the ship. In recent years, Amazon has increased its push to branch out in both digital and brick-and-mortar formats, sending retailers and investors scrambling to hold on to traffic and sales for dear life. The day Amazon announced plans to purchase Whole Foods Market in a \$13.7B buyout deal may be known in coming years as "the day retail changed forever," Morningstar reports. While several grocers and retailers have suffered store closures and plunging stock prices due to aggressive e-commerce competition, the Amazon effect may not translate to bad news for all retailers. Below are three retailers that stand a chance against Amazon, Axios reports.

**Lowe's:** Thanks in large part to its bulky shipments, which include items like drywall and heavy two-by-fours, this retailer is facing less competition than most given the complicated nature of shipping their items on offer.

**Costco:** The wholesale behemoth has a few advantages when it comes to competing with Amazon, the most important of which is its focus on gas and bulk items sales, neither of which are offered by Whole Foods. Costco also has the advantage of targeting a separate, older demographic for its memberships than Amazon Prime, which tends to target a younger crowd.

**Walmart:** While Amazon and Walmart may constantly be battling it out for customers' affection, Axios reports Walmart holds the advantage when it comes to scale and supplier relationships. Its long-term and positive relationships with suppliers allows the retailer to compete with Amazon when it comes to price.

SOURCE: BIZNOW