

Airport report

New Orleans Scores Big With More Air Service

By Iftikhar Ahmad
Director of Aviation

Building on the growth in 2013, the Airport recently announced the addition of the low cost carrier Alaska Airlines that will be providing non-stop service to Seattle, Washington. This announcement marks the 42nd non-stop destination served from New Orleans. With the addition of Alaska Airlines, Armstrong International now has twelve airlines that offer travel options for our customers. In addition, Southwest Airlines announced that it will be providing two daily non-stop flights to Regan National Airport in Washington, D.C.

Alaska Airlines will begin daily non-stop service from New Orleans to Seattle on June 12, 2014 aboard their 737-800 157-seat aircraft, which has 12 seats in first class. The new daily service will depart Seattle at 10:15 a.m. and arrive in New Orleans at 5 p.m. The aircraft will then depart New Orleans at 5:55 p.m. and arrive in Seattle at 8:50 p.m. For readers that may not be familiar with Alaska Airlines, it has an interesting history. The airline had humble beginnings when it started in 1932 as McGee Airways flying out of Anchorage, Alaska. In 1934, McGee Airways merged with Star Air Service creating the largest airline in Alaska with a fleet of 22 bush-flying aircraft. The business endured hardships but expanded in '37 with the purchase of Alaska Interior Airlines. In 1944, the airline officially became known as Alaska Airlines. The current decade has seen it stretch its wings with its Boeing 737 fleet across the Lower 48 states to Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Miami, Newark, Orlando, Washington D.C. and now New Orleans. This is our sixth additional carrier and 11th new destination in the last four years.



In other air service news, Southwest recently announced that it will begin two daily flights to Washington, D.C.'s Regan National Airport (DCA) starting August 10, 2014. The new twice

daily service will depart New Orleans at 7:40 a.m. and 2:55 p.m. and arrive in Washington at 11:05 a.m. and 6:25 p.m. respectively. The return flights will leave our nation's capital at 9:00 a.m. and 6:05 p.m., arriving in New Orleans at 12:05 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. While the Airport currently has service to DCA offered by US Airways, the new Southwest service will provide competition in the DCA market and give our community an increased level of service to those traveling for business or pleasure to Washington D.C.

To serve our passengers better, the Airport is offering another parking option at Armstrong International. It is a "credit card only" parking lot located across the street from the Consolidated Rental Car Facility. This lot has 791 spaces and is priced at only \$10 per 24 hour period. The new "credit card only" lot is a fast and easy way to park.

For those individuals who are picking up passengers, the Airport has two convenient options for those that do not want to continuously circle the airport until their party arrives. I suggest taking advantage of our "first hour" short term garage special. Simply park in the short term garage, meet the arriving party in baggage claim, return to the car within an hour and pay only 2 bucks. It is a great deal with less hassle than continuing to drive around the airport. Alternatively, the Airport offers a no cost "Cell Phone" Lot, which is located at the corner of Airline Drive and Hollandey Street. This lot allows our customers to wait in their vehicle up to 1 hour until the arriving passenger calls on their cellphone to alert the driver they are in the baggage claim area and ready to be picked up.

By providing options for travel on a variety of carriers and parking with a choice of lots, our Airport Staff is serving the basic needs of our passengers. The NOAB is constantly seeking ways to make the time spent at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport a customer-friendly experience. ←



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