

UOB TRAVEL SNIPPETS

Issue 76-08

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VISA AND EMBASSY NEWS

*****REMINDER*** - U.S. Embassy News**

The current regulation for nationals under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) does not require a traveler to apply for a visa when traveling to the United States of America (USA) either for leisure or business, so long as the stay is for 90 days or less. With effective **12th of January 2009**, it is mandatory that all nationals under the VWP will have to apply for advance authorization, which is known as Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to travel to the United States (USA).

What is Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)?

- It is a web-based system where all nationals under the Visa Waiver Program who plan to travel to United States for temporary business / leisure will be required to log on to the website to obtain an electronic travel authorization prior to boarding a carrier to travel by air or sea to the U.S.
- Travelers will be required to provide basic biographical and eligibility information currently required on the paper I - 94W form (Green form)
- It is valid, unless revoked, for up to two years or until the traveler's passport expires, whichever comes first.
- Valid for multiple entries into the U.S. Do take note that, if for future trips or when traveler's destination addresses or itineraries change after their authorization has been approved, they will have to update the information through the website.
- VWP travelers who do not apply and receive travel authorization via ESTA prior to travel may be denied boarding; experience delayed processing or be denied admission at a U.S. port of entry.
- ESTA approval only authorizes a traveler to board a carrier for travel to the U.S under the VWP, it is not a guarantee of admissibility to the U.S.

Effective Date?

The website will be available for voluntary applications with effect **1st of August 2008**. Travelers under the VWP are recommended to apply for advance authorization prior to travel. It will only be **mandatory** for all travelers to obtain an ESTA with **effect from the 12th of January 2009**.

How Does it Work?

1. Log on to ESTA Web site at <http://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>
2. Complete and submit the online application. You will receive the following response within seconds:
 - A) Authorization Approved: Travel Authorized
 - B) Travel Not Authorized: Traveler must obtain a nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate before travelling to the U.S.
 - C) Authorization Pending: Traveler will need to check the ESTA Web site for updates within 72 hours to receive a final response

ESTA applications may be submitted any time prior to travel to the United States. It is recommended to apply for authorization as soon as travelers begin to plan a trip to the United States or at least 72 hours prior to travel.

What Countries are in the VWP?

Andorra, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, **Singapore**, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

To find out more, kindly log on to website @ www.cbp.gov/esta . Please disseminate this information to all your colleagues / friends concerned.

Embassy Closure

Australian High Commission	- Closed on 26 December, 2008
British High Commission	- Closed on 24 & 26 December, 2008
Embassy of Belgium	- Closed on 26 December, 2008
Embassy of Denmark	- Closed on 24, 26 & 31 December, 2008
German Embassy	- Closed on 26 December, 2008
High Commission of India	- Closed on 09 December, 2008
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia	- Closed on 26 and 29 December, 2008
Embassy of Japan	- Closed on 23, 29 - 31 December, 2008
Philippines Embassy	- Closed on 01, 29 – 31 December 2008
The Royal Norwegian Embassy	- Closed on 24 (1/2 day), 26 & 31 (1/2 day) December, 2008
Saudi Arabia Embassy	- Closed on 09 & 10 December 2008
The Embassy of Switzerland	- Closed on 24, 26 & 31 December, 2008
Embassy of Sweden	- Closed on 24, 26 & 31 December, 2008
Royal Thai Embassy, Singapore	- Closed on 05 & 31 December, 2008



Embassy of Mexico

The Tax Administration Service of Mexico, through the Customs General Administration, has informed that the Regulation 2.7.10 of the General Regulations on Foreign Trade for the year 2008 has come into force since 01 November 2008.

This regulation states that all the luggage belonging to any international passenger arriving to Mexico on a transit flight and whose final destination may be located inside or outside Mexico will have to undergo a baggage inspection run by the Mexican customs authorities in the first airport to which the passenger arrives.

For this purpose, the airline will transfer the luggage to the correspondent carousel in the baggage claim area. The passengers will have to bring their own luggage to the customs inspection hall, for the purpose of activating the automated selection mechanism.

AIRLINE NEWS



JETSTAR Airways

JETSTAR Airways, Qantas Group's low cost carrier has commenced its thrice-weekly Perth-Bali service on 27 October and thrice-weekly Perth-Jakarta on 28 October 2008.

The airline will increase its Bali services to 4 times a week on 17 December 2008.

These are the 2 of the 3 new international routes the airlines plans out of Perth this year, while the 3rd will be Perth-Singapore daily service, to commence on 02 December 2008.

Operated by a 177-seater Airbus 320-200, the new flight to Indonesia have replaced Qantas' operation, thus increasing 40% of the seat capacity per week on the Bali route and 5% on the Jakarta route from the previous Qantas services.

In the meantime, the new direct service to Singapore will add to the current twice-daily Qantas service on the same route or an increase of 30% seat capacity of Qantas Group on this trunk route.



Singapore Airlines

TERMINATION OF AMRITSAR (ATQ) SERVICES (SC 102 – 2008)

Singapore Airlines SQ446/447 services to/from Amritsar (ATQ) will be offline from 4 February 2009.



Delta Airlines

Delta Airlines has merged with Northwest Airlines, creating the premier global airline with a leading presence in nearly all of the world's major travel markets.

With the completion of the merger, Northwest Airlines is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Delta. This merger will provide access to more worldwide destinations than any other airline, with nonstop access between their hubs in Atlanta, Cincinnati, Detroit, Memphis, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New York-JFK, Salt Lake City and Tokyo, and more than 375 destinations in 66 countries. They will employ approximately 75,000 people worldwide.

The integration process is already under way but will take about 12-24 months to complete. Please see below the integration process:

- ✦ Travelers should continue to interact with the airline operating their flight: If you are flying on Delta, you should continue to check in and check baggage with Delta. If you are flying on Northwest, you should continue to check in and check baggage with Northwest.
- ✦ During the integration process, Delta will continue operation of the airlines' separate Websites, www.delta.com and www.nwa.com, as well as the two airlines' reservation systems and loyalty programs.
- ✦ If you have a contract with Delta and/or Northwest, it will not change in the immediate future. Terms and conditions of existing programs will continue as currently contracted. Delta will be working expeditiously to integrate contracts throughout 2009. Your account manager will contact you with additional information about future contract integration plans.
- ✦ You will continue to retain both a Delta and a Northwest account executive over the next few months while the sales organization completes its integration plan. In these situations, the Delta and Northwest representatives will work as a team to support your account.
- ✦ Northwest currently represents KLM Royal Dutch Airlines within North America, and this will not change. The new Delta will continue to represent KLM going forward.
- ✦ Your SkyMiles and/or WorldPerks frequent flyer miles are safe and your status is secure. During this integration period, you will continue to:
 - ✦ Earn and redeem miles on Delta, Northwest or their partners as usual
 - ✦ Enjoy airport lounge reciprocity, with Delta Crown Room Members having full access to Northwest WorldClubs at airports worldwide, and vice versa
 - ✦ Delta is also expanding code share benefits to immediately offer members of both Delta and Northwest's loyalty programs full elite reciprocity for upgrades based on your status in either program on flights operated by either airline.

FIRST BAG FEE FOR DELTA AIRLINES

With effective 05 December 2008, customers flying within the U.S. will be charged USD\$15.00 for the first checked bag and USD\$25.00 for the second checked bag when traveling domestically, consistent with Northwest's existing policies.



Singapore Airlines

CANCELLATION OF SELECTED FLIGHTS TO BANGALORE (BLR), CHENNAI (MAA) AND BANGKOK (BKK) (SC 101 – 2008)

Please note that the following flights to BLR, MAA and BKK will be cancelled on the following dates:

FLIGHTS	CANCELLED ON
SQ500/SQ501 (Singapore-Bangalore vv)	Fr 28 Nov 2008 to 03 Jan 2009 on Mon, Fri, Sat
SQ526/SQ527 (Singapore-Chennai vv)	Fr 21 Nov 2008 to 27 Mar 2009 on Fri Fr 10 Jan 2009 to 28 Mar 2009 on Sat, Sun
SQ980/979 (Singapore-Bangkok vv)	22 Nov 2008



Thai Airways International

REDUCTION IN FUEL SURCHARGES

Thai Airways International has reduced their fuel surcharge with effective 06 November 2008. The current insurance surcharge of USD\$5 per international sector and USD\$1.25 per coupon for domestic sector remain unchanged.

FROM	INTERNATIONAL ROUTES	ONE-WAY YQ IN USD	
		BEFORE 05 NOV 2008	ON/AFTER 06 NOV 2008
SIN to	Bangkok	67.00	45.00
SIN via BKK to	Yangon, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Vientiane, Phnom Penh	96.00	59.00
	Hong Kong, Kunming, Guangzhou, Bandar Seri Begawan, Kolkata, Dhaka, Chittagong	122.00	76.00
	Chengdu, Xiamen, Colombo, Manila, Kathmandu, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Gaya, Varanasi, Jakarta, Taipei	135.00	89.00
	Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Kuwait, Delhi, Mumbai, Denpasar Bali, Muscat, dubai, Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, Busan, Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Fukuoka, Perth	172.00	118.00
	Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane	214.00	144.00
	Moscow, Athens, Stockholm, Johannesburg, Copenhagen, Munich, Rome, Milan, Zurich, Frankfurt, Auckland	237.00	165.00
	Paris, London, Madrid	255.00	165.00
	Los Angeles	300.00	187.00



Malaysia Airlines

REVISION MAS FUEL SURCHARGE – SINGAPORE TO MALAYSIA EFFECTIVE 15 NOVEMBER 2008

Malaysia Airlines has revised its fuel surcharge for tickets issues/reissued and PTAs sold in Singapore on or after 15 November 2008 for travel commencing on or 15 November 2008, on the following route.

ROUTE	ON/AFTER 15 NOV 2008 (PER SECTOR)
Singapore to Penang, Langkawi, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu	USD 28.00 (from USD 60.00)
Singapore to Kuala Lumpur	USD 28.00 (from USD 36.00)

The revision does not include Admin Fee and Insurance charge.
The Fuel surcharge of other routes remains unchanged.



Singapore Airlines

SINGAPORE AIRLINES REDUCES FUEL SURCHARGES

Singapore Airlines has lowered its fuel surcharges for travelers in Business and Economy Class, across all routes, for tickets issued after 07 November 2008.

The new surcharges have been in effect since 07 November 2008.

FLIGHT APPLICATION	SECTORS (vv)	FUEL SURCHARGE PER SECTOR (USD) BY CABIN		
		SUITE / FIRST	BUSINESS	ECONOMY
All SQ operated flights	Between Singapore & Hong Kong	25.10		
	Between Singapore & South East Asia	36.00	32.00	28.00
	Between Hong Kong & San Francisco	106.70		
	Between Singapore & Japan	100.00		
	Between Bangkok & Japan	100.00		
	Between Los Angeles & Japan	110.00		
	Between Singapore & US / Vancouver	180.00	175.00	170.00
All SQ operated flights and SQ code share flights operated by other Airlines	Between Singapore & South West Pacific			
	Between Singapore & China/Taiwan/Korea	100.00	90.00	85.00
	Between Singapore & South Asian Subcontinent			
	Between Singapore & Middle East			
Between Dubai and Istanbul/Moscow				
All SQ operated flights	Between Singapore & Europe	110.00	105.00	95.00
	Between Singapore & South Africa			
	Between Frankfurt & New York			
	Between Moscow & Houston			
	Between Seoul & San Francisco/Vancouver			
SQ Code share flights operated by other Airlines	Intra Europe	36.00	32.00	28.00
	Germany Domestic			
	UK Domestic			
	New Zealand Domestic			
	South Africa Domestic			
	Within USA			
	Between San Francisco & Vancouver			
Between Singapore & Malaysia				
SQ Code share flights operated by MI	Between Singapore & South East Asia destinations	36.00	32.00	28.00
	All other sectors	100.00	90.00	85.00



EVA Air

EVA AIR town office has been relocated to a new office since 22 November 2008.

331 & 331D Jalan Besar
 RTW House
 Singapore 208983

Operation Hours:
 Monday – Friday: 8.30 am to 5.30pm
 Saturday: 8.30 am to 12.30pm (Ticketing/ Reservation only)


Silk Air
REVISION OF SILKAIR FUEL & INSURANCE SURCHARGE (EFFECTIVE 07 NOV 08) (ST670)

ONE WAY BUSINESS CLASS TICKET				
EX-Singapore to	YQ Fuel (USD) Before 07 Nov 08	YQ Fuel (USD) On/After 07 Nov 08	YQ Insurance (USD)	Total YQ (USD)
Xiamen, China (XMN)	100.00	90.00	5.00	95.00
Shenzhen, China (SZX)				
Kunming, China (KMG)				
Chengdu, China (CTU)				
Kaoshiung, China (KHH)				
Cochin, India (COK)				
Thiruvananthapuram, India (TRV)				
Colombatore, India (CJB)				
Kathmandu, Nepal (KTM)				
All Other Sectors	36.00	32.00	5.00	37.00

ONE WAY ECONOMY CLASS TICKET				
EX-Singapore to	YQ Fuel (USD) Before 07 Nov 08	YQ Fuel (USD) On/After 07 Nov 08	YQ Insurance (USD)	Total YQ (USD)
Xiamen, China (XMN)	100.00	85.00	5.00	90.00
Shenzhen, China (SZX)				
Kunming, China (KMG)				
Chengdu, China (CTU)				
Kaoshiung, China (KHH)				
Cochin, India (COK)				
Thiruvananthapuram, India (TRV)				
Colombatore, India (CJB)				
Kathmandu, Nepal (KTM)				
All Other Sectors	36.00	28.00	5.00	33.00

WITHDRAWAL OF SERVICES TO KAOSHIUNG

SilkAir will withdraw its flight services to Kaoshiung, Taiwan, with effect from 10 February 2009. This decision is taken following a review of the airline's route network. The last scheduled service by SilkAir from Singapore to Kaoshiung will be on 9 February 2009.

SilkAir will assist customers who have purchased tickets for travel to Kaoshiung from 10 February 2009. Customers will be given the option of a full refund if they wish to cancel their bookings. Alternatively, they may choose to utilize a Singapore Airlines flight between Singapore and Taipei, and make their way to Kaoshiung from Taipei.

Should you have any question pertaining to the service withdrawal to Kaoshiung, please contact SilkAir via email at: SilkAir_SinSales@Singaporeair.com.sg



Northwest Airlines

Northwest Airlines has revised the published World Business Class fare basis CXRSG and CWRSG from Singapore to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington and New York City from 05 November 2008 onwards. Travelers will get to enjoy huge savings of up to 26% compared to the previous fare. All other "C" fares to North American cities remain unchanged.

Cities	Previous		Since 05 November 2008		Percentage Change	
	CXRSG	CWRSG	CXRSG	CWRSG	CXRSG	CWRSG
San Francisco	8117.00	9752.00	7742.00	7942.00	-4.6%	-18.6%
Los Angeles	8117.00	9752.00	7742.00	7942.00	-4.6%	-18.6%
Washington (IAD & DCA)	9397.00	11085.00	8064.00	8264.00	-14.2%	-25.4%
Chicago	8064.00	8612.00	8064.00	8264.00	-0.0%	-4.0%
New York City (JFK, EWR & LGA)	9397.00	11085.00	8009.00	8209.00	-14.8%	-25.9%

The above roundtrips fares are quoted in SGD before fuel surcharge and other taxes. Fares quoted are subject to changes.



Singapore Airlines

Singapore Airlines has imposed a fee of USD \$50.00 for guaranteed "preferred seats" located on the exit row in the Economy Class cabin since 04 November 2008. These seats with more legroom can only be purchased online at www.singaporeair.com. For Travelers who have purchased their tickets through the Singapore Airlines website, there will be an option for travelers to purchase the seats when they make a seat selection after the booking. Alternatively, travelers can also purchase the Preferred Seat by retrieving your booking anytime before check-in commences 48 hours before flight departure.

This service will be available on all Singapore Airlines routes except the following:

- Short-Haul routes within the South East Asia
- Flights served by the Boeing B777-200ER Aircraft (this aircraft does not have seats located in exit rows)
- Routes where Preferred Seat Selection is subject to regulatory approval.



CANCELLATION OF FLIGHT VN742 / VN743 SIN/CGK/SIN

Please be inform that flight VN742 / VN743, scheduled to depart on every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday, will be discontinue with effective 16 January 2009.



Shenzhen Airlines

Shenzhen Airlines check in counter has shifted to Changi Airport Terminal 2, Row 3 from the 26 November 2008. It was previously located at Changi Airport Terminal 1, Row 9.

UOB LEISURE TRAVEL NEWS



Set Sail with 20% Off Super Star Virgo

3N Penang / Phuket Cruise (SUN)

From: S\$364 (U.P: S\$455) per person
Departure: Dec 14, 21, 2008

2N Malacca / Kuala Lumpur Cruise (WED)

From S\$232 (U.P:S\$290) per person
Departure: Dec 10, 17, 2008

2N Weekend Cruise (FRI)

From; S\$288 (U.P: S\$360) per person
Departure: Dec 19, 2008

Terms and Conditions:

- ⌘ Booking period: book by Dec 15, 2008
- ⌘ Rates quoted is based on per person on Quad Share, excluding passenger handling charges & fuel surcharges
- ⌘ All arrangements are subject to confirmation
- ⌘ Other terms and conditions apply



4D3N Kuching Tour Package

From S\$428 + Taxes S\$145 (Subject to changes)

Inclusion:

- ⌘ Return economy airfare to Kuching on SilkAir
- ⌘ Return airport transfer by seat-in-coach
- ⌘ 3N accommodation at choice of hotel with daily breakfast
- ⌘ 1 Lunch / 1 Dinner
- ⌘ Visit to Sememggho Orang Utan / Long House / Sarawak Cultural Village

Departure: Daily

Terms and conditions










- Booking period: Book by Mar 15, 2009
- Travel Validity: Complete travel by Mar 31, 2009
- Minimum 02 adults to travel at all times
- Rates quoted based on per person on twin share basis; exclude all relevant taxes (subject to changes), hi-season surcharges and black-out dates
- All arrangements are subject to availability and confirmation
- Other terms and conditions apply



Club Med All Inclusive Package
Book 4 Nights, Get 1Night Free
From S\$1380 + Taxes S\$180 (Subject to changes)

Indonesia - Club Med Bali
Malaysia - Club Med Cherating
Thailand - Club Med Phuket

Inclusion:

-  Return economy class air-ticket
-  Return airport transfer
-  Twin share accommodation
-  Sumptuous buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner
-  Free-flow of red and white wine, beer and beverages during lunch and dinner
-  Unlimited drinks and snacks (selected) at the Bar
-  A wide range of sports activities with expert tuition
-  Mini Club Med for children 4 – 10 years old
-  Nightly Entertainment






Terms and conditions

- Booking validity: Book by Dec 28, 2008
- Minimum 2 persons to travel
- Travel by Apr 30, 2009
- Minimum 5 consecutive nights stay at your choice of room category
- Rates quoted are for per person on twin share basis; exclude all relevant taxes, high season surcharges and other incidentals
- Rates are subject to change with or without prior notice
- Compulsory Club Med membership fee of S\$60 per adult applies (valid for 1 year from the date of deposit)
- Not valid with other prevailing promotions or discount privileges.
- Other terms and conditions apply



6D Kerala Experience (India)
From S\$898 + Taxes S\$320 (Subject to changes)

Inclusion:

-  Return economy class air-ticket on SilkAir (V Class)
-  Transfers
-  4N stay (including 1N in a moving air-con houseboat)
-  Coching City Tour
-  Kathakali Dance Show

Terms and Conditions

- Minimum 2 adults to travel at all times
- Booking : Dec 1 till Dec 26, 2008
- Travel Period : Dec 1 till Mar 31, 2009
- Tickets to be issued latest by December 30, 2008 or earlier
- Hotel blackout period for check in Dec 20 - Jan 10, 2009
- Fares quoted are based on per person on twin share basis and excludes all relevant taxes, fuel taxes, tippings, hotel peak season surcharges, visa fees etc
- Estimated at S\$320, subject to changes
- All arrangements are subject to availability and confirmation
- Other terms and conditions apply

For Enquiries / Bookings, please kindly contact:

UOB TRAVEL – Leisure Department

Tel: 6252-6822

Email: UOBTP-Leisure@UOBgroup.com

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Mon – Fri: 9.00am to 7.00pm **Sat:** 9.00am to 2.30pm **Sun & PH:** Closed