

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

New routes take flight

Airlines have been adding and reshuffling routes in recent weeks. Here are some of the new options for fliers in the coming months:

SPIRIT AIRLINES announced a major expansion in Houston, where it plans to add 10 new destinations from the city's Bush Intercontinental and develop the airport as a base for Latin American flights. The new routes will give Spirit 22 non-stop destinations from Houston, nearly doubling current service.

Pending regulatory approval, new flights from Houston would begin between March 26 and May 28 with service to Managua, Nicaragua; San Jose, Costa Rica; San Pedro Sula, Honduras; San Salvador, El Salvador; and to the Mexican cities of Cancun, Los Cabos and Toluca. Spirit's new domestic destinations from Houston would be Baltimore/Washington, Oakland and Tampa.

ALLEGIAN AIRLINES has added six new destinations — Indianapolis, Jacksonville, New Orleans, Omaha, Pittsburgh and Richmond, Va. All will get their first flights by early March. The company has historically linked small and medium-sized cities to popular vacation destinations, so its decision to connect New Orleans to four large cities — Cincinnati, Columbus (Rickenbacker), Indianapolis

and Orlando (Sanford) — reflects a recent shift to bigger markets.

LUFTHANSA will make Tampa its newest U.S. destination, launching non-stop flights to Frankfurt next fall. Starting Sept. 25, the carrier will fly four weekly wintertime flights on the route. Lufthansa will increase that to five a week for its summer schedule. Lufthansa will use Airbus A340-300 jets on the route, which will become the airline's third to Florida. Lufthansa already flies to Miami and Orlando.

FINNAIR announced plans to fly to Chicago O'Hare next summer, saying it would offer seasonal service to its hub in Helsinki. Beginning June 15, the airline will fly three weekly flights on the route using Airbus A330 aircraft. Finnair will operate one round-trip flight each Monday, Thursday and Saturday through Oct. 17.

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Spirit Airlines is adding 10 new destinations from Houston.