

The Miami Herald

TRAVEL BRIEFS

• AIR TRAVEL

RUDE PASSENGER BEHAVIOR SPAWNS ONLINE SHAMING

The days when air travelers dressed in suits and dresses for a flight are long gone. Now, T-shirts, shorts and sandals are considered acceptable airline attire.

But if you go too far and treat a crowded airline cabin like your own living room — or your bathroom — expect your fellow travelers to take action.

“Passenger Shaming” is an online trend in which passengers and flight attendants snap photos of you being crude or nasty on a plane and post them on Facebook or Instagram.

Some scenes already captured online show barefoot passengers stretching their legs over adjoining seats and tray tables. Other fliers are shown napping shirtless or clipping their fingernails.

And you may not want to see the stuff found in seat-back pockets and strewn under seats.

Heather Poole, a 19-year veteran flight attendant and author of the book *Cruising Attitude*, said the crude behavior of some passengers has made flying less pleasant.

“As long as passengers are

nice, I don't care what they wear,” she said. “But I do kind of hate when they take their shoes off and walk around.”

SPIRIT IS RAISING BAG FEES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Ultra-low-cost carrier Spirit Airlines is changing its colors — but not its stripes.

Following the lead of Southwest and Frontier airlines, Florida-based Spirit announced a new, very yellow livery for its fleet of 35 planes.

With less fanfare, the carrier known for imposing a long menu of passenger fees recently notified passengers that it is raising bag fees \$2 for flights during the upcoming holidays. The higher fees are for flights booked after Aug. 19 for trips Dec. 18 to Jan. 5.

The airline explained on its website that the fee hike is intended to “encourage customers to pack a bit lighter” to make room for more bags during the crowded holiday season.

As for the new livery, Spirit is painting seven of its planes bright yellow with black lettering, with the rest of the fleet getting painted as planes are replaced or undergo regular repainting.

The entire fleet should be painted within three years.

The new livery announcement comes after Dallas-based Southwest Airlines and Denver-based Frontier Airlines unveiled their new exterior designs.

NEW SERVICE

A number of new destinations and expanded service are in the offing at Miami International Airport over the next few months, starting with American Airlines' new daily nonstops to Cap-Haitien, Haiti, beginning Oct. 2. American also will add nonstop service to Campinas, Brazil on Dec. 2 and expand its London service during the winter season from 14 to 17 weekly roundtrips.

Swiss International will increase frequency on its daily Miami-Zurich route to 14 flights per week beginning Oct. 27.

Qatar Airways will add a fifth weekly flight to Doha, Qatar, beginning Nov. 17.

Finnair will launch seasonal service between Miami and Helsinki with two weekly nonstops beginning Dec. 16 and add a third weekly flight on Jan. 3. The seasonal service will run through March 21.

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