

TRAVEL

Monday's Travel News: American Merges Systems; Fare Deals to Europe.

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The Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

In Transit

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Our weekday morning digest that includes consumer news, deals, tips and anything else that travelers may want to know.

AMERICAN AND US AIRWAYS MERGE RESERVATION SYSTEMS

Over the weekend, merger partners [American Airlines](#) and US Airways began to integrate their reservations systems, a technology move considered the most delicate phase of the carriers' two-year-old marriage. The 90-day process is scheduled to conclude Oct. 17 when all US Airways flights will be converted to American flights. A similar merger by United

and Continental in 2012 resulted in service delays and check-in glitches. US Airways went through its own messy experience while merging America West's reservation systems in 2007, an overnight move that current management has acknowledged influenced the slower switchover with American.

American Airlines said only about four percent of passengers book flights more than 90 days in advance and that it would begin notifying affected fliers this week regarding reservation changes from US Airways to American. "On the one hand, it's hard to imagine they can pull it off in a way that customers won't notice, but they've taken some impressive steps to have it more or less be that way," said Seth Kaplan, managing partner at Airline Weekly.

RUGGED TRIPS FOR PROCRASTINATORS

For lovers of the great outdoors — and spontaneity — two outfitters are offering deals on late summer trips. The rafting specialist [Row Adventures](#) is selling its six-day trips on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho, departing Aug. 31 and Sept. 9, at \$1,765 per adult, a \$200 discount. The company said the popular trip tends to be fully booked a year out and that it rarely has availability in season.

Its sibling company, Row Sea Kayak Adventures, has put two itineraries on sale. The four-day [Orca Basecamp Kayak Tour](#), which includes four days of paddling and three nights of camping in British Columbia's Johnstone Strait, is discounted \$100 per person for Aug. 30 and Sept. 9 departures at \$1,120 per adult. Operating in the same area, the Aug. 24 six-day [Blackfish Waters Orca Kayak Tour](#) has been reduced by \$200 to \$1,345.

INTERNATIONAL AIRFARES ON SALE

For those considering a trip to Europe, several European carriers are offering incentives to book now with short-lived fall sales. Air France and its sibling KLM Royal Dutch Airlines both have begun fare sales from United States destinations to Europe through July 23 for fall and winter travel. Air France's "[Oh La La](#)" sale offers fares from \$850 from Kennedy International Airport in New York, \$950 from Boston and \$1,150 from Atlanta or Los Angeles between Aug. 23 and Oct. 24 to destinations including Amsterdam, London, Nice, Paris, Rome and others. From Oct. 25 through Dec. 10, those fares drop \$25 from New York and Boston, \$75

from Los Angeles and \$100 from Atlanta. KLM's "[YouGO!](#)" promotion offers virtually the same deal from the same United States hubs to nine European cities and the same fare drops for winter travel by Oct. 25. A seven-day stay is required by both airlines.

[Finnair](#) also just announced a fall sale from Boston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York and other United States airports. For bookings before July 31, round-trip, economy fares to St. Petersburg start at \$585, Tel Aviv from \$840, Stockholm from \$995 and Paris from \$1,125. A seven-day stay is required, and travel must take place Aug. 16 through Dec. 14. Finnair is part of the Oneworld alliance with American Airlines. KLM and Air France are members of the SkyTeam alliance with Delta Air Lines.

SAN FRANCISCO'S NEW NEIGHBORHOOD MUSEUM

The new [Tenderloin Museum](#) in San Francisco, which opened late last week, aims to celebrate the still gritty neighborhood and its artists and activists with exhibitions, walking tours and evening events. A district once synonymous with vice, the Tenderloin offered a sanctuary for Asian refugees after the Vietnam War, incubated the gay and transgender movements and drew artists including the Grateful Dead, Miles Davis and Dashiell Hammett, subjects covered in the 3,200-square-foot museum's permanent exhibition.

In addition, the museum serves as a starting point for daily one-hour walking tours of the Tenderloin (\$10) led by locals. Sites include the garages where Davis and the Dead recorded albums, single-room-occupancy hotels where Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Robinson boxed, and sites key to the LGBT rights movement. A 90-minute evening tour will be offered on Thursdays for adults only (\$20).

"We're trying to encourage understanding of the current Tenderloin by walking through the neighborhood and really making people feel connected," said Randy Shaw, a board member at the museum. Upcoming events include film screenings, lectures and poetry readings.

BOSTON TEA PARTY TICKETS

Each December, history interrupts holiday preparations in Boston with the Dec. 16 re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party. Tickets went on sale this month for the annual event organized by the [Old South Meeting House](#) and [Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum](#). Admission to the Old South Meeting House, site of "The Meeting of the Body of the People," in which colonial

actors representing Samuel Adams, John Hancock and Paul Revere confront Loyalists, are limited to 600 spectators who are encouraged to join in the debate. Fife and drum players head to the wharf, where is a staging of the 1773 Boston Tea Party, featuring the dumping of East India tea into the bay. [Tickets](#) cost \$15. Prices rise to \$20 in September and \$25 in November.