



# E-Travel News

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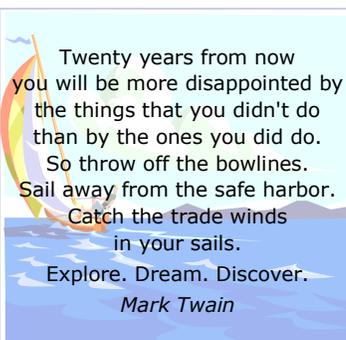


### E-Travel Online Training

Contact your [Department Travel Coordinators](#) to sign up.

August 11 9:45 am  
August 23 1:30 pm  
August 25 9:45 am

See E-Travel Online's User Home Page for more training opportunities by USTravel.



## Federal Excise Tax - Temporary Reduction

The federal excise tax expired Friday, July 22, 2011, because Congress failed to pass an FAA reauthorization bill. Both private and commercial business aircraft operators pay federal excise taxes, which are collected on airline tickets and invoices.

Airlines cannot collect excise taxes on tickets, fuel, or cargo until Congress passes legislation to extend the FAA's authority.

Travelers booking flights after

the authority lapsed may not see much in fare savings as some carriers have raised their ticket base prices to capture the foregone revenue.

The good news is that Alaska Airlines has not raised their base ticket price which allows consumers to take advantage of temporary lower costs.

For tickets sold beginning July 23, 2011, the following taxes will not be collected until

the bill is reauthorized:

- 7.5% domestic transportation tax
- \$3.70 domestic segment tax
- \$16.30 international arrival/departure tax
- \$8.20 departure tax for flights between Alaska/Hawaii and the US mainland

## Delta Vacation Package for Personal Travel

Last year, [Delta Vacations](#) partnered with the State of Alaska to offer employees an exclusive vacation package discount program. Delta Vacations has renewed their Corporate Leisure Program for State of Alaska employees effective July 15, 2011, adding more discount options and additional bonus miles with the Delta SkyMiles program.

[Delta Vacations](#) offers State of Alaska employees the following benefits for use with the purchase of a flight and hotel vacation package:

- The lowest available airfare on Delta Airlines
- Discount of 10% off ALL land components and op-

tions, including but not limited to: hotels, transfers, car rentals, tours, theme parks, insurance, events, and more

- An additional 3,000 extra bonus miles per person, through the SkyMiles program. This is in addition to the *up to 7,000*



bonus miles and credited flight miles received when booking a Delta Vacations package.

- No blackout dates

To receive a Delta Vacations package discount:

- Submit your employee work email address to Delta

Vacations using the "Before You Book" form on the right side of the State of Alaska Employees [welcome page](#).

Delta Vacations will send a personal e-certificate number via the email address provided above.

- [Book Online](#) or call reservations at 1-800-800-1504. The e-certificate must be mentioned at the time of booking.

The discount applies to current employees and their travel companion(s) who are traveling on the same itinerary.

See the [terms and conditions](#) for complete travel details.

## E-Travel Office

### USTRavel

**E-Travel Online Help Desk**  
(907) 500-4290 / 877-500-4290  
Email: e-travelhelp@ustravel.us

**Reservation Call Center**  
(907) 500-4292 / 866-762-8728  
FAX: (907) 465-8288  
Email: e-travelaprvt@ustravel.us

**Research**  
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### ETMT

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**See us on the Web!**  
<http://statetravel.alaska.gov>

### Travel E-Qs



There will be a random quarterly drawing in **September** for a prize from the answers submitted by August 15, 2011 to: [doa.dof.e-travel@alaska.gov](mailto:doa.dof.e-travel@alaska.gov)

1. How much federal excise tax is collected for domestic transportation?
2. Who qualifies for a Delta Vacations package discount?
3. What flight path lies directly above the Cleveland Volcano?
4. When using generic profiles to book reservations, what should travel planners do to save money and help prevent traveler delays at the airport?
5. How are manual reservation hotels identified in E-Travel Online?

**Contest prize winnings are considered non-cash compensation, and will be included as W2 earnings**

## In the News

### Cleveland Volcano

The [Alaskan Volcano Observatory](#) has issued an eruption advisory for the [Cleveland Volcano](#), located in the Aleutian chain about 940 miles southwest of Anchorage.

Although the Cleveland Volcano is located in a remote area, an eruption is expected to cause some international flight delays, because the volcano lies directly below the flight path between Asia and North America.



No seismic equipment is set up there due to the high costs of working in this remote area. Scientists must rely on satellite data and witness reports. The satellite detection shows that the volcano could erupt at any time.

### TSA Scans

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is taking steps to further enhance passenger privacy during airport checkpoint screening.

In the coming months, TSA will begin installing new software on the body scanners, currently deployed at airports nationwide. The new software will enhance privacy by eliminating the actual image of a person with a generic outline of a person.

The new technology automatically detects potential threats, and indicates their location on the generic computer-generated outline of a person. If no potential threats are detected, an "OK" appears on the monitor with no outline, and the traveler is cleared.

The image monitor screen is located on the scanning ma-

chine. Passengers will now be able to view the same outline that a TSA officer sees, and it will no longer be necessary for a separate TSA officer to view the image in a separate location.

## Tips & Tricks

TSA requires that a traveler's legal name on their government identification, presented at airport check-in, must match the traveler's name on their ticket.

Legal names are entered in E-Travel Online travelers' profiles to ensure ticket name and identification match.

When a generic profile is used to purchase tickets, it is imperative that travel planners verify that the traveler's name is spelled correctly and that the name matches the traveler's identification PRIOR to purchase to avoid costly reissues or traveler delays at the airport.

## What is a Manual Reservation Hotel?

The hotel inventory in E-Travel Online primarily consists of hotels that participate in the Global Distribution System (GDS), the world-wide reservation center, and may be booked directly via the automated system in the booking tool. Some frequently booked hotels, that do not participate in the GDS, have been manually added to E-Travel Online's hotel inventory. These hotels are referred to as *manual reservation hotels* and require agent assistance to complete the booking.

Manual reservation hotels are clearly identified in E-Travel Online with a pink icon dis-

played directly above the hotel name. For example:

**Manual Reservation Hotels**   
**Reluctant Fisherman ()**  
407 Railroad Avenue  
Cordova, AK 99574

The rate is not displayed for these hotels because most privately owned operations may change their rates at any time without notice. You may call USTRavel to confirm the current available rate.



Manual reservation hotels are placed in E-Travel Online as a convenience to travelers and travel planners. This process provides reduced hotel search time outside of E-Travel Online, and ease of booking by not having to enter detailed hotel information in the *special instruction box*. These hotels may be selected and added to an itinerary in the same manner as any other hotel in the booking tool. After "Purchase" is selected,

USTRavel receives the request and completes the hotel booking. An agent assist fee applies.