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Fun Industry News

Recent research conducted by Fly.com reveals that travelers are more willing to pay for extra overhead space than they are for Wi-Fi onboard.

The article in CNN's [Business Traveler](#) discusses the perks that travelers are willing to pay for and what they are not.

E-Travel Online Training

Thursday, May 8, 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, May 22, 1:30 p.m.

To sign up, contact your [Department Travel Coordinators](#) or register in E-Travel Online.

Quarterly Survey

USTRavel and the E-Travel Management Team would appreciate hearing about your most recent experiences with using E-Travel Online.

Your feedback and comments are important to help maintain a high quality of customer service.

The current [survey](#) ends on June 1.

E-Travel Online Hotel Redesign

On April 30, E-Travel was upgraded with phase one of a two-phase hotel redesign. The new design shortens the search process and provides a cleaner less cluttered user interface.

The hotel name/chain and special requests sections have moved from the initial hotel search form to the availability page. With phase two of the enhancement, the search form will be removed entirely. **The benefit:** reduced clicks and pages making it faster and easier to search and book hotels.

Enhanced filtering has been added to the list view and map view. This allows the

user to filter by hotel name, chain, distance, and amenities. **The benefit:** expedites the search process to help the user find the desired hotel faster.

The number of amenities offered has increased, and includes a filtering bar and a counter to indicate how many hotels have the requested amenities. **The benefit:** provides the user with more information to compare properties and prices and still keep the travelers' needs in mind.

In addition to changes to the search process, there are several minor changes that clean up the look and feel of the site.

Hotel logos and pagination have been removed.

The Modify Search link has been moved to the right side/bottom of the screen and the modification process has been shortened.

Rate Details and Cancellation policy information has been relocated to the end of the booking process.

The E-Travel Online User Guide will be updated when the redesign is complete.

We appreciate all the user feedback that has been provided over the past year. We will continue to push for more enhancements that will make your user experience more positive.

WE LIVE IN A WONDERFUL WORLD
THAT IS FULL OF
BEAUTY, CHARM, AND ADVENTURE.

THERE IS NO END TO THE
ADVENTURES THAT WE CAN HAVE
IF ONLY WE SEEK THEM WITH OUR EYES OPEN.

~ JAWAHARLAL NEHRU



E-Travel Air Search Tip

If your desired itinerary contains a layover in one or more airports for more than 4 hours, use the Multi-destination search functionality on the E-Travel home page.

This initiates the shop by schedule function that tells the system specific flights are more important than the fare.

Once the desired flights have been selected, the itinerary will be priced and alternate itiner-

ary options will display to give you the opportunity to compare fares.

This tip will save you time, the state money, and will ensure your traveler is not stuck on the milk run.

Travel E-Qs

There will be a quarterly prize drawing held in July for answers submitted by May 23 to the E-Travel Management Team at: doa.dof.e-travel@alaska.gov.

1. How has the redesign in E-Travel Online impacted the hotel booking process?
2. If you are unable to match specific flights in E-Travel Online, what type of search might help?
3. Where is the Per Diem table located?
4. Are employees eligible for the Local Incidental when traveling to Hawaii?



Memorial Day - Monday, May 26

E-Travel Office

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New Per Diem FAQ #24

24. What is the methodology used for calculating M&IE when traveling to Hawaii?

Hawaii per diem rates are listed on the [Department of Defense Travel Per Diem](#) query under "OUTSIDE CONUS (OCONUS), Non-Foreign Overseas and Foreign". Select HAWAII and the radio button "EXCLUDE" for military installations. Verify that the applicable "PUBLISHED" date is selected.

From the resulting per diem table, the M&IE calculation equals the **Local Meals** plus **Local Incidentals**.

The calculation example below assumes the employee was provided breakfast and lunch on two days.

| M&IE at OCONUS destination = \$106 (Local Meal Rate) + \$27 (Local Incidental) | | |
|--|-------|---|
| Date | Meals | M&IE |
| 10/2/2013 | B/L/D | \$133.00 (106+27) |
| 10/3/2013 | D | \$83.00 ((53%x106)+27) Rounded nearest dollar |
| 10/4/2013 | D | \$83.00 ((53%x106)+27) Rounded nearest dollar |
| 10/5/2013 | B/L/D | \$133.00 (106+27) |
| Total | | \$432.00 |

The Local Meal is prorated because the employee is not eligible for the full day meal allowance and the full Local Incidental is added.

Travelers are entitled to the full incidental portion of the M&IE for that Hawaiian location for each day or portion of a day they are in travel status in Hawaii and M&IE is provided for one or more meals for that day. (The table for M&IE percentages is published on the Division of Finance website at: <http://doa.alaska.gov/dof/travel/resource/rates.pdf>).

A HERO IS SOMEONE WHO HAS GIVEN HIS OR HER LIFE TO SOMETHING BIGGER THAN ONESELF.
~Joseph Campbell

Update Per Diem FAQ #8

08. For travel outside the State of Alaska, how is the incidentals portion of the M&IE amount handled?

Travelers are entitled to the full incidental portion of the M&IE (\$5 for short term and \$3 for long term) for each day or portion of a day they are in travel status outside Alaska and M&IE is provided for one

or more meals for that day. For full days, the total CONUS amount for the location is used. For partial days, or days in which a meal is provided, the traveler is entitled to sum of the remaining meal amounts and full incidentals portion of the M&IE.

Note: The Federal Government has defined travel to

Hawaii as Outside CONUS (OCONUS), non-foreign overseas travel. The OCONUS per diem rates are determined by the Department of Defense. Travelers are entitled to the Local Meals and the full Local Incidental for the island on which the traveler obtained overnight lodging (see [AAM 60.250](#)).