



Looking for an inexpensive trip to Europe? Introductory one-way fares aboard Norwegian begin in the low 200s.

Norwegian Air bolsters service to Europe

Norwegian Air will launch two-times weekly nonstop flights to London's Gatwick Airport from Tampa International Airport beginning in October, bringing a new carrier to Tampa and adding another option for reaching Europe from the Tampa Bay region.

The new service in Tampa is part of a larger North American expansion by Norwegian Air, which the airline recently announced. Norwegian offers more nonstop European destinations from the United States than any other European airline and offers 500 routes to more than 150 destinations around the world.

TPA currently offers daily service to London Gatwick on British Airways, and the addition of the Norwegian flights will for the first time offer TPA passengers a choice of two airlines flying nonstop to the same European city. The Norwegian flights will depart from Tampa on Wednesdays at 10:50 p.m. to arrive in London at 10:45 a.m. Thursday, and on Saturdays the flights will depart at 10 p.m. to arrive in London at 9:55 a.m. Sunday. From London, the flights will depart Wednesdays at 2:55 p.m. to arrive in Tampa at 8:35 p.m. and on Saturdays at 2:05 p.m. to arrive in Tampa at 7:45 p.m.

"The arrival of Norwegian Air is yet another example of the strength of our region. As our community continues to grow, the airport is growing with it," Airport CEO Joe Lopano said. "We

expect this to be a very popular service, particularly for our British visitors, and we look forward to a great partnership with Norwegian in coming years."

Norwegian's service between Tampa and London will be on a 787-9 Dreamliner with 309 Economy seats and 35 Premium Economy seats. This is the first Dreamliner with regularly scheduled service at TPA. The aircraft is known for a quiet and more comfortable ride for passengers, as well as better fuel efficiency.

Introductory fares will start at \$214.90 one-way in Economy and \$604.90 one-way in Premium Economy. Premium includes a dedicated check-in counter, fast track security, lounge access at selected airports, large and wide recliner seats with ample legroom, all meals and drinks and other benefits.

"We are excited to introduce another U.S. destination to our network," said Thomas Ramdahl, Norwegian's Chief Commercial Officer. "Tampa Bay will be a very popular destination amongst European travelers. Similarly, Europe is in high demand among Tampa Bay and Florida residents."

With the addition of Norwegian Air, TPA now has seven international carriers that connect to more than a dozen cities around the world. The Airport has seen a more than 120 percent increase in international passenger growth since 2011. ■

IN THIS ISSUE



Eight new routes

TPA adds eight new routes in June, bringing our total to 87 nonstop destinations.



PSTA shows us the way

PSTA now offers an easy, low-cost way to get to TPA.



Cigar City nears completion

A new Cigar City will be open this July on Airside C, serving Southwest and Frontier.

TPA BY THE NUMBERS



450

That's how many workers are employed by Airborne Maintenance & Engineering Services. Airborne recently received Florida Gov. Rick Scott's Job Creator Award.

June sees eight new air service announcements



Looking for an inexpensive trip to Europe? Introductory one-way fares aboard Norwegian begin in the low 200s.

Spirit Airlines to Asheville, Greensboro and Philadelphia. Frontier airlines to Greenville-Spartanburg. Sun Country to Madison, Dallas-Ft. Worth and St. Louis. An exciting new international carrier to London.

In the month of June alone, Tampa International Airport announced the addition of eight new nonstop flights, four of which will fly to previously unserved markets. This brings the Airport's total number of nonstop destinations to 87 – a number that is expected to grow even more in coming months and years.

"The fact that TPA is a central piece of these airlines' growth strategy demonstrates the vitality of our market," TPA Director of Research and Air Service Development Kenneth Strickland said. "Airlines are continuing to see that Tampa Bay is a well-balanced market, benefiting from a strong mix of business and leisure traffic."

The air service announcements have been coming in

seemingly rapid-fire progression, with Spirit announcing new flights between TPA and Asheville and Greensboro, N.C., on June 12 and 13, followed by Frontier's announced service to Greenville-Spartanburg, S.C., on June 19. Then on June 25, TPA announced that Norwegian Air was coming to Tampa on Oct. 31 with twice-a-week flights to London Gatwick. The next day came the news that Sun Country, which has operated Cuba charter flights out of TPA for years, will soon offer a new nonstop route to Madison, Wis., as well as Dallas-Ft. Worth and St. Louis.

The announcements come as no surprise to those who have been projecting large passenger growth for the past few years, underscoring the need for the recently completed expansion, SkyConnect and Rental Car Center, as well as the future curbside expansion and other planned projects. TPA saw a record number of passengers in 2017, as well as a record spring break in March and April. Given the number of new flights coming this fall, those numbers should soar even more by the holiday season. ■



TPA launched The Plane Spot in June as a way to connect planespotters both near and far. The Facebook group also helps the Airport spread its message.

Planespotters join together

Some may call them "av geeks" or aviation photographers. Around airports, they're known as "planespotters," and they're among our biggest fans.

At Tampa International Airport, we welcome planespotters to enjoy their hobby. TPA's social media recently launched a digital platform for them to share their ideas, experiences and photos. The Facebook group, called "The Plane Spot," launched June 6 and already has more than 400 members. We encourage users to add fellow spotters and friends from different airports to create a diverse and savvy following. Employees are welcome and encouraged to join as well. ■

PSTA launches first express bus service to TPA



The new service, which is free through August, departs from Largo's Ulmerton Road Park N Ride lot on weekdays and connects to the Rental Car Center curbside.

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority officials, transit advocates and Airport leaders gathered at Tampa International Airport Rental Car Center on June 25 to celebrate the launch of the area's first bus service from Pinellas County to the Airport.

PSTA's 300X Airport Express, which started in early June, takes riders from a free Park N Ride lot in Largo at 8780 Ulmerton Rd. to the Rental Car Center's SkyConnect station at TPA.

"The tourism industry that drives Pinellas County's economy is fueled by guests that arrive through the Tampa airport," said PSTA CEO Brad Miller. "For the first time in

history, this new express airport service makes getting to our beautiful Pinellas community a lot easier and cheaper too."

The weekday service departs from Pinellas County eight times a day and extends into Marion Transit Center where riders can make connections into Hillsborough County. "This is a big moment for anyone supportive of regional transportation," said Miller.

Tampa International Airport serves about 20 million passengers every year and is a major employment center with more than 10,000 people working on the airport campus.

"Every day, about 60,000 people travel to and from the airport," said airport CEO Joe Lopano. "Easy access is essential and this is a great step toward increasing options for both visitors who are vacationing in Pinellas County and employees who live there."

Riders of the Airport Express can take advantage of amenities such as free WiFi, luggage racks, and free parking in a secured lot.

The agency is currently offering a free promotion of the service through the end of August. Regular fare for the service is \$3 each way.

For more information on the 300X Airport Express, interested riders can visit PSTA.net or call the InfoLine at 727-540-1900. ■

TPA gets a visit from all-new United 737 Max 9



The 737 Max 9 made its inaugural visit to TPA in June. TPA was on hand to photograph the landing and tour the inside of the new plane.

Tampa International Airport welcomed the all-new United Airlines 737 Max 9 aircraft on June 29. United is the first North American carrier to operate the fuel-efficient aircraft. The Boeing 737 MAX 9 features 179 seats, providing customers with access to in-seat power outlets and the opportunity to purchase satellite Wi-Fi.

United Private Screening personal device entertainment will be available throughout the aircraft and enables customers to play thousands of hours of movies and television programs on their electronic devices.

In an effort to promote the new Plane Spot group, TPA took two lucky planespotters out on the airfield to watch the plane land and to tour the interior. ■

TPA Phase 2 is moving forward with Board approval

The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority Board on June 7 approved significant contracts to move forward two major elements of Phase 2 of Tampa International Airport's Master Plan.

The design-build contract for the Main Terminal curb expansion and the demolition contract for the red side rental car garage represent more than \$195 million worth of work – about one-third of Phase 2.

With the approval, crews are preparing to cut the power to the red side garage and secure the building for demolition. Once that is done, workers will begin selective demolition of the inside structure, including sprinklers and related systems.



The HCAA Board recently voted to approve major elements of the Phase 2 expansion.

The major structural demolition is scheduled to begin this fall, and will take approximately one year to complete. Target completion: September 2019.

Meanwhile, the HCAA Board approved the design-contract with Hensel Phelps, allowing the team to begin design and assessment of the facilities. This includes surveying,

scanning and locating all the utilities in the area.

The Hensel Phelps team will work on the design through 2018 and into summer 2019. The guaranteed maximum price is expected in September 2019, with construction beginning shortly after. ■

Noyes, concessions win big at annual award show



Laurie Noyes

Tampa International Airport Vice President of Concessions Laurie Noyes was named the 2018 ACI-NA Concessions Person of the Year at the organization's annual awards ceremony in Portland on June 14.

Noyes, who has been with TPA for six years, spearheaded the largest concessions redevelopment in Airport history, transforming all of the Airport's 69 shops and restaurants.

She and her team implemented several new lines of business, which have generated millions of dollars annually.

"Laurie's perseverance and relentless commitment to excellence is one reason why Tampa International Airport continues to rank among the best airports in the world,"

said ACI-NA President and CEO Kevin M. Burke. "ACI-NA is pleased to recognize her work to deliver passengers the outstanding services for which the Airport is known."

Noyes credited her team for the success of the new program.

"This is a truly humbling honor, but I couldn't have done it without such an outstanding group of people around me," said Noyes. "From top to bottom, we have one of the best concessions teams out there and I couldn't be more grateful."

In addition to Noyes' award, three of TPA's concessionaires pulled in top honors:

Hard Rock Cafe, operated by SSP America, won first place for Best New National Brand Concept; Café con Leche, also operated by SSP, earned second for Best New Food and Beverage (Quick-Service Concept); The Runway, operated by Paradis Lagardère, earned second place for Best New Retail Concept. ■

Beer made here: Cigar City Brewing to open soon



FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS

Construction crews are putting the finishing touches on the Cigar City Brewing on Airside C. Pictured here: The brewpub's two bars and the brewery system.

After closing for construction and renovation, Cigar City Brewing and its unique on-airport brewery are getting ready to reopen to travelers on Airside C.

Located in the same spot as the previous brewpub, the new concept has undergone a complete renovation and features more bar space and a fresh new look. The chefs have also enhanced and expanded the menu.

It is expected to open in late July.

Just like the previous iteration, the new Cigar City prominently features a fully-operational "Brewhouse" system. As before, they will brew Tony Jannus Pale Ale on location – making TPA one of the only airports with an on-site brewery. ■

New Airport concessions feature plenty of meatless choices

Tampa International Airport's new restaurants mean more variety, more flavors and, for those looking to go meat-free, more vegetarian and vegan options than ever before.

With most of the 69 new shops and restaurants now open, TPA's concessions boast some 225 vegetarian options and dozens of vegan choices.

Options include everything from vegetable spring rolls and flatbreads to house salads and fried green tomatoes.

Many items at TPA's restaurants can be made to order, and guests are encouraged to let the server know about any dietary restrictions.

Check out www.TampaAirport.com for a restaurant-by-restaurant breakdown of all of TPA's vegetarian and vegan options. ■



P.F. Chang's serves Coconut Curry Vegetables, one of many vegetarian and vegan options offered at Tampa International Airport.

CONCESSIONS CORNER



Employee Spotlight: Ryan Van Kirk



Ryan Van Kirk, a lifelong aviator, is the co-owner of Sarasota Avionics. The company has five locations around the state, including Peter O. Knight.

In the morning, Ryan Van Kirk wakes up, gets dressed, grabs a cup of coffee and gets ready for his 75-mile commute from Venice to Tampa.

It takes about 20 minutes, tops. He hops in his plane, enjoys the beautiful view over the Gulf Coast and lands just steps from his office in a hangar at Peter O. Knight Airport.

“Aviation is a happy thing,” said Van Kirk, co-owner of Sarasota Avionics. “I love what I do and I love flying. You just fade away from the world when you’re up there.”

Flying, you could say, is in Van Kirk’s blood. His father, mother and grandfather were all pilots, and when Van Kirk was a kid, his father got into the avionics business, opening Sarasota Avionics, which is headquartered at Venice Municipal Airport. The company first began as a sales shop and has expanded into avionics upgrades, panel mount installation, maintenance and repair.

Sarasota Avionics now has five locations around the state, including its newest installation and repair center at Peter O. Knight on Davis Islands.

“This is really a special airport,” Van Kirk said. “I knew the first time I came here that this is where we wanted to be.” The shop, which is a Cirrus Service Center as well as an

authorized service center for Cessna, serves customers from all over the Southeast region and some from as far as Michigan and Utah. Van Kirk said the company prides itself on being able to work on just about every type of plane, be it single engine piston, double engine or turboprop.

“We want to work on everything,” Van Kirk said. “And what we do work on, we want to do it well.”

The avionics and aviation repair business is very much based on trust, he said, and he loves that Sarasota Avionics often has clients who return for their second or third major upgrade. At the Peter O. Knight location, the company has worked to build that kind of trust with an entirely new customer base.

“When we first showed up here, we didn’t have a single customer in Tampa,” Van Kirk said. “It has taken some time to build those relationships, but it’s very gratifying to now have that base here. We try to be good stewards here, to support the FBO and to be fair on price and go above and beyond for our customers. That’s the key to gaining that trust.”

The company has grown its Peter O. Knight operations and hopes to be able to grow even more and stay on the island “for the long haul,” he said.

When Van Kirk isn’t spending his time in one of his hangars or in the air, he is spending it with his wife, Kelly, and four children: 10-year-old Olivia, 7-year-old Amelia, 2-year old Charlotte and the newest baby, 7-month-old Cole.

He often takes his children along on short trips in his plane, hoping they catch the aviation bug like he did. ■

“Aviation is a happy thing. I love what I do and I love flying. You just fade away from the world when you’re up there.”



TPA in the World



Left to right, top to bottom: Robert Rinehart, Warren Stone, Chris Giokas, Michelle Giokas, Krystal Hydes, Debbie Stokes, Eric Sugrue, Koren Rinehart and Tihani Anderson pose in front of TPA's booth at St. Pete Pride Festival in June.



Alan Stull, Melissa Solberg, Scott Petersen, David Golden, Warren Stone, Nancy Rubin, Cathy Taft, Teri Brooke and Damian Brooke strike a pose.



Robert Rinehart, Koren Rinehart, Warren Stone, Danny Glennon, Charlie Vazquez and E.J. Diaz take a pause in front of the booth.



Director of Operations Lloyd Tilmann, left, and Senior Manager of Terminal Operations and Security Adam Bouchard meet with community members for a noise abatement presentation at the Carrollwood Cultural Center on July 2. The team covered the basics of TPA's noise abatement program.



Senior Manager of Airfield Operations Brian Washburn meets with community members from around the County for a "Noise Abatement 101 seminar."



Vice President of Media and Government relations Janet Scherberger speaks at the Seminole Historical Society. Pictured here: Jeff Etter with the Historical Society, Scherberger and Seminole Mayor Leslie Waters.

In the News



Copa Airlines is expanding its service to seven days a week, bolstering its overall network of destinations.

From Tampa Bay Times, June 28:

Copa Airline's service to Tampa expands to daily nonstop flights beginning on July 14. Read about how the move fits into Copa's business model of serving both business and leisure travelers in the Tampa Bay Times. ■



From the Tampa Bay Business Journal, June 7:

Tampa International Airport's Café Con Leche Ybor City located at Airside C just won top honors at an international airport food and beverage conference. It was named the regional winner in the Airport Coffee, Tea, Non-alcoholic Beverage Shop of the Year category during the seventh annual Airport Food and Beverage Conference & Awards in Helsinki in June. Read more in the Tampa Bay Business Journal. ■

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WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...

ON TWITTER

Yet another easy-peasy experience at @FlyTPA today! We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful and efficient airport. Exceptional service by @Delta yet again (props to Kelly and Bob at check-in). Ready to ring in the 4th where our nation was born!
- @DrewOnTheRadio, July 2

Thank you Marty with @AmericanAir for the best customer service ever! He went above and beyond to help me with my travel @FlyTPA
- @Keith_L_Ivester, June 30

I love @FlyTPA! It only took 10 minutes to get from curb to gate! #Colorado #travel #traveltips
- @BenjaminPazian, June 29

ON FACEBOOK

I Love Southwest Airlines always friendly keeps you up to date never had any problems with them enjoyed the flight absolutely the greatest I will definitely fly with them again.
- Kathleen Busbee, June 28

Awesome experience every time I fly!!!!
- Mike Yearout, June 24

VIA EMAIL

Thank you Joe Lopano and team for bringing Norwegian Air to Tampa! As a frugal traveler, I am thrilled to finally have access to round trip, nonstop flights to Europe for under \$500! No more tough trips to Orlando, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, or New York to catch a cheap flight to Europe! This is a really big deal! I have flown on Norwegian and they are amazing. I already have a low fare seat (\$214 one way) on this first flight from Tampa to London on Halloween and thank you again for your dynamic leadership! Tampa keeps getting better and better....
- Kathleen Griffin, June 26



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