

Scheduled flights to Havana could arrive by year's end



Airport CEO Joe Lopano credits strong support from the Tampa Bay community and regional business partners for the latest Cuba news. The Airport received dozens of letters from business leaders and lawmakers and nearly 6,000 people signed a petition in support of the flights. Shown above, Tampa Bay Rays' owner Stu Sternberg and president Brian Auld paused for a picture with CEO Joe Lopano and VP of Marketing Chris Minner before boarding a plane for a historic game between the Rays and the Cuban national team in March.

Scheduled service from Tampa to Havana, Cuba just got a lot closer.

On July 6, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced its preliminary decision to award Tampa daily nonstop service to Havana aboard Southwest Airlines. The new service could begin by the end of the year.

"This is such an exciting day for us," said Tampa International Airport CEO Joe Lopano. "The DOT's decision reflects the strength of our market and the unprecedented support of leaders and travelers throughout the Tampa Bay area. The new service is a major victory for the Tampa Bay region, which is home to the third largest Cuban population in the United States.

U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor, said the flights will enhance Tampa Bay's connection to Cuba.

"Direct, commercial flights between Tampa and Havana, Cuba, will

strengthen family ties and open our communities to greater engagement and progress," Rep. Castor said. "TIA was just named one of travelers' favorites because of its ease of use and amenities, and I encourage our businesses, families, churches and cultural art groups to continue their support for these flights for our airport until the proposal is finalized. As the 'Gateway to Cuba,' I expect Tampa Bay will surpass the expectations of our region as well as travelers."

TPA has offered charter service to Cuba since 2011 and the airport averages about seven charter flights per week. To date, nearly 270,000 passengers have traveled between TPA and Cuba. TPA currently serves four cities: Havana, Santa Clara, Holguin and Camaguey.

"I extend a sincere thank you to all the leaders in this community who have been instrumental in growing the relationship between Tampa and Cuba. And many, many

thanks to U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor, who has been a tremendous leader on this journey from the very beginning," Lopano said.

Southwest Airlines is Tampa's largest airline carrier making up about 35 percent of all flights.

"Southwest stands poised to offer historic service to Cuba for our loyal customers in Tampa Bay who have made Southwest the most relevant and valued air service option in Florida," said Brad Hawkins, Senior Advisor, Commercial Communications for Southwest. "Today's green light ushers the next phase of our Countdown to Cuba and we'll soon provide more details about our service this year."

The U.S. DOT proposed eight airlines to begin scheduled passenger service to Havana, capping off months of competition for the ability to fly to the Cuban capital. The airlines winning approval for Havana service were American, Delta, United, Southwest, Spirit, Alaska, Frontier and JetBlue. ■

Many thanks to the following organizations who lent their voices to the US DOT Cuba commercial air service proceedings:
AdSizzle; Al Fox, Alliance for Responsible Cuba Policy; Brian Lamb, Fifth Third Bank; Caribbean American Children Foundation; Cuban Arts Group; DiMaio & Associates; Domingo and Olga Noriega; Eckerd College; Edward Miller, Colliers International; Florida Orchestra; Florida Aquarium; The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce; The Hillsborough County Economic Development Corporation; John Fogarty, JRB Solutions; Kimmins Contracting Corp.; La Gaceta; Lance Ponton, Cordoba Development Companies; St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman; Moffitt Cancer Center; Pinellas County Commissioner Janet Long; Port Tampa Bay; Robert Nathan, Moffatt & Nichol; Ron Christaldi, Attorney; St. Pete Downtown Partnership; St. Petersburg City Council Chair Amy Foster; Tampa City Council; Tampa Bay Partnership; Tampa Bay Rays; Tampa Museum of Art; University of South Florida; Visit Tampa Bay; University of Tampa; U.S. Rep. David Jolly; U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor.

P.F. CHANG'S HORSE ARRIVES

Hold your horses! The larger than life-sized horse statue that will grace the entrance of P.F. Chang's was delivered to the Airport on June 29.

A crane was required to lift the hefty horse that measures over eight feet tall into position on the third floor of the Main Terminal building. A video of the process is available on the Airport's YouTube channel. ■



TPA by the Numbers - 65,000



65,000: That's the total number of cubic yards of concrete that have been placed to date on the new rental car center – amounting to about 6,500 concrete trucks worth of concrete. Crews still have 35,000 cubic yards – or 3,500 concrete trucks – to go. ■

Catch the Friday Flight

CELEBRATE
BASTILLE DAY
AT TPA WITH

**FIONA
FRENSCHE**

JULY 15
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Main Terminal between Airsides E and F

Friday FLIGHT Tampa International Airport

A woman in a red dress and black hat, likely Fiona Frensché, is posing in a gold-framed picture. She is holding a champagne glass and has her arm raised. The background of the picture shows a lush green landscape.

CELEBRATE BASTILLE DAY AT FRIDAY FLIGHT!

Mark your calendar for the next Friday Flight on July 15 for a celebration of Bastille Day! We'll have French-themed live music from Fiona Frensché. The event takes place on Level 3 of the Main Terminal between Airsides E and F. The Friday Flight is always free and open to the public. ■

Meet the artist behind TPA's iconic concessions

If you've ever stopped in one of Tampa International Airport's shops or restaurants, chances are good you've seen the work of Steve Tracy and his crew at Design Specialties Inc.

The custom finishing and cabinetry company built the shelves at Author's bookstore in the Main Terminal, the bar at First Flight and all the cases at the Harley Davidson store. They did the finishing work at Green Iguana on Airside E, the Chili's on Airside F and Shula's on Airside C. The list goes on.

"I know the Airport a lot better than I probably should," Tracy joked.

Now Tracy and his small team of skilled craftsmen are back at TPA as a key part of the effort to bring in 65 new shops and restaurants. Based in Tampa, Design Specialties is one of hundreds of local or Florida-based companies participating in the Airport's expansion and concessions redevelopment program.

Tracy's firm recently finished up work on Ducky's, which included installing the bar, the wood work above the bar and working with St. Petersburg artist BASK to install the decorative graffiti panels. With that project in the books, they are also working on P.F. Chang's in the Main Terminal. The company also worked on the newly-opened Gasparilla Bar on Airside F.

Tracy said he considers the new bar, which mimics a pirate ship, more of an art piece. Coming in at 40 feet long, 15 feet wide and 24 feet tall, Tracy's team aimed for an authentic ship look.



Steve Tracy stands in front of the Gasparilla Bar, a pirate-themed bar now open at Airside F.

They built the mast out of curved plywood and the yard arm out of aluminum, and then covered it with wood veneer. More than 900 linear feet of rope coils round the mast.

The ship's hull and aerial cross beams consist of more than 1,000 linear feet of reclaimed oak "to give it the older, worn look," Tracy said.

"It's very rewarding to be able to put out a product and have hundreds of thousands of people see it," he said. "My employees get to share in that pride also."

Tracy started his career in aviation, working in test engineering for Cessna aircraft in his hometown of Wichita, Kansas – a major center of the U.S. aircraft industry. He set out to find something that would be a better use of his creativity, artistry and his love of building. He started off building furniture, and

expanded to cabinets and millwork.

Now, he and his company of eight employees do everything from commercial and high-end residential properties, to building out libraries and installing wine cellars.

He said he loves working at the Airport and all the challenges and rewards that come with working here. ■



Tracy's team did much of the finishing work on Ducky's at Airside A, which opened in June.



FRONTIER ADDS LAS VEGAS SERVICE

Frontier Airlines will begin offering daily nonstop flights on September 6. Book your Vegas vacation today at FlyFrontier.com. ■

Cayman Airways offering daily nonstop service to Grand Cayman this summer



Travelers can depart TPA and in under two hours find themselves among some of the best snorkeling, diving and fishing spots in the Caribbean. Cayman Airways will offer daily nonstop flights through the end of August.

Want to take a quick international flight this summer to an island paradise? Take advantage of new daily nonstop service and get to Grand Cayman in less than two hours aboard Cayman Airways.

Throughout July and August, the airline is expanding service between Tampa International Airport and Owen Roberts International Airport in George Town, Grand Cayman from five days a week to every day, making it easier than ever before to get to the white sand beaches and crystal clear waters.

"This flight will give Tampa residents the opportunity to experience the beauty of Cayman with more convenience, while giving the residents of Cayman better access to Tampa Bay's cultural events, shopping,

entertainment and attractions," Airport CEO Joe Lopano said.

Cayman Airways is one of TPA's most longstanding international nonstop flights, offering service at TPA since 1986. The airline serves approximately 45,000 passengers annually, with July and August being its busiest months.

"For more than 30 years Cayman Airways has been serving the Cayman/Tampa route with nonstop flights, so we're thrilled to introduce daily flights this summer to help meet the increasing travel demand for this popular route," said Paul Tibbetts, Executive Vice President, Finance and Commercial Affairs for Cayman Airways. "With its many theme parks as well as its close proximity to Disney World in Orlando, Tampa has always been a popular destination for

summer travel, especially for Cayman families, so we're poised to increase this service to daily flights year-round if the demand remains consistent beyond the summer months."

The service expansion is also expected to benefit inbound tourism for the Cayman Islands.

"Cayman Airways, the national flag carrier, has been a strategic partner throughout the years and plays a vital role in air service to the destination," said Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Moses Kirkconnell. "This move to expand to daily service to Tampa exemplifies their depended commitment to this valuable route."

Want to fly? Here's what you need to know!

From Friday through Sunday, the Cayman Airways flight departs Tampa at 2:25 p.m. and arrives on Grand Cayman at 3:10 p.m. From Monday through Thursday, the flight departs from Tampa at 3:25 p.m. and arrives on Grand Cayman at 4:10 p.m.

Passengers can take two free checked bags, and those of age can enjoy complimentary rum punch inflight. For more information or to book a flight, call Cayman Airways Reservations on 345-949-2311, contact a travel agent, or visit CaymanAirways.com. ■

New Rental Car Center continues to take shape

With many floors of TPA's rental car center complete, crews are now building a way for vehicles to get between them. And it's pretty cool.

In keeping with the Airport's design, the rental car center is getting a concrete helix that will allow vehicles to spiral up and down, similar to how vehicles move in the Main Terminal parking garages.

The 2.6-million square foot rental car center is slated to top out later this year with an opening date in late '17. All told, the structure requires about 100,000 cubic yards of concrete, the equivalent of about 10,000 concrete trucks! ■



TPA JOB FAIR PULLS IN RECORD NUMBERS



Nearly 500 people came out for Tampa International Airport's latest Concessions Job Fair -- our biggest turnout yet!

Many bartenders, sushi rollers, baristas, cashiers and other workers were hired on the spot for hundreds of job openings at the Hard Rock Cafe, P.F. Chang's, Four Green Fields and other restaurants set to open in the coming weeks.

The Airport will hold additional job fairs in the coming months as new shops and restaurants come online.

In the meantime, all those interested in working at Tampa International can view more information on employment opportunities on the Airport's website at TampaAirport.com/employment-opportunities. ■

ZIKA WARNING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

With travel-related cases of the Zika virus popping up daily in the United States, state and federal officials are urging everyone to be vigilant about mosquito control and preventing bites.

A few tips from the Florida Department of Health:

- Drain standing water around your home weekly
- Use insect repellent
- Cover up when enjoying the outdoors
- Mosquitoes that spread Zika are most aggressive in the daytime, but they can also bite at night

For more information, go to www.cdc.gov/zika or www.floridahealth.gov. ■

PROTECT YOURSELF

from

MOSQUITO BITES



Metropolitan Ministries teams up with Stellar Partners, Tampa International to serve grab-and-go foods



CEO Joe Lopano gets an onion-cutting lesson from Chef Eric Champagne in the Metropolitan Ministries culinary training kitchen. The gourmet food items are currently sold at Airside C with all profits from sales going back to the program.

As a teaching chef for Metropolitan Ministries' Inside the Box Culinary Arts Program, Eric Champagne feels like he's not just teaching homeless or formerly homeless men and women how to prepare food. He's teaching them life skills so they can enter the job force.

"A lot of these folks have never even held jobs," Champagne said. "This program teaches them about being accountable, showing up on time and preparing high-quality food for customers."

Now the Inside the Box program has a presence at Tampa International Airport in the form of "grab-and-gourmet" sandwiches, wraps, salads, yogurt parfaits and other treats. The items, prepared by the Metropolitan Ministries culinary students, are currently sold at the temporary Stellar Bay location at Airside C and will eventually be sold at that Airside's permanent location, as well as the Stellar Bay stores at Airsides A and F, which will open next year.

Profits made from the food sold will go back to Metropolitan Ministries'

programs to feed homeless people around the Tampa Bay area. But more importantly, the Inside the Box program helps people become employable in the culinary field as they earn their way to externships at local restaurants such as Ulele and Mise en Place and eventually find permanent cook or chef jobs.

"The jobs are great – the job training is even more important," said Metropolitan Ministries CEO Tim Marks. "We want to create jobs and train individuals to find jobs outside of Metropolitan Ministries so they'll be able to work in some of the best restaurants in town."

Tampa International Airport CEO Joe Lopano visited the Metropolitan Ministries teaching kitchen last week and commended the program's students, as well as Stellar Partners for introducing Inside the Box to TPA through the concessions redevelopment program.

"The only reason that Tampa International Airport exists is to bring benefit to the people of our region – whether that be through

the creation of jobs, tourism or commerce," Lopano said. "That's what we do every day."

"I'm very honored to be part of this mission and to do whatever I can to help," he said to the students. "I'm very proud of all of you for what you're doing, for how you are changing your lives."

Stellar Partners CEO Susan Stackhouse said she's been involved in charity work with Metropolitan Ministries for several years and when she heard about the Inside the Box mission, she thought it sounded like a great local program to integrate into her bid for news convenience concessions in the redevelopment program. Stellar Partners was awarded a contract for the stores last June and has been working with Inside the Box to create a profitable program with the right packaging and variety for TPA passengers.

"Tampa is home – it's important to be able to give back to the community that has supported me and my company for all these years," said Susan Stackhouse, CEO of Stellar Partners. "We're excited that we finally have Inside the Box grab-and-gourmet at Tampa International Airport."

"The merchandise is flying off the shelves," said Stackhouse. "This is truly a win-win partnership for everybody in the Tampa Bay community." ■



The grab-and-go selections, including fresh sandwiches and salads, are currently available at Airside C, and will eventually be sold at additional locations at Airsides A and F.

TPA Around Town



Tampa International Airport employees participated in St. Petersburg's annual Pride Parade and Festival on June 23. The team staffed a booth and distributed over 6,000 sets of beads adorned with Airport logo medallions. ■



TPA Employees built a SkyConnect car out of canned goods during the Tourism Gives Back event on June 24. The team-building competition was established to benefit Feeding America Tampa Bay. ■

SHELTAIR OPEN FOR BUSINESS AT TPA



Celebrating the newest FBO are (left to right) Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn; Phil Botana, Sr. VP Sheltair; Jerry Holland, Chairman / CEO Sheltair; Joe Lopano, Tampa Airport CEO; Frank Seymour, Sr. VP Sheltair; and Warren Kroepfel, COO Sheltair.

A new hangar is in the future of an FBO located on the eastern edge of the Tampa International Airport, thanks to new ownership. Sheltair, a Fort Lauderdale-based company, purchased the facility in May, becoming the 17th aviation-related facility in Sheltair's network of FBOs in Florida, Georgia and New York. This particular location has long been considered one of the nation's best FBOs, due in large part to its customer-focused staff. Plans call for that team to remain in place.

"We are genuinely excited about bringing their expertise and reputation into the Sheltair family," said Sheltair's Chairman and CEO, Jerry Holland. "Strategically, this location and operation fits perfectly into our growth model and compliments our network of FBOs."

The facility currently offers:

- Four hangars totaling 108,000-square-feet of hangar space with 19,000-square-feet of office space
- 14,000-square-feet of terminal and FBO space
- 12,000-square-foot canopy for covered aircraft parking
- Over 10 acres of apron and aircraft parking space

Plans call for investing \$5.5 million in executive offices and a new 32,000-square-foot hangar that will feature high-tail doors to accommodate large cabin business aircraft. Construction should begin soon with completion scheduled for late 2017.

"These additional plans for future development is a recognition by Sheltair that an extraordinary staff and a prime location are only part of the formula in successfully anticipating the needs of Tampa's vibrant business aviation market," Holland said. "We have a responsibility to create the custom build-to-suit facilities that many aircraft owners now require." ■

Employee News

AUTO DETAILING OFFER

You can say good-bye to dirt and pollen on your vehicle while you work when you take advantage of the employee pricing discount being offered on auto detailing now through September 30. Employees save 15 percent on all wash and detail packages - and enjoy free parking in Valet Parking on the day of service.

Summer Special! Receive a Free Maintenance Wax with any Interior and Exterior Package. Packages start at just \$19. Call (813) 676-4600 to schedule your appointment today.

USO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

You can help the school children of 900 military families in the Tampa Bay area by donating new school supplies to the USO. Now through July 22, drop off supplies including notebooks, crayons and folders to the USO Center at TPA between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

EMPLOYEE CAFETERIA

The employee cafeteria, now known as the Landside Grill, is open on the first floor of the Airport administration building. The cafeteria is open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily to serve breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Hot meal selections available throughout the day include a build-your-own burger bar that also includes chicken, meatless options and fries. Enjoy healthy options with fresh made-to-order salads. The large salad bar includes a daily variety of greens, cut vegetables and toppings that are sold by weight.

The hot bar includes a daily lunch special with sides and a drink for the fixed price of \$5.99.

After hours, the cafeteria features a healthy selection of grab-and-go items in the self-serve market available 24 hours a day, every day.

E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

If you prefer to receive the electronic version of the Airport newsletter delivered to your business or personal email, go the homepage of the Airport's website, TampaAirport.com and click on "Sign up for Airport News" located in the popular links.

The electronic version is distributed twice monthly and can be read on your computer or any mobile device.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...

ON TWITTER:

@FlyTPA hands down SMOOTHEST airport experience yet Seriyuslee sMarTT @ThaLazy_Jeanius, July 1

@FlyTPA Thank you for showing our @shriners guests such a warm welcome! Shriners Hosp Tampa @SHCTPA, July 1

ON FACEBOOK:

Tampa International Airport your TSA team is the best! People get through lines quickly, they're very professional and efficient. When the rest of the country is having a hard time with the lines somehow this airport manages to get things done right. - Wil Elliott Peña, June 20

VIA EMAIL:

A comment about your personnel in the Valet parking area, on the fifth floor in the short term garage. My wife and I have been coming to the airport for years. So let me first say the improvements are great. Especially being we now own a Chevy Volt electric car. The additional plug-in ports are greatly appreciated. We are both retired and have, in the past, owned a number of businesses. So, in commenting on your employees, we know what we are talking about. You have two individuals, Jordan and Mario, who in our opinion are a sign of good management. Because these gentlemen are extremely polite, great personality, always smiling, considerate, helpful and always groomed well. We are impressed. Thanks to Jordan and Mario. When in a hurry, we depend on them and they always come through. - Mr. & Mrs. Remo Melucci, June 29



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