



State of Utah
Department of Administrative Services
Division of Finance

www.finance.utah.gov

A newsletter for state government travelers and travel planners

A Few Changes

After a longer-than-planned delay, we are happy to bring back the Travel Update newsletter. The newsletter will now be published quarterly, available in July, October, January, and April.

Teddy Cramer, the technical writer for the Division of Finance, retired to a life of leisure last December and after a lengthy search, we have found a great replacement, Marilee Richins. We welcome her to the Department of Finance and know she will do a great job putting together the information from the Travel Office for the Travel Update. Welcome Aboard!

A lot of changes have been made since the last Travel Update was published. Diann Donoviel, the State Travel Administrator, retired last December. We have

not replaced her yet, but Tami Nelson, State Travel Program Coordinator, is still in the travel office to assist you.

Angie Lucus has been promoted to office manager, overseeing the Christopherson agents serving in the State Travel Office. In addition, Christopherson has added some new faces to this team in order to better facilitate the needs of our travelers. These agents are introduced later in the newsletter.

We are pleased that the state has just extended our contract with Christopherson Business Travel for another year. We want to thank these folks for doing such a great job over the years.

Travel Meeting



The Travel office is hosting a travel meeting for all state of Utah travel planners and travelers on July 10th from 10:00 am to noon in the Auditorium of the State Office Building. We be joined by some of the vendors we have contracts with such as Delta Airlines, Budget Car Rental, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, and Christopherson Travel.

Each vendor will have the opportunity to introduce themselves and give the status of their company as well as share with us what they are looking forward to in the future.

Refreshments will be served and you may visit with these representatives and discuss any issues or questions you may have.

Rate Changes



As of July 1, 2006, the following rate changes will go into effect:

- The mileage reimbursement for use of a private vehicle on official state business if a fleet vehicle **is** available will remain at 32 cents per mile. If a fleet vehicle **is not** available the rate will increase from 40.5 cents per mile to 44.5 cents per mile, which is the same rate allowed by the IRS.
- The base rate for hotels in Utah will increase to \$60 per night. The premium cities are not affected by this rate change. In some areas of the state, we are having some difficulties securing the government fare on a consistent basis. If you have a problem getting your hotel to give you the per diem rate, you must go through the State Travel Office to make your reservation. This will alleviate any problems you may have in getting reimbursed for the difference.

Make a *Fastbreak* to Your Budget Rental Car

The state is in the process of extending our current contracted rates with Budget and Enterprise car rental agencies. The contracts will then be valid August, 2006 through July, 2007.

Please remember to sign up for *Fastbreak*—a Budget express service that lets you skip the line and go directly to your car. When you sign up you will receive a RapidRez Number (BCN). Be sure to give your account number to the agent when you book a car. On your first *Fastbreak* rental, you will need to stop at the counter to present the credit card and driver's license you provided on your enrollment form. After that, you won't have to stop again.



You may use this link <http://www.cendantcarrental.com/budget/fastbreak/index.html?T155600> to sign up now, or visit our travel web site at <http://finance.utah.gov/travel/rentalcars.htm> and follow the Budget *Fastbreak* Express Service link at the bottom of the page.

AirPortal™

The state will soon be taking advantage of AirPortal, a new product designed by Christopherson Travel. It is an exclusive travel management portal that allows users to manage all business travel needs from one simple login. AirPortal has many different tools in a centralized location. This powerful technology will allow state travelers to view all of their historical and future itineraries, book travel on-line, maintain accurate travel profile information and quickly access customized contact information. More information will be coming on this soon.



New American West Service



Beginning July 2, 2006, American West Express will offer service to Moab and to Vernal, both originating from Salt Lake City. American West also replaces Skywest with service between Salt Lake City and Cedar City.

Important Websites

 <http://www.finance.utah.gov/travel>

links to all state travel info

 <http://www.travel.state.gov>

up-to-date requirements for international travel

 <http://www.airwise.com>

information about flight arrivals and departures



Your State Travel Office Staff



Tami Nelson is the backbone of the State Travel office. She directs traffic, puts out fires, tells jokes, and keeps both clients and employees happy and smiling. She is the only original member of the staff still with us, here since the office opened 13½ years ago. Tami was raised in Utah and Idaho and currently calls Davis County her home. Though she loves nice evenings relaxing over a little lime tequila chicken from Chili's and chatting with her husband, most of this busy mom's evenings are spent at the ball park, munching hot dogs and yelling at the pitcher! The fact that the pitcher is a machine and her favorite player is four-foot-nothin' doesn't bother her a bit. Her life revolves around her husband and her two sons and that is the way she prefers it. Someday, she'll book her own trip to Italy or Australia, but for now she is content helping state travelers get to their destinations comfortably and efficiently.



Angie Lucus has been working in the State Travel Office for about 5½ years. She has been serving as the Christopherson Travel office manager with the full time responsibility of trying to keep the other agents under control. That is, until recently, when her doctor prescribed full time relaxation on the couch and an overdose of Oprah until her baby son is born in July. Although Angie is anxious and excited and overjoyed about the prospects of motherhood, she misses the daily interactions with her staff and clients. While lounging on the couch, Angie likes to daydream about all the loves she is unable to indulge in, like skiing down Alta's snow covered slopes or camping in the high Uintahs or rolling over without help. Don't worry, Angie. This too shall pass, but that dream vacation to Fiji may have to wait just a little while longer!



Mary Marsden has seen it all in her 11 years in the travel office. An avid traveler herself, she is well equipped to out manipulate even the most tangled travel challenge. She graduated from the University of Utah with degrees in History and English. She loves to garden and she loves to read, but mostly, she loves to get up and go! Although she is quite attached to her beloved cockatiel, Hemingway, she has the blood of a nomad and loves to visit new and exciting places. Hanging on her wall is a picture of the back end of an elephant, a portrait she took herself on an African safari. She has wonderful stories of her exploits exploring the Outback in Australia or backing a trailer down the narrow, winding roads of the Alps. Whatever your travel questions may be, Mary Marsden has seen it, done it, or been there. What could possibly be next for this world trekker? India, of course.



Tiffany Snowball has been with the travel office for 2 ½ years and is just getting started! She is a Utah import, originally from Miami and brings with her 11 years of experience in the travel business having worked with Morris Travel, American Express, and Delta. You don't have to chat with Tiffany long before you are very clear why those who love her most call her "Spitfire!" A self professed flower-weed girl, she loves to do yard work. In fact, since she absolutely has no more planting area left in her own yard but has an abundance of both ideas and perennials, she is starting to turn a wicked eye toward her neighbors' yards. She is headed on a cruise to the Bahamas this summer and then this mother of four will bravely face Orlando with the kids in September.



An international flare and a history of experience are the contributions Martin Ferron brings to this travel team. He joined our staff in April and things have been a bit spicier ever since. Martin came to the US when he was 18 after being born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He speaks Spanish and French as well as perfect English. Although he received his bachelor's degree from the University of Buenos Aires in Spanish Literature, Martin's self professed passions are travel and working out. Not only does he put in his time at the gym, but he loves mountain biking, camping, and anything else that challenges his limits. He loves to travel, visiting Hawaii twice every year and traveling through Europe when time permits. ¡Bienvenidos! Martin.



David Cowley joined the Travel office on June 6th of this year. He is happy to be returning to Utah after working in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for CHG Health Care. The mountains peaks of Utah speak to this Logan born Utahn the way a sandy beach never could. Although he prefers to hang his hat in the hills, David loves to travel, covering the map from Southern Utah to Southern Spain and everywhere in between. He is a man of diverse interests, part John Wayne, part Ludwig van Beethoven. He is an expert horseman and can round up cattle with the best of them as a result of spending the summers of his youth on his grandfather's cattle ranch. But this cowboy is also a classically trained pianist, perfecting his art now for over 22 years. What could possibly be left for David? Maybe a trip to Cambodia or Thailand, he says, or maybe just a nice long hike in the Tetons. Either way, David Cowley adds up to a mountain of good fortune for the Travel office.



Did You Know?

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first class.

Sad Goodbye



Lynette Saccomanno has worked in the State Travel Office for eight years. She has plodded her way through every issue from dealing with cancelled flights to coordinating alternate routes of travel during 9-11. It's going to be hard getting used to that empty spot as she leaves the Travel Office to begin her new responsibilities working for the University of Utah. Yes, someone else will come in and take over her duties, but her quick smile and funny sense of humor will be sorely missed by all her fellow workers and many satisfied state clients.

Good Luck, Lynette! We wish you all the best!

Who's Who in the State Travel Office



Tami Nelson

State Travel Program Coordinator (State Employee)
801-538-3109
taminelson@utah.gov

Martin Ferron

Travel Consultant, Christopherson Travel
538-3743
mferron@utah.gov

Angie Lucus

Office Manager, Christopherson Travel
538-3359
alucus@utah.gov

Tiffany Snowball

Travel Consultant, Christopherson Travel
538-3743
tsnowball@utah.gov

Mary Marsden

Travel Consultant, Christopherson Travel
538-3357
marymarsden@utah.gov

David Cowley

Travel Consultant, Christopherson Travel
538-3743
dcowley@utah.gov



*Emergency Line During Business Hours, 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday
In-State Toll Free During Business Hours, 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday
After Hours Emergency Hotline, Minimum \$8.75 per call*

*801-537-9124
800-358-1019
866-489-9834*