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Tue, Sep 27, 2022 6:00 PM EST

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SPECIAL GROUP PROMOTIONS—BOOK BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2022
AND RECEIVE \$150.00 PER CABIN ON BOARD CREDIT!!!

Cruise to Bermuda and/or the Caribbean and take advantage of our special group promotions from Cape Liberty on these two departures in 2023. **June 16, 2023** (7 nights on the Oasis of the Seas) sailing to Orlando, Nassau and enjoy a thrilling experience while on Perfect Day at CocoCay. Balcony cabin including gratuities \$1,179.00 per person. **May 13, 2023** (5 nights on the Liberty of the Seas) sailing to Bermuda. Outside cabin \$759.00 or Balcony cabin \$869.00 including gratuities

Americans Will Be Able to Renew their Passports Online By Early 2023

As part of a recent promise by the federal government, all Americans will be able to renew their passports on line as soon as next year, according to recent news from the U.S. Department of State. The new online system will save Americans money, time, and effort, making it much more convenient to renew their passports. The program required applicants to meet a specific set of criteria, including that they were at least 25 years old, that their most recent passport was valid for 10 years, and their old passport was issued between 9 and 15 years ago.



If travelers qualified, the system worked by having applicants create a MyTravelGov account and wait for approval before filling out the application, which includes uploading a photo and paying for the renewal online. Travelers could then track their progress through a link while they waited for renewal, which the State Department said typically took as long as renewing normally. The State Department advised that there will be additional opportunities to participate in this pilot in the coming months, so those who want to renew on line should keep an eye out on the passport renewal website in order to participate in pilot program.

When it comes to the complete program's roll-out, the State Department anticipates a full public launch of the online passport renewal option early next year.

New Princess Diana exhibit will put dresses, other artifacts on display in Las Vegas

The life and times of Princess Diana will be explored in a new, long-term exhibit in the Shops at Crystals on the Las Vegas Strip beginning next month.

Displays of designer fashions, personal effects and historical items will be featured in "Princess Diana: A Tribute Exhibition." The 10,000-square-foot-space will have 12 themed rooms progressing from a representation of the ancestral estate of Diana's family through her introduction to royal life.

A room themed Wedding of the Century will spotlight a sculpture that re-creates Diana's gown. Produced by world-renowned Belgian artist Isabelle de Borchgrave, the gown was exclusively commissioned for this exhibition.

Another room, Fashion Icon, will contain a collection of Diana's fashions, including creations from Catherine Walker and Gianni Versace. Eight evening dresses worn by Diana at world events and on royal tours will be displayed.

Gone Too Soon: A Memorial will transport visitors to the week of Diana's sudden death and funeral, including a floral installation and palace gates reproduced to their actual size.

When should you travel for upcoming days and holidays?

Tuesdays and Wednesdays

If you have the flexibility to fly during the week, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are generally the best days to take to the skies as demand is often lower. Flying out earlier in the day or opting for a redeye could also net you some additional savings and elbow room on your trip. Flying into and out of a carrier's hub airports is another way to ensure a smooth and affordable travel experience.

Weekends

Flying on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday doesn't guarantee complications, but these weekend days tend to be more in demand among travelers and thus busier in terms of the airport and airplane cabins. Avoiding weekend travel isn't always an option for many 9 to 5ers so perhaps look for an early morning flight out on Saturday when many have already reached their destination.

Thanksgiving Eve and the Sunday After

Flying out on the day before Thanksgiving—Wednesday, November 23—will likely produce plenty of headaches as most travelers are looking to get to their destination at the last minute without having to travel on the holiday itself. The Sunday after Thanksgiving—November 27—will also be quite hectic as travelers look to return home before getting back to work on Monday morning.

Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday

Thanksgiving travelers will likely have better luck avoiding the crowds and disruptions if they can depart earlier in the week or even delay their travel until Thanksgiving Day—Thursday, November 24—when demand will be at its lowest. Flying home on Black Friday—November 25—isn't a bad idea either as airport congestion is likely to increase later in the weekend. If a shorter trip isn't an option, waiting until Monday, November 28 or even Tuesday, November 29 could make for a more pleasant experience.

Early December

The period after Thanksgiving and before December holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa is typically another sweet spot for pain-less air travel. As business travel continues to rebound, these initial weeks of December can be ideal for a getaway to a warm-weather destination that doesn't blow up your budget.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Christmas is a day best spent surrounded by family and friends and oftentimes that requires traveling many miles. The holiday—December 25—falls on a Sunday this year but will be an ideal time to fly for savings and minimal crowds. The same goes for Christmas Eve on Saturday, December 24 when many travelers will already aim to be settled in their holiday destinations. If those days aren't an option, consider arriving a few days in advance to avoid inescapable headaches on Thursday, December 22 and Friday, December 23. As for your return trip, it isn't recommended to fly Monday, December 26 or Tuesday, December 27. Rather, wait out the rush if possible and return later in the week.

Airport Satisfaction Down Due to Fewer Flights, Crowded Terminals: J.D. Power



According to the J.D. Power “2022 North America Airport Satisfaction Study,” released on Wednesday, overall satisfaction is down 25 points (on a 1,000-point scale) this year as travelers encounter fewer flights, more crowded terminals and sparse food and beverage offerings.

“The combination of pent-up demand for air travel, the nationwide labor shortage and steadily rising prices on everything from jet fuel to a bottle of water have created a scenario in which airports are extremely crowded and passengers are increasingly frustrated—and it is likely to continue through 2023,” said Michael Taylor, travel intelligence lead at J.D. Power.

Nearly one-fourth (24 percent) of travelers say they did not make any food or beverage purchases at the airport because they were too expensive. That’s up from 20 percent in 2021 and 23 percent in 2019. Similarly, traveler satisfaction with the reasonableness of food and beverage pricing declines this year.

Some big declines in traveler satisfaction this year are found in the parking lot, where a shortage of space has caused satisfaction with surface parking lots to decline 45 points from 2021. In addition, 14 percent of travelers say parking was more expensive than they expected, up from 12 percent in 2021 and 11 percent in 2019.

Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport ranks highest in passenger satisfaction among “mega” airports with a score of 800. San Francisco International Airport (796) ranks second, while Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (791) and John F. Kennedy International Airport (791) each rank third in a tie. By far the lowest on the list is Newark Liberty International Airport with a score of 719 (the next lowest is Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport at 751).

Tampa International Airport ranks highest among “large” airports with a score of 846. John Wayne Airport in Orange County, CA (826) ranks second and Dallas Love Field (825) ranks third. Coming in last is Philadelphia International Airport with a score of 729 (Honolulu International Airport fared one spot better at 758).

Maple-Oatmeal Scones

For the Scones:

- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole-wheat flour
- 1 cup quick-cooking oats, plus additional for sprinkling
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 pound cold unsalted butter, diced
- 1/2 cup cold buttermilk
- 1/2 cup pure maple syrup
- 4 extra-large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 egg beaten with 1 tablespoon milk or water, for egg wash

For the Glaze:

- 1 1/4 cups confectioners’ sugar
- 1/2 cup pure maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

- 1** Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, combine the flours, oats, baking powder, sugar and salt. Blend the cold butter in at the lowest speed and mix until the butter is in pea-size pieces. Combine the buttermilk, maple syrup and eggs and add quickly to the flour-and-butter mixture. Mix until just blended. The dough may be sticky.

- 2** Dump the dough out onto a well-floured surface and be sure it is combined. Flour your hands and a rolling pin and roll the dough 3/4 to 1 inch thick. You should see lumps of butter in the dough. Cut into 3-inch rounds with a plain or fluted cutter and place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.



- 3** Brush the tops with egg wash. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until the tops are crisp and the insides are done.

- 4** To make the glaze, combine the confectioners’ sugar, maple syrup and vanilla. When the scones are done, cool for 5 minutes and drizzle each scone with 1 tablespoon of the glaze. I like to sprinkle some uncooked oats on the top, for garnish. The warmer the scones are when you glaze them, the thinner the glaze will be.



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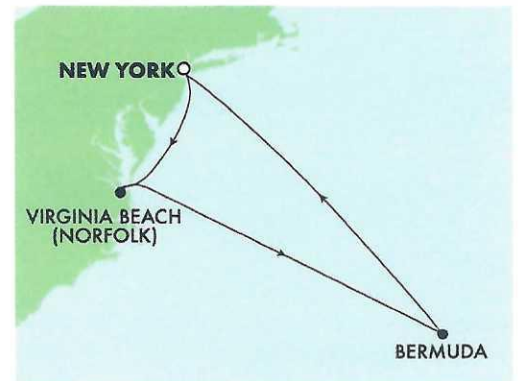
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Balcony cabin from \$1,199* pp (based on 5/21/2023 sailing)

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February – March 2024

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Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
Mazatlán, Mexico
Ensenada, Mexico
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