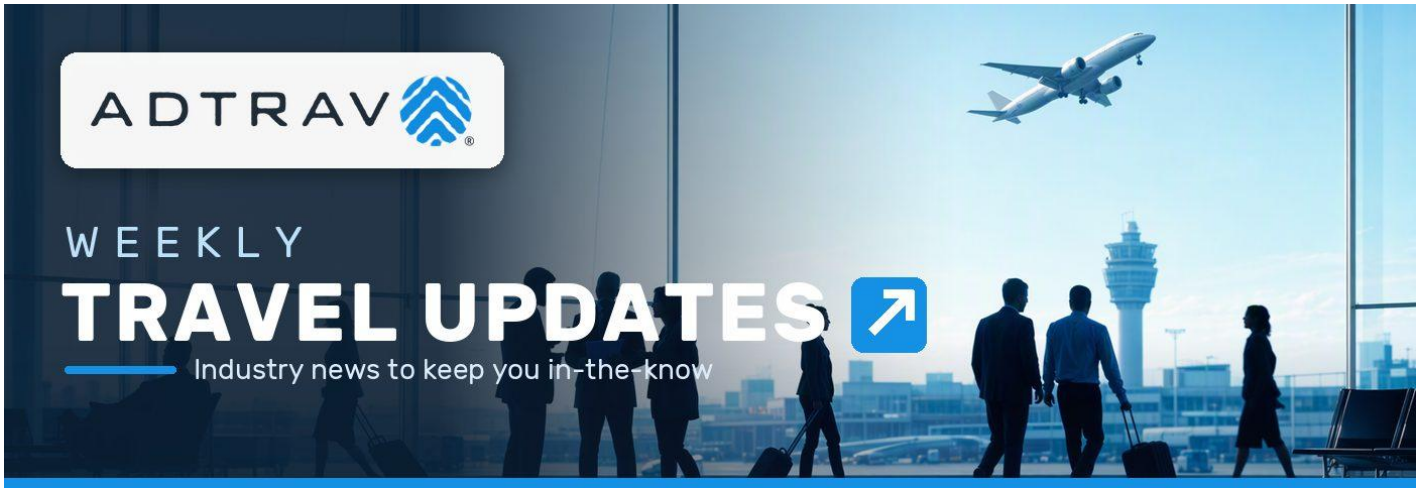

October 28, 2026 - Travel Updates

11 STORIES THIS WEEK

Please find below your weekly bulletin of industry updates to keep you in-the-know.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

1 Delta Elite Status Requirements Not Changing in 2027

2 Where Imagination Takes Flight: Delta Customers, Collaborators Explore the Future of Flight

3 Forbes Travel Guide Reveals the World's Best Airlines and Airports of 2026

4 Sabre Extends its Distribution Agreement with United Airlines

5 United Opens New Concourse, Largest Lounge in Houston's Bush Airport

6 Southwest will Open 11 Airport Lounges Starting in 2027: Here's What We Know

7 Western Sydney International Airport is now Open, but Sydney is Still Planning a $3 Billion Terminal Overhaul

8 Lufthansa Renames Green Fares as EU Tightens Greenwashing Rules

9 Western Sydney Int'l Airport Opens to Passengers

10 IHG Set to Open Seventh Hotel Indigo in London

11 American Airlines Cancels 11 Long-Haul Routes from this Major Hub in 10 Years

THE DETAILS

01

LOYALTY PROGRAM

Delta Elite Status Requirements Not Changing in 2027

Delta's elite status qualification requirements will remain unchanged for 2027, offering SkyMiles members continuity as they plan future travel.

↗ Delta Elite Status Requirements Not Changing in 2027 ›

02

AVIATION INNOVATION

Where Imagination Takes Flight: Delta Customers, Collaborators Explore the Future of Flight

Delta has highlighted concepts and collaboration exploring the future passenger experience. These ideas are exploratory rather than confirmed changes to service.

↗ Where Imagination Takes Flight: Delta Customers, Collaborators Explore the Future of Flight ›

03 AIRLINE RANKINGS

Forbes Travel Guide Reveals the World’s Best Airlines and Airports of 2026

Forbes Travel Guide has released its 2026 airline and airport recognitions, providing another perspective on premium passenger experience and service.

↗ Forbes Travel Guide Reveals the World’s Best Airlines and Airports of 2026 ›

04 DISTRIBUTION

Sabre Extends its Distribution Agreement with United Airlines

Sabre and United Airlines have extended their distribution agreement, supporting continued access to United content through Sabre for travel agencies and managed travel programs.

↗ United Opens New Concourse, Largest Lounge in Houston's Bush Airport ›↗ Sabre Extends its Distribution Agreement with United Airlines ›

05 AIRPORTS

United Opens New Concourse, Largest Lounge in Houston's Bush Airport

United has opened a new concourse and its largest lounge at Houston’s George Bush Intercontinental Airport, expanding facilities for connecting travelers.

↗ United Opens New Concourse, Largest Lounge in Houston's Bush Airport ›

06 AIRPORT LOUNGES

Southwest will Open 11 Airport Lounges Starting in 2027: Here's What We Know

Southwest is planning 11 airport lounges beginning in 2027, a significant shift in its premium traveler offering. Details and access rules should be monitored.

↗ Southwest will Open 11 Airport Lounges Starting in 2027: Here's What We Know ›

07 AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

Western Sydney International Airport is now Open, but Sydney is Still Planning a $3 Billion Terminal Overhaul

Western Sydney International Airport has opened while separate plans for a major terminal overhaul in Sydney continue, signaling investment in regional airport capacity.

↗ Western Sydney International Airport is now Open, but Sydney is Still Planning a $3 Billion Terminal Overhaul ›

08 SUSTAINABILITY

Lufthansa Renames Green Fares as EU Tightens Greenwashing Rules

Lufthansa is renaming its Green Fares product amid tighter European scrutiny of environmental marketing claims. Travel programs should watch how fare descriptions evolve.

↗ Lufthansa Renames Green Fares as EU Tightens Greenwashing Rules ›

09 AIRPORTS

Western Sydney Int'l Airport Opens to Passengers

Western Sydney International Airport has opened to passengers, introducing another airport option in the Sydney region as airline services develop.

↗ Western Sydney Int'l Airport Opens to Passengers ›

10 HOTELS

IHG Set to Open Seventh Hotel Indigo in London

IHG plans a seventh Hotel Indigo property in London, adding to its boutique hotel presence in the city.

↗ IHG Set to Open Seventh Hotel Indigo in London ›

11 ROUTE NETWORK

American Airlines Cancels 11 Long-Haul Routes from this Major Hub in 10 Years

A retrospective examines 11 long-haul routes American Airlines has discontinued from a major hub over the past decade, illustrating changes in its international network.

↗ American Airlines Cancels 11 Long-Haul Routes from this Major Hub in 10 Years ›

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