

Travelers Advised to Budget Wisely as Space “A” Rates Increase

Passengers flying on a space-available (Space “A”) basis can expect to pay a little more next time they travel. The International Air Transportation Tax, or “head tax,” and the Federal Inspection Fee (FIS) for Space “A” passengers increased this year.

The head tax is charged to passengers traveling on patriot express missions, special assigned air missions (SAAM), commercial contract missions and Space “A” passengers who arrive and depart the customs territories of the U.S. (CTUS) to and from overseas locations on these missions. The head tax was increased from \$12.08 to \$13.70.

FIS applies to Space “A” passengers who arrive in CONUS from overseas locations on Patriot Express missions, and SAAM commercial contract missions are also affected. This fee increased from \$11 to \$12. The increase was mandated by federal law to offset the cost of providing customs and immigration services at U.S. ports of entry.

Space-available is a great way to stretch the travel budget, but travelers must plan carefully and always have an alternate means of traveling. After all, that’s why it is called space-available.”



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