

Benefits and Services ASTA Premium Membership





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Member Alerts with Global Impact

ASTA Member **ALERT**



The following alert is for ASTA members only. Please do not forward this e-mail. The information have been fully confirmed and verified as factual. For further assistance, please contact [ASTA's Communications Department](#).



Twelve Days of Christmas Strike: British Airways Style

Unite, the union that represents British Airways' (BA) cabin crew, has voted to call a strike for a period of twelve days between Dec. 22, 2009 and Jan. 2, 2010. If not resolved, this action will likely disrupt BA's flights schedule during the busy holiday travel season. BA's CEO, Willie Walsh, has indicated that he is "urging Unite to return to the negotiating table." Yet at the same time, BA has indicated that it is reworking its flight schedules for the strike period. BA's new schedules will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

BA has advised travel agents that "customers who are booked to travel between 22 December 2009 and 2 January 2010 and for 48 hours on either side of those dates who would like to take their flight at a different time can change to another BA flight departing in the next twelve months at no charge." BA has also indicated that if a customer's flight is eventually cancelled because of the strike, the airline will also offer the option of a refund. See [BA's Web site](#).

Breaking News
directly to your
desk

Helpful links provide you with information





Member Alerts with Global Impact

•US and American Airways Raise Baggage Fees

Effective for tickets issued on or after Jan. 18, 2010 for travel on or after Feb. 1, 2010, US Airways has matched Continental, Delta and United and raised its online baggage check-in fees by \$3 to \$23 for the first bag and by \$2 to \$32 for the second bag.

•Updated List of Airlines Banned From European Union

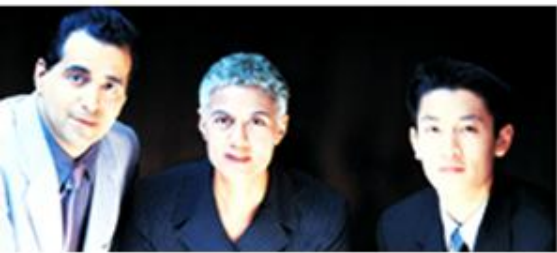
The European Commission has released an update of its so-called blacklist of airlines that are banned from flying into the European Union due to safety concerns.

•Notice: China Has Made Changes to its Visa Application Process

Effective May 4, 2009, the processing time for visas to The People's Republic of China has been changed to six business days, while the express and rush service for visa applications has been suspended.

•Travelers Must Declare €10,000 or More

ASTA wishes to remind members about the existing cash control rules applicable in the EU, which require travelers entering or leaving the EU to declare cash amounts of more than € 10,000 otherwise that money could be confiscated.



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- **ASTA Travel Agency Business Trends Report**

- Agency Operations: current and future trends
- Benchmark revenue and transactions
- Compare options other agencies are considering

- **Industry Alerts – Inside Information**

- **Sample Agreements**

- Independent Contractor



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CAC Meeting

ASTA Premium Business Summit



The Premium Business Summit is an exclusive event for ASTA Premium Company Representatives to meet and discuss critical issues that are affecting their business and the industry as a whole.

"The opportunity to participate in a business summit of this caliber is a phenomenal chance for today's business leaders to get to the heart of the issues that will dramatically impact the travel industry in the coming years," Bill Maloney, CEO, ASTA

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