

**Wednesday, July 01, 2009**

## **Away with change of booking fee - Comair**

---

BA COMAIR will be withdrawing its current change of booking fee on all domestic and regional fares effective immediately until further notice.

The possible use of the DU tax box has been ruled out as an option and could be viewed as illegal. "We are working closely with the GDSs to roll out a solution as soon as possible," says Stuart Cochrane, Comair's Executive Manager: Sales & Route Development.

**Wednesday, July 01, 2009**

## **Letter to the editor: Airlines respond to rising oil prices**

---

Interesting just how quickly airlines have responded to the increase in the price of crude oil recently.

More interesting is when challenged about the sharp decrease in crude oil prices from August to November last year when crude oil prices declined from a high of \$150 per barrel to around \$40 per barrel, airlines argued that they had forward contracts for oil in place and it would take time to adjust to the new low prices.

But airlines never did reduce their fuel surcharge in sympathy to the low price of crude oil.

How do they explain their sudden increase in fuel surcharge? What about their forward oil contract purchased around the \$40 mark? Or are we missing something here?

Do airlines only place forward purchases when oil is at its peak and never buy at low prices?

My economics professor always taught that you buy low and sell high! Obviously airline managers went to a different school.

**Wednesday, July 01, 2009**

## **Olympic increases baggage allowance**

---

OLYMPIC Airlines has increased its free baggage allowance on all flights originating from South Africa as follows:

Economy class has increased from 20kg to 30kg  
Business class has increased from 30kg to 40kg

Infants not entitled to a seat will only be allowed one checked bag of 10kg

maximum, plus one checked or carry-on fully collapsible stroller/pushchair, or infant's basket or infant's car seat, which may be carried in the passenger cabin subject to space availability.

Carry-on baggage should not exceed 115cm (25 x 45 x 56cm) and should not weigh more than 8kg. These dimensions include wheels, handles and pockets.

**Wednesday, July 01, 2009**

**KQ updates min/max stay requirements.**

---

WITH immediate effect, there will be no minimum/maximum stay requirement for Kenya Airways flights between Johannesburg and Nairobi. The new ruling is applicable to all fares except ITX.

**Wednesday, July 01, 2009**

**Last minute 'hot' deals from Insight Vacations**

---

INSIGHT Vacations has introduced a new savings promotion – Insight's Hot Deals programme.

On the first and the 15th of every month, Insight Vacations will release a list of departures that are not only guaranteed but are also priced at least 10% lower than the brochure rate.

The Hot Deals programme details:

1. Booking any of the departures listed on the Hot Deals flyer posted on [www.insightvacations.com](http://www.insightvacations.com) will allow clients savings of a minimum of 10% off the brochure land rate.
2. Money must be deposited within seven days of booking.
3. Bookings that are made 45 days within departure must pay in full at the time of booking.
4. Offer applies to new bookings only.
5. Every other week beginning July 1 a new list of departures will be posted on [www.insightvacations.com](http://www.insightvacations.com)

"I am very pleased to present agents with a new selling opportunity. The selected departures are 100% guaranteed to depart based on the current number of guests booked. By offering 30% off and guaranteeing the tour's departure we assist the travel agent in closing the sale while allowing the consumer to have peace of mind," said Sharon Marx, General Manager of Insight Vacations

**Wednesday, July 01, 2009**

## **Eastern Cape Tourism rebrands**

---

The Eastern Cape Tourism Board is to launch its new marketing brand on June 30. And although the organisation is keeping mum on its plans, the new brand has been a long time coming, according to some.

In a stakeholder workshop facilitated by Thabo Matiwane, chairperson of the sub-committee of marketing, destination and information services, in August last year it was noted that the Eastern Cape should have its own “defining brand to leverage on its competitive advantage”.

“The purpose of the branding and marketing framework is to provide direction for the future marketing of tourism in the Eastern Cape, as well as to establish and promote an instantly recognisable brand that appeals to the identified target markets.”

At the workshop it was, however, announced that the new brand was to be completed in January of this year and launched in April, but marketing manager Eddie Marafane, declined to comment on why the brand had yet to be launched.

The reason in part could lie in the fact that the provincial government intended to develop its own brand before that of the tourism board could be launched.

A “preview” of the new brand was hosted at the Coastal and Marine Tourism Congress last week in Port Elizabeth where CEO, Zola Tshefu, said the province’s aggressive marketing campaign would be enhanced by the launch of the new brand. She stated that the new brand would be a “single positioning statement for tourism in the province”.

**Wednesday, July 01, 2009**

## **TK launches Goteborg flights**

---

TURKISH Airlines launched its flights to Goteborg, Sweden, on June 29. The service will operate three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, departing Istanbul at 10h10, arriving in Goteborg at 12h30. The return service will depart on the same days, departing Goteborg 13h30, arriving in Istanbul at 17h45.