

CONNEXXUS TRAVEL

Top news for University travel.

Winter 2017



IN THIS ISSUE

News from the Central Travel Office 1

Airlines introduce Basic Economy Fares, Profile, Webinars & Raffle Winners

Rail Partner 3

Renewed agreement with Amtrak

Travel Agency News 4

Southwest Direct Connect & FindIt Process

Airline Partners 5

New agreement with Turkish Airlines and Alaska Airlines

Hotel Partners 6

Marriott and Starwood are linked

Car Rental Partners 7

Enterprise Commercial Truck Program

NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL TRAVEL OFFICE

Our collaboration at the campus level has given us the opportunity to reach more users who can leverage UC-negotiated deals and benefits NOT found when booking travel outside Connexus.

In this newsletter you will find important information on airline carriers introducing basic economy fares. These fares offer lowest available pricing but come with certain restrictions. Be sure to visit each airline's site for detailed information on basic economy tickets.

We are excited to announce a new partnership with Turkish Airlines and Alaska Airlines. We would also like to take this time to announce a renewed agreement with Amtrak (booking link coming soon)!

As a result of your feedback, BCD Travel and Balboa Travel (for UCSD) have integrated a solution into their online booking tools that will show all Southwest fares, allow passing of Rapid Rewards numbers and better tracking of ticket credits. More details can be found under *Agency News*.

We hope that we can develop our partnership in this positive manner and will make ourselves available to you whenever needed. We look forward to working together with you in the New Year.

Safe travels!

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

Central Travel
Management

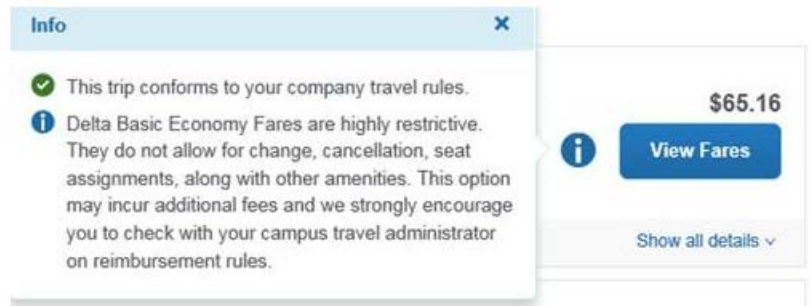
AIRLINES INTRODUCE BASIC ECONOMY FARES

Last year, [Delta Airlines](#) introduced a basic economy “no frills” airfare where travelers get the lowest price, but do not get certain perks such as picking a seat or the flexibility to change/cancel their flight. In 2017, both [United Airlines](#) and [American Airlines](#) will introduce their versions of a basic economy airfare, which are meant to compete directly with discount airlines such as Frontier, Spirit Air and Allegiant.

What do these fares mean to UC travelers?

At its core, these fares are meant to provide pricing options for travelers on a tight budget. However, with no option to pick a seat (even for a fee); travelers will also have to accept assigned seating in what are sometimes the worst seats on a plane. United’s version of these fares will also limit access to overhead bins for carry-on luggage. Travelers will board last and anyone with a bag too big to fit under the seat will be charged \$25 to check the bag. Campus rules on whether or not to reimburse these types fees vary.

The online booking tool (Concur) offered by BCD and Balboa Travel have a way of calling out such fares to help guide you if one is selected:



While UC has negotiated rates with Delta, United and American, travelers are still subject to all airline rules and regulations. We will hold a 30-minute webinar to go over these fares Thursday, February 9th 1130AM and we encourage you to [register today](#).

CONNEXXUS WEBINARS

The Central Travel Office continues its efforts to educate and inform UC travelers on the benefits of booking within the systemwide program and [scheduled webinars are updated regularly](#). Additionally, we post full recordings and FAQs of previously run webinars in the Video and Document Library of the Connexus portal and we encourage you to explore them.

Following are some upcoming webinars, click on the title to register for the sessions of your choice:

[Southwest Booking Options](#) – February 2nd at 1130AM

Our webinar on Southwest Booking Options will appeal to all who travel Southwest as we are about to release new programming that will allow travelers to book ALL Southwest fares (including the ability to book mixed fares on one ticket) online with BCD Travel and Balboa Travel.

[Basic Economy Tickets](#) – February 9th at 1130AM

How do you make sure that the airfare you choose is right for you, your traveler, and your budget? Recognize types of economy fares and explore other special fares exclusive to UC.

[Fly America v. Open Skies](#) – February 16th at Noon

Using a Federal grant for travel? Trying to understand the many nuances of funding lingo? Our special guest, Jeff Pennington from UC Berkeley’s Slavic Department will provide a basic breakdown on this complicated topic.

[Per Diem Rates](#) – March 2nd, at 1130AM

Confused as to what the reimbursement rate is for hotels or international travel? Join our special guest, John Barrett, who will explain the concept behind the policy.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on these, please email us uctravel@ucop.edu.

▲TOP

ANNUAL SURVEY FOR UC'S TRAVEL PROGRAM AND CONNEXXUS

It's that time of year again and we would like your help in assessing the systemwide travel program and the preferred agencies.

In appreciation of your time, we will hold a raffle and the Grand Prize will be TWO (2) Delta Airline economy tickets for travel anywhere in the United States and FIFTEEN (15) Southwest Airlines "A Status" upgrades. Please complete the survey by **February 17th, 2017** to be eligible for this raffle. Only UC faculty, staff and students with a valid campus email are eligible to enter the raffle. Full Terms & Conditions can be found within the survey link.

SURVEY

TRAVEL OPEN HOUSE RAFFLE WINNERS

The fall 2016 [Travel Open House](#) events across UC were very successful and below are the raffle winners:

GRAND PRIZE WINNER for ONE United Airlines Ticket Voucher: Debbie Fields, UCSF Fresno

Winners of the Southwest Airlines "A Status" Upgrade:

Militza Seehaver, UC Riverside	Rosa Gomez, UC Davis
Nancy Mar, UC Riverside	Maida Miranda, UC Merced
Sabrina Ector, UC Riverside	Megan Fordon, UC Merced
Shawn Hutchens, UC Irvine	Shana Slebioda, UC San Diego
Carmen Bastos, UC Irvine	Marisela Salas, UC San Diego
Kelli Ham, UCLA	Bertha Pernicano, UC San Diego
Michael Allan, UCLA	Amy Donnelly, UC Santa Barbara
Jay Shinseki, UC Santa Cruz	Kate De Blanc, UC Santa Barbara
Doug Parker, UC Office of the President	Jocelyn Mattox, UC Office of the President
Michele Swide, UC Berkeley	Erin Proudfoot, UC Berkeley

NEWS FROM OUR RAIL PARTNER



RENEWED AGREEMENT

The Central Travel Office is excited to announce partnering once again with Amtrak to offer a 15% discount on California Amtrak routes!

Whether you're traveling on business or pleasure, take the train and leave the traffic behind. Relax and enjoy the views or move about freely and visit the Café car for tasty sandwiches, snacks and beverages. With complimentary Wi-Fi, you can connect with family, friends and the office from the train.

The three California Amtrak routes valid for the 15% rail fare discount are:

- **Pacific Surfliner:** San Diego – Orange County – Los Angeles – San Luis Obispo
- **San Joaquins:** Los Angeles – Bakersfield – Fresno – Sacramento – Oakland/San Francisco
Note: A convenient motor coach connection between LA and Bakersfield and rail service to Oakland.
- **Capitol Corridor:** San Jose – Oakland – Berkeley – Sacramento – Auburn

Coming soon – visit the [Connexus portal](#) to book reservations using UC's link!

NEWS FROM PREFERRED TRAVEL AGENCIES



ALL SOUTHWEST FARES NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH BCD AND BALBOA TRAVEL

Effective February 1st **ALL** Southwest Airline fares will be available through BCD Travel and Balboa Travel with the added convenience of billing your airfare directly to your campus funds!

Whether you are booking your trip through a BCD/Balboa travel agent or the online booking tool found in Connexus, all fares including the lowest Southwest "Wanna Get Away" and even international fares will now be available to you.

Additional Benefits of this new option:

- ✓ BCD/Balboa will connect directly to Southwest for real time fare and flight availability;
- ✓ Easily book trips to multiple destinations, or fly into one city and out of another;
- ✓ Allows for mixed class fares (depart on "Wanna Get Away", return on "Anytime" fare);
- ✓ Rapid Reward and TSA Pre-Check/Known Traveler numbers will now be sent automatically to Southwest

Please note: this option is available to UC as a result of 3rd party programming, called Direct Connect, who will charge a \$4 per ticket fee (regardless of direct bill payment or any another form of payment). The agency assist transaction fee will remain the same.

We will hold a 30-minute webinar to showcase this new option on Thursday, February 2nd at 1130AM and we encourage you to [register today](#).

- ▶ Review [full benefits](#) of this new option

NO ACCESS TO CONNEXXUS? TRY THIS

The [Connexus portal](#) is accessible only to employees, but the Central Travel Office has a great alternative for students, contractors, emeritus faculty or even alumni!



Short's Travel and their online tool, [FindIt®](#), allows you to search for flights and/or hotels at websites of your choice. Once you have selected your flight or hotel, [FindIt®](#) will apply any available UC rates, provide automatic registration for traveler insurance via UC Risk Services and confirm your travel purchase through Short's Travel (one of UC's preferred Connexus agencies). This option is available for credit card use only (no campus paid airfare).

The 4-step process uses the traveler UC email address to initiate the process, verify UC identity, and access UC-negotiated rates via email inside of 15 minutes.

For [FindIt®](#) to work you will need to first download an extension to your browser. This is a one-time step and we strongly recommend Google Chrome.

The full job aid on how to "Install for Chrome" and use [FindIt®](#) can be found [here](#).

CONTRACTORS OR STUDENTS LOOKING FOR UNITED AIRFARE DEALS TO CONFERNECES?

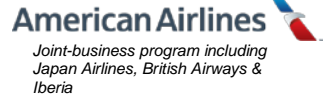
The Central Travel Office has negotiated up to 10% discount with United Airlines for travel between January 5 and April 10, 2017 and specific to:

- Orlando, FL;
- Chicago, IL;
- Washington, DC

Full details on these fares can be found [here](#).

▲TOP

NEWS FROM AIRLINE PARTNERS



NEW AND RENEWED AGREEMENTS

We have current or recently renewed agreements with all the major airlines and even some new ones. We are pleased to have partnered with **Turkish Air** which offers flights to over 100 countries!

We are also excited to share that the Virgin America agreement now offers discounts on [Alaska Airlines](#).

ALASKA AIRLINES / VIRGIN AMERICA ROUTE MAP



Discounts for all partnered airlines are automatically loaded and accessible within the preferred agency booking tools.

MORE AIRLINE NEWS

Partner airlines **American** and **United** offer nonstop service from SFO/LAX to Haneda; **Delta** offers nonstop LAX to Haneda: [New Routes to Haneda Airport Mean Easier Travel to Tokyo](#)

British Airways

Beginning March 2017, will begin non-stop service from Oakland to London Gatwick

Southwest

Free Same Day Standby – An exciting new benefit for A-List and A-List Preferred Members

United

As a benefit to UC employees, United offers the opportunity to match the frequent-flyer status of from another airline to the equivalent of United’s MileagePlus frequent flyer program. Visit the *Air* section of the [portal](#) for step-by-step instructions to submit the information online.

Airline partner rates & benefits apply to tickets booked with a **Connexus** preferred travel management provider (agent or online). ▲TOP

NEWS FROM HOTEL PARTNERS



MARRIOTT & STARWOOD ARE LINKED

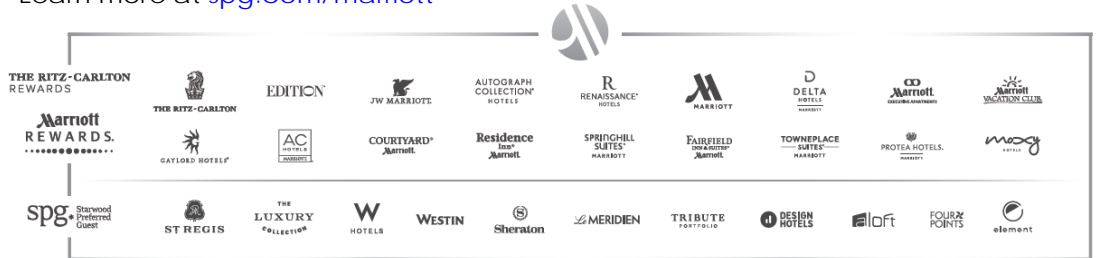
Marriott Hotels has [officially expanded](#) to include Starwood Properties, including Sheraton, Westin, Renaissance, and others, to create the world’s largest hotel company. Marriott now has over 5,700 properties in more than 110 countries.

Members can take advantage of linking their SPG® and Marriott Rewards accounts or join to receive:

- Elite Status Match and benefits with Marriott Rewards for Marriott stays
- Points Transfer to discover new redemption options and destinations

Link accounts at spg.com/linkmarriott

Learn more at spg.com/marriott



CLUB QUARTERS HOTELS AVAILABLE TO UC TRAVELERS

Club Quarters are full service hotels designed for business travelers offering low fixed rates even when the city may appear to be “sold out. The Central Travel Office has negotiated a UC flat rate in 16 city locations. A full fare matrix by room rates, type, and seasonality is available in the [portal](#).

In addition to the UC-negotiated low flat rates for both long and short stays, the following benefits will be offered to UC travelers:

- No Blackout dates
- Last room availability on all four (4) room types
- Free grab’n go snacks during the week
- Lower [rates to UC travelers on most weekend and holidays](#) at all locations

Club Quarters offers a number of unique, value added amenities, including:

- Restricted entry for greater security
- iPads on loan for registered guest
- Complimentary exercise equipment and yoga kits delivered to guest room upon request
- Complimentary air purifiers and ambient sound machines delivered upon request
- Self-serve laundry facilities (most locations)
- Room service and 24-hour multi-menu delivery service
- “Guest Request Closet” containing most extra amenities a business traveler may require
- “Sleep Better Kit” with eye mask, ear plugs, and aromatherapy available upon request

UC rates with Club Quarters are offered exclusively through the Connexus preferred travel agencies: BCD Travel, Balboa Travel and UCLA Travel (agent or online).

Include a hotel when making air reservations or book the hotel separately using the Connexus agency *Book Now link and selecting the hotel tab.*

Rates are automatically loaded with Connexus agency booking tools.

NEWS FROM CAR RENTAL PARTNERS

**ENTERPRISE COMMERCIAL TRUCK PROGRAM**

Did you know? The University's systemwide agreement with Enterprise includes the Enterprise Commercial Truck Program for rentals of specialized vehicles such as:

- Light and Medium Duty Trucks
- Cargo Vans, Box Trucks Flatbeds
- Heavy Duty Pickup Trucks with Towing

For more information on this program and how to book, visit the [Car section](#) of the portal.

**DOLLAR RENT A CAR AND THRIFTY CAR RENTAL AVAILABLE ON CONNEXUS**

Dollar and Thrifty are part of the Hertz Corporation and available to UC travelers to offset travel costs with lower competitive rates and expedited services. Highlights of the programs are listed below.



- Rates Include Insurance Coverage
- Guaranteed Set Rates
- No Underage or Additional Driver Fees
- No One-Day Mid-Week Surcharges
- Only One Rate Surcharge Area (New York)
- 100% Location Participation
- Free Dollar Express Rental Program

Note: Reservations with these preferred car companies available only through a Connexus agency and SWABIZ.



If you are not already a member of the Dollar and Thrifty Express programs, you can find the membership links in the [Car section](#) of the portal. Each campus has their own customized membership link that includes your campus information and Corporate Discount Numbers.

**CAR RENTAL MOBILE APPS**

- ▶ New Enterprise Rent-A-Car app now available in the iOS and Android app stores lets you manage reservations on the go, get directions to a car rental branch, reach road side assistance 24/7 and even sign in to your Enterprise Plus® account. Emerald Club is also accepted through the Enterprise app.
- ▶ Download the [National Car Rental® app](#) and tap into the power of speed and control — all at your fingertips. New Virtual Aisle locations offer Emerald Club members more opportunities to use your smartphone to choose an available car in your destination city.
- ▶ Download the [Hertz mobile app](#) to reserve a car, change your reservation, or login and update your profile. The app features an Intuitive design and interface for ease-of-use.



Central Travel
Management

Connect with us:



[Subscribe](#) to Connexus Travel

Published by the Central Travel Office | University of California, Office of the President
Portal: www.travel.ucop.edu | Email: uctravel@ucop.edu

▲TOP