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For Immediate Release • March 16, 2016 • No. 17 Kama Simonds • 503.415.6151 • <u>kama.simonds@portofportland.com</u>

It will be a busy spring at PDX. No, really, spring break travel numbers like we've not previously seen—ever. What should you do? Plan ahead and arrive early.

PDX expects record spring break travel—again!

Portland International Airport is gearing up for the busy travel season ahead. Roughly 645,000 travelers are expected during the Oregon spring break period, spanning March 16 through March 29. On the busiest forecasted days – March 17, 18, 20, and 21 – roughly 49,000 travelers will pass through PDX each day, compared to the normal daily average of 45,000 during this time of year. The airport will experience a second round of heavy travel when Washington schools break from April 4 to 8.

PDX set an all-time passenger record—16.85 million travelers—in 2015. While it's still early in the year, the airport is on track to surpass that record for 2016.

Plan ahead

Travelers planning to park at the airport are encouraged to review real-time parking availability gauges before arriving, found at <u>www.pdx.com</u>. Also, watch digital signs for parking updates when approaching the airport. If the long-term garage fills, parking staff will direct motorists to other parking options, including the economy lots.

Arrive early

Travelers on flights departing before 8 a.m., or flights departing between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., should arrive at the airport at least two hours before their flights to allow enough time to get to their gates. This is the estimated time it will take during busy travel periods to park, ride a shuttle bus to the terminal, check a bag at the ticket counter, and go through security to make the flight on time. Those who are not traveling during peak travel times should arrive at least 90 minutes before their flights.

Travel tips

For TSA travel tips and a complete list of items prohibited on flights, visit <u>www.tsa.gov</u>. PDX travelers with screening questions related to a disability or medical condition can contact the TSA at 503.889.3067, or <u>PDXcustomerservice@tsa.dhs.gov</u>.

More flights, more often, to more destinations

If traveling during spring break isn't in the cards, start planning now for an exciting summer! Several new domestic destinations and expanded international flights give PDX travelers more places to travel in the coming months.

Domestically, American Airlines starts daily service to Los Angeles (June 2), Alaska Airlines plans seasonal service to Atlanta (June 4), and Southwest Airlines offers flights to St. Louis (June 5)—and this is all just in the first week of June! Other summer additions include Sun Country Airlines service to Minneapolis (June 9), Frontier Airlines service to Phoenix (June 29), and Southwest to Burbank and Ontario, Calif. (Aug. 7).

Icelandair resumes its flights to Reykjavik starting May 11 with two weekly flights. The airline will increase to four weekly flights in late June with departures on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays through mid-September. In addition, Icelandair is extending its Portland season through January 2017.

Condor Airlines resumes seasonal nonstop flights to Frankfurt starting June 10 and will fly through October.

More chances to win

As part of PDX's "Spring Fling" promotion, through April 24, travelers can enter to win a \$500 Azumano Travel voucher valid on all airlines operating at PDX. PDX concessionaires are also offering sales and specials at participating shops and restaurants.

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