



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor



CHICAGO AIRPORT SYSTEM
Department of Aviation
Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner



News Release

May 21, 2009

Gregg Cunningham

(773) 686-3700

gcunningham@cityofchicago.org

CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS GEAR UP FOR SUMMER TRAVEL

*O'Hare and Midway welcome more than 1.3 million passengers
over busy Memorial Day weekend*

CHICAGO – The summer travel season officially kicks off this Memorial Day weekend with more than 1.3 million passengers expected to travel through O'Hare and Midway International Airports beginning today through Tuesday, May 26. The busiest travel day at both airports will be Friday, May 22 with more than 205,000 passengers expected at O'Hare and more than 57,000 passengers at Midway.

"The Chicago Airport System is primed and ready to provide a friendly, safe and efficient experience for the millions of visitors who will travel through O'Hare and Midway this summer," said Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. "Our airports offer a full range of the very best customer services and amenities to satisfy every type of traveler."

Experience Live Entertainment, New Concessions and Exhibits

Passengers are encouraged to check out the live entertainment, new concessions and engaging exhibits at O'Hare and Midway this summer, including:

- Music in the Air Program. To promote Chicago's downtown summer music festivals, passengers traveling through O'Hare and Midway will be treated to a taste of Chicago's rich musical heritage with live Gospel, Blues and Jazz performances from 2 to 5 p.m. on June 5, 11 and 12; July 2; and September 3 and 4. Performances at O'Hare will take place beyond the security checkpoints in each domestic terminal and in the Arrivals Level of International Terminal 5. Live music at Midway will take place in the Baggage Claim area.
- New concessions. Several restaurants and shops, including many Chicago favorites, have recently opened or expanded locations at O'Hare including: Argo Tea, Auntie Anne's pretzels, Barbara's Bookstore, Garrett Popcorn Shops, Goose Island Beer Company, Harley-Davidson, Jamba Juice, Nuts on Clark, Oakley Eyewear, Tech Showcase and Stefani's Tuscany Café.

- More -

- “Explore Chicago” Technology Lounges. The Department of Aviation recently partnered with the Chicago Office of Tourism, Hewlett-Packard, Gigapan and NASA to host two high-tech “Explore Chicago” lounges in Terminal 2 at O’Hare and more than 50 HP TouchSmart PC kiosks at O’Hare and Midway. Each kiosk lets travelers interact with Chicago’s new tourism Web site, www.explorechicago.org, and view high-resolution images of Chicago’s most iconic locations.
- NASA Photo Exhibit. The Adler Planetarium and the Department of Aviation have partnered to host a new photo exhibit, *From Earth to the Universe*, on display through the end of the year at O’Hare International Airport. The stunning collection of more than 50 astronomical images showcases dramatic views from our Universe. The exhibit is located in the pedestrian walkway tunnel near the O’Hare CTA Blue Line station.

Additional Airport Amenities

- USO services for military personnel. Over Memorial Day weekend, United Service Organizations (USO) volunteers will provide complimentary hospitality bags filled with snacks, bottled water and informational pamphlets to military personnel at welcome stations located just beyond security in each domestic terminal at O’Hare. The USO of Illinois has centers at both O’Hare and Midway that provide military personnel and their families with a place to relax, enjoy a snack, check e-mail and readjust to life before returning home or being deployed. The O’Hare USO center is located in Terminal 2 on the mezzanine level and the Midway USO center is located in Concourse C.
- Kid’s play areas. Families looking for a kid-friendly place to relax at O’Hare are reminded to visit the “Kids on the Fly” play area in Terminal 2 or the “Play It Safe” area in International Terminal 5. Both play areas are located beyond the security checkpoints and are sponsored by the Chicago Children’s Museum.
- Both airports support an interfaith chapel for worship and meditation. The chapel at O’Hare is located in Terminal 2 on the mezzanine level (before security) and the Midway chapel is located in Concourse C on the mezzanine level. There is also a medical clinic at O’Hare operated by staff of the University of Illinois-Chicago. The clinic is located in the main corridor that connects Terminals 2 and 3 (airside).

Department of Aviation Summer Travel Tips

The following tips will help make travel through Chicago’s airports more convenient and enjoyable:

Getting to the Airport

Travelers should allow ample time for traveling to the airports, ticketing and checking baggage. It is recommended that all passengers arrive at least two hours before their scheduled flight departure.

- More -

Travelers are encouraged to take advantage of the public transportation options available to both O'Hare and Midway. The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Blue line to O'Hare and Orange line to Midway are convenient ways to get to the airports and the Loop while avoiding roadway congestion.

The Metra North Central Service has five weekday inbound and outbound trains between O'Hare and Chicago's Union Station (note: there is no Metra service on Memorial Day). Regional bus service is also available to and from both airports. PACE provides regional bus service to O'Hare which terminates at the Airport Transit System (ATS) Kiss 'n' Fly.

Parking at the Airport

Midway's hourly parking rates are \$2 for the first hour, \$6 for the second and \$2 for each additional hour. O'Hare's hourly parking rates are \$2 for the first hour and \$4 for the second and third hours.

Cost-conscious travelers can take advantage of O'Hare's three economy parking lots, priced at \$9, \$13 and \$16 per day. Midway's economy lots, located along 55th Street, are reasonably priced at \$14 per day. Real-time parking availability information for both O'Hare and Midway is posted on www.flychicago.com.

The Chicago Airport System's cell phone parking lots enable motorists to temporarily park free of charge until friends, family members or business associates have deplaned, collected baggage and are ready to be picked up curbside.

The O'Hare cell phone lot is located at Economy Parking Lot F and the Midway cell phone lot is located at 61st Street and Cicero Avenue, just south of the main airport entrance.

A billboard-size flight information display is located in the O'Hare cell phone parking lot for the convenience of motorists who are picking up passengers. The screen displays real-time flight arrival information and is viewable from anywhere within the parking lot.

Motorists are reminded that curbside parking is prohibited and unattended and parked vehicles will be ticketed and towed.

Security Checkpoint Preparation

The Transportation Security Administration reminds travelers to pack an organized carry-on bag and have their boarding pass and ID ready for inspection at the checkpoint. Remember 3-1-1 for carry-on bags: 3.4 ounce bottle or less (by volume); 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in the screening bin.

~ ~ ~ ~

The Chicago Airport System is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.

###