



January 9, 2008

## TRAVELHotNews.com's Retrospective 2007 – Part 2

Continuing from yesterday, here is TRAVELHotNews.com's Retrospective - a look back at the travel news stories of 2007, Part 2. Here, we cover the final half of the year from July to December.

### July

In July, Conquest Vacations announced a change to their commission structure by moving away from a net pricing model in favour of gross commissionable pricing (at 8 per cent commission). Italy specialist ALBATours marked their 30th anniversary in business. Sunquest's ex-president Andrew Dawson left the company to join itravel2000.

At WestJet, original founder and CEO Clive Beddoe stepped aside for Sean Durfy to take the reins. Transat Holidays continued their expansion by purchasing a French tour operator, Amplitude Internationale. Calgary-based Downunder Travel expanded to Toronto.

With the departure of Earl B. Smith, the Cayman Islands announced their new team, headed by Laura Wilfred. Iceland and Canada signed an Open Skies agreement, paving the way for added routes in Spring 2008.

- [Cayman Islands' new team \(Jul. 4\)](#)
- [Sunquest's Andrew Dawson goes to itravel2000 \(Jul. 10\)](#)
- [ALBATours celebrates 30 years \(Jul. 10\)](#)
- [Transat expands, buys French tour operator \(Jul. 16\)](#)
- [Downunder Travel expands to Toronto \(Jul. 16\)](#)
- [Iceland, Canada share 'Open Skies' \(Jul. 19\)](#)
- [WestJet's Beddoe steps down, Durfy becomes CEO \(Jul. 24\)](#)
- [Conquest changes commission structure \(Jul. 24\)](#)

### August

August saw the entry of low-cost carrier, Jet Airways into the Canadian market, launching service from Toronto to India. Sunquest offered deals and prizes for their 35th birthday in August. Sunwing changed their commission policies (offering 8 per cent).

Several airlines were fined for fuel collusion (British Airways, Virgin) and cargo price-fixing (Qantas, British Airways, Korean Air, Lufthansa).

- [BA fined for fuel collusion with Virgin \(Aug. 2\)](#)
- [BA, Korean Air, Lufthansa cargo price-fixing \(Aug. 2\)](#)
- [Sunquest turns 35 \(Aug. 13\)](#)
- [Qantas cargo price-fixing \(Aug. 14\)](#)
- [Sunwing commission changes \(Aug. 17\)](#)
- [Jet Airways launches Toronto-India service \(Aug. 24\)](#)



## September

Emirates, the Dubai-based luxury carrier, launched Toronto-Dubai service with a series of gala events. WestJet Vacations relaunched on Sep. 11th, and the Addison Show visited Toronto on Sep. 27<sup>th</sup>. Several appointments were made, including a new CEO for Caribbean Airlines, Philip Saunders, and Oded Grofman, the new Consul-Tourism for the Israel Tourist Board in Toronto. Grofman replaced Dani Shahal, the outgoing Consul-Tourism.

- [New CEO for Caribbean Airlines \(Sep. 10\)](#)
- [New Consul-Tourism for Israel Tourist Board \(Sep. 10\)](#)
- [WestJet Vacations relaunches \(Sep. 11\)](#)
- [Emirates launches Toronto-Dubai service \(Sep. 20\)](#)
- [Addison Show in Toronto \(Sep. 27\)](#)



## October

The first flight of Airbus' A380 superjumbo took place on Singapore Airlines, which auctioned off seats (with proceeds going to charity) on the first flight from Singapore to Sydney, Australia. October also marked the arrival of Caribbean Week in Canada, with a host of consumer and trade events hosted in Toronto. Fledgling airline Porter celebrated its 1st anniversary on Oct. 23, and Scenic Tours launched a river cruise division.

TRAVELHotNews announced the winner of the Sensational Snapshots photo contest – Alla Emelianova – who won a trip with Sunwing Vacations.

- [First-ever Caribbean Week in Canada \(Oct. 1\)](#)
- [Sensational Snapshots winner announced \(Oct. 19\)](#)
- [Porter Airlines turns 1 \(Oct. 23\)](#)
- [A380's first flight from Singapore to Sydney \(Oct. 24\)](#)
- [Scenic Tours launches river cruise division \(Oct. 26\)](#)



## November

In November, Etihad marked its 2nd birthday in Canada. Pacific Sunspots Tours scaled down its operations, and TRAVELHotNews.com launched a twice-weekly Western Edition. WestJet modified its commission structure, eliminating commissions made through the agent sales centre, but continuing to give agents a 9 per cent commission on air tickets booked through GDS and Agent WEblink. In Toronto, Elias Bestard was announced the new director of the Cuba Tourist Board, replacing Carlos Zambrano. New York City opened a tourist office in Toronto as well. Transat Holidays continued its expansion by purchasing a \$55M stake in the Spanish-owned H10 chain of hotels.

- [Etihad turns 2 \(Nov. 5\)](#)
- [Pacific Sunspots Tours scales down \(Nov. 7\)](#)
- [TRAVELHotNews Western Edition launches \(Nov. 12\)](#)
- [Cuba Tourist Board appoints new director \(Nov. 16\)](#)
- [New York City opens tourism office in Toronto \(Nov. 19\)](#)
- [Transat acquires hotels in \\$55M deal \(Nov. 27\)](#)
- [WestJet modifies commissions \(Nov. 30\)](#)



## December



Finishing up the year, WestJet added six new international destinations, including St. Lucia, and Air Canada and Air Canada Vacations added seven new destinations, including Cayo Santa Maria. Sunwing also launched a new destination, Barbados. The Las Vegas Convention & Visitors' Association opened an office in Canada, managed by VoX



International. Sunwing introduced a new credit and rewards card for customers, allowing them to defer payment without interest for 6 months, pay low monthly fees towards their vacations, and use points as rewards or convert them into cash. The U.S. passport requirements for land and sea were pushed back an extra year to 2009.

- [Las Vegas opens office in Canada \(Dec. 5\)](#)
- [Sunwing introduces credit/rewards card \(Dec. 5\)](#)
- [WestJet adds 6 new international destinations \(Dec. 10\)](#)
- [Passports for sea, land delayed until 2009? \(Dec. 21\)](#)
- [Air Canada Vacations adds 7 new destinations \(Dec. 28\)](#)
- [Sunwing launches flights to Barbados \(Dec. 21\)](#)