



July 16, 2018

## **NEWS**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **“Sun Valley Improves Nonstop Flight Access”**

- United to serve Los Angeles with daily flights for 2018/19 winter season
  - Delta Salt Lake City flights expanded for fall and winter season

Traveling to and from Sun Valley will be easier than ever with an improved schedule of nonstop flights this fall and winter. Fly Sun Valley Alliance (FSVA), in partnership with Sun Valley Resort, recently announced the Friedman Memorial Airport (SUN) airline flight schedule for the upcoming 2018/19 fall and winter seasons, which will provide travelers better access to and from markets across the country and around the world.

**United Airlines** will provide nonstop service to Sun Valley from a fourth major United hub city with the launch of its daily E175 regional jet nonstop flights from Los Angeles (LAX) this winter, providing increased connectivity from southern California cities and numerous international markets. The new Los Angeles service, along with Denver (DEN), and San Francisco (SFO) service will run daily December 19 to March 30. United will also operate weekly Saturday nonstop flights from Chicago (ORD) from December 22 to March 30 with a break in service January 5-February 9.

**Delta Air Lines** has significantly increased its daily flight frequency and will provide three daily flights on E175 regional jets from Salt Lake City (SLC) for 75% of the year, beginning October 1 through March 31, except November 27 – December 19 when it will run two daily flights. Delta will also continue to provide three daily flights during the summer season, so the only months that will operate with two daily Salt Lake City flights are April and May.

Delta will also operate a daily nonstop flight from Los Angeles (LAX), from December 20 through January 2, as well as on Saturdays during the winter season from January 5 – March 30.

**Alaska Airlines** will continue to provide daily nonstop flights on Q400 aircraft from Seattle (SEA) three days per week (Thursday, Friday, and Sunday), from September 20 through December 9 and then daily nonstop flights from December 13 to March 31.

The total scheduled winter 2018/19 SUN seats, November – April, is 72,002, up 10% over last winter season.

“This is one of the strongest flight schedules yet for our community and it will provide a big boost in convenience and easy access,” said Carol Waller, Director of Fly Sun Valley Alliance.

Waller noted that FSVA will no longer contract with Alaska for nonstop Portland service, which operated two days a week during the summer and winter seasons for the past two years, due to low demand, but that Portland travelers would still have easy connections via the Seattle flight.

-more-

The mission of Fly Sun Valley Alliance is to improve air service to Sun Valley. Its efforts over the years have resulted in increased air service, which, in turn, has led to a sharp increase in visitors and more convenience for local air travelers. Between 2013 and 2017 the community's air seat capacity increased by 56%, enplanements increased by 68%, and an estimated 52,000 new visitors came to Sun Valley, spending nearly \$80 million dollars in the community. The estimated overall economic impact of all visitor and part-time resident air travelers during this period was \$477 million dollars in direct spending in the local economy. An estimated additional \$200+ million dollars in economic impact from new tourism infrastructure over the past few years is also directly related to the increase in air service to the community.

FSVA's air service development program is funded through both public and private investment. Public sector investment is provided through annual contracts with Sun Valley Air Service Board through 1% for Air Local Option Sales Tax revenues. Significant private sector investment is provided by Sun Valley Resort, with additional support provided by other local businesses through FSVA and Sun Valley Resort partner programs. Friedman Memorial Airport is also a key partner in the community's air service efforts and operations and Visit Sun Valley is a key strategic partner in marketing the flights.

Most flights are available now for booking and the 2018/19 winter flight schedule is available at [www.flysunvalleyalliance.com](http://www.flysunvalleyalliance.com).

###

Media Contact: Carol Waller, FSVA Director, [carol@flysunvalleyalliance.com](mailto:carol@flysunvalleyalliance.com), 208-720-3965