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TRAVEL

Air Travel News: A Garden at Kennedy; a Forecast for Lower Fares

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In Transit

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JETBLUE PLANTS A GARDEN AT KENNEDY

Bringing urban agriculture to the airport, JetBlue unveiled its T5 Farm last week at Terminal 5 at Kennedy Airport in New York. Located pre-security on the departures level, the 24,000-square-foot container garden is planted with blue potatoes, herbs and vegetables including beets and arugula. The airline plans to provide the food for some of the terminal's restaurants, donate some of the harvest to local pantries and eventually supply the potatoes to the Terra company, which makes its signature in-flight blue potato chips. Passengers can visit the curbside farm, and JetBlue plans to offer it as an agricultural model for local schools.

OFFSETTING EMISSIONS IN SAN DIEGO

Paradise Point resort in San Diego has started a new partnership with San Diego International Airport to participate in its carbon-offset program. The airport's Good Traveler program encourages fliers to purchase carbon offsets and uses a carbon calculator of about \$1 to offset every 500 miles flown or 200 miles driven. The first hotel in the program, Paradise Point will offer guests the

opportunity to buy them directly when making reservations online. The program is currently funding a number of environmental projects managed by Terrapass, an offset provider, including wind farms and water restoration.

IN THE FORECAST: LOWER FARES

The airfare prediction app Hopper says airfares fell a remarkable 18 percent in September compared with the same time last year, and were 9 percent cheaper than August. It pins some of the plunge to the drop in oil prices, and predicts that domestic fares will average about \$211 for the rest of the year, October through December, which would be 17 percent cheaper than in 2014. And, if its forecasts are right, the news gets better in January, when flights will fall to about \$204 on average. Prices are still higher than those averages during holiday periods, including Thanksgiving, when Hopper says the average domestic round trip is \$322.

NEW ROUTES, IN TIME FOR SPRING TRAVEL

American Airlines is now selling tickets on its new flight between Dallas and Mérida, Mexico. Service is expected to start March 3, 2016.

United Airlines has announced it will add three nonstop flights weekly between San Francisco and Tel Aviv, beginning April 1, 2016.

And JetBlue plans to add nonstop service between Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Florida and Quito, Ecuador, beginning Feb. 25, 2016.