

News *from the* Town of Islip



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES UPGRADES AT LONG ISLAND MACARTHUR AIRPORT WITH TWICE-DAILY, SAME-PLANE FLIGHTS TO RALEIGH-DURHAM, NC

Ronkonkoma, NY, July 27, 2017 – Southwest Airlines will begin twice daily, same-plane flights between Long Island MacArthur Airport (ISP) and Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) this spring. Raleigh-Durham is ISP’s largest market without direct service. The flights, purposely timed to allow Long Island business travelers to fly to Raleigh-Durham and back same day, are available for booking immediately, with service beginning March 9, 2018 as follows:

Flight 1656 ISP-RDU: 6:15am – 9:40am

Flight 1022 ISP-RDU: 5:45pm – 9:05pm

Flight 1518 RDU-ISP: 8:45am – 11:55am

Flight 598 RDU-ISP: 9:00pm – 11:55pm

These itineraries are one-stop, same-plane, through Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI). Southwest offers additional connecting (change-of-plane) flights daily to RDU through BWI.

Southwest’s one-stop, same-plane service to RDU is the latest in a string of recent improvements and marketing success stories at the airport. “We are delighted that our airport can provide new access to an important business market like Raleigh-Durham,” said Angie Carpenter, Town of Islip Supervisor. “Just like Long Island, Raleigh-Durham is a center for innovative companies, universities, and economic activity,” she said.

“This is a great new development for ISP passengers,” added Shelley LaRose-Arken, MacArthur Airport Commissioner. “Raleigh-Durham is one of the top unserved markets from ISP. It is both a leisure and business travel destination, and our research says there is a strong demand for service.”

LaRose-Arken points to the local science, energy, and technology institution, Brookhaven National Laboratory, as an example of strong ISP/RDU business connections. “Brookhaven Labs is one of many companies on Long Island that regularly has business connections to Raleigh-Durham,” LaRose-Arken added.

Kevin Law, Long Island Association President and CEO agreed. “MacArthur Airport is a convenient and important resource to us. We expect the flights to further expand the business opportunities between ISP and RDU, which is great for the Long Island economy,” Law added.

“Southwest is pleased to provide our MacArthur Airport Customers with these new direct flight options,” explained Brook Sorem, Senior Director – Schedule Planning at Southwest Airlines. “As we look to best serve the Long Island community we bring with us incredible low fares and customer-friendly policies that no other airline offers today. We hope to see you on a flight to Raleigh-Durham International Airport this spring,” he added.

ABOUT LONG ISLAND MACARTHUR AIRPORT

Long Island MacArthur Airport has two of the four major US domestic air carriers: American Airlines and Southwest Airlines, who have provided service at ISP for more than 10 years, and on August 16, 2017 will gain service from Frontier Airlines. By spring, 2018, these carriers will provide service to 14 cities nonstop, with same-plane and one-stop connecting service to hundreds of destinations in the U.S., Caribbean and Europe. The airport serves 1.2M passengers annually and employs 6,000 people, with a \$14.6M annual operating budget and an economic impact of \$600M to the region and local community.

ABOUT SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

In its 47th year of service, Dallas-based [Southwest Airlines](#) (NYSE: LUV) continues to differentiate itself from other air carriers with exemplary Customer Service delivered by more than 55,000 employees to more than 100 million customers annually. Southwest proudly operates a network of 101 destinations in the United States and nine additional countries with more than 4,000 departures a day during peak travel season. Service to Turks and Caicos is expected to begin Nov. 5, 2017, subject to requisite government approvals. On September 5th, 2017, Southwest will cease service to Varadero and Santa Clara to concentrate its future Cuba service in Havana.

Based on the U.S. Department of Transportation's most recent data, Southwest Airlines is the nation's largest carrier in terms of originating domestic passengers boarded. The Company operates the largest fleet of Boeing aircraft in the world, the majority of which are equipped with satellite-based WiFi providing gate-to-gate connectivity. That connectivity enables Customers to use their personal devices to view video on-demand movies and television shows, as well as nearly 20 channels of free, live TV compliments of our valued Partners. Southwest created [Transfarency](#)[®], a philosophy which treats Customers honestly and fairly, and in which

low fares actually stay low. Southwest is the only major U.S. airline to offer bags fly free® to everyone (first and second checked pieces of luggage, size and weight limits apply, some airlines may allow free checked bags on select routes or for qualified circumstances), and there are no change fees, though fare differences might apply. The airline proudly unveiled a bold new look: *Heart*. A new logo, aircraft livery, interior design featuring a new seat and Flight Attendant galley, Employee-designed uniforms, and an updated airport experience all showcase the dedication of Southwest Employees who connect Customers with what's important in their lives.

From its first flights on June 18, 1971, Southwest Airlines launched an era of unprecedented affordability in air travel described by the U.S. Department of Transportation as "The Southwest Effect," a lowering of fares and increase in passenger traffic whenever the carrier enters new markets. With 44 consecutive years of profitability, Southwest is one of the most honored airlines in the world, known for a triple bottom line approach that contributes to the carrier's performance and productivity, the importance of its People and the communities they serve, and an overall commitment to efficiency and the planet. The 2016 Southwest Airlines One Report™ can be found at SouthwestOneReport.com.

Book Southwest Airlines' low fares online at Southwest.com or by phone at 800-I-FLY-SWA.

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