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[TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS]

Overturned ban, budget proposal roiling industry

By Jeri Clausing

President Donald Trump last week lost another round in his high-profile fight to ban travelers from certain Muslim countries, but the fallout from tweets, executive orders and budget proposals he has issued in his first two months in office could spell long-term uncertainty for the industry.

Just hours after courts in Hawaii and Maryland last week lifted his revised ban on travelers from six countries shortly before

'These programs have a lot of congressional champions. A lot is going to fall by the wayside.'

— Eben Peck, ASTA

they were to go into effect, Trump released a budget blueprint that proposes terminating a long-standing federal program for encouraging air service to rural communities.

The proposal would also end support for long-distance Amtrak service.

Additionally, less than a year after the TSA added security agents and bomb-sniffing dogs to reduce more than hourlong security line waits at U.S. airports last summer, Trump has proposed fee hikes and funding cuts for the agency.

The combination adds up to continued uncertainty and, potentially, negative fallout for the industry as a result of both the proposals themselves and the very public and See TRUMP on Page 52

IN THE HOT SEAT

Intrepid Group's new CEO, James Thornton, on how he will pursue sustainable travel. 4



Explaining 'basic economy' to consumers

Bv Robert Silk

As they sell the basic economy fares they brought to market in late February, United and American have taken proactive steps on their websites to avoid confusing consumers. But in other digital channels,

displays of the new fare class tickets are less consistent.

Both airlines went live with basic economy fares on Feb. 21. United is thus far offering the fares only on flights between Minneapolis and its seven hub cities, such as Chicago, Denver and Newark. American is selling basic economy seats on a total of 10 routes, each involving its hub airports in Dallas, Charlotte, Philadelphia or Miami.

In the case of both airlines, passengers who purchase basic economy tickets are limited to a single carry-on bag, which must fit under the seat. In addition, they are seated at the back of the plane and board in the last group. Their tickets are nonrefundable and nonchangeable, and they are not eligible for seat assignments prior to check-in.

Flight searches on United and American make these limitations abundantly clear. For See BASIC on Page 50

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Seven Stars Resort, a simply stellar getaway



Casual dining and Caribbean cocktails await guests at the Deck at the Seven Stars Resort & Spa in Turks and Caicos.

By Jenny Hart

estled in the center of Turks and Caicos' famed Grace Bay Beach, the luxurious Seven Stars Resort & Spa offers spacious, comfortable accommodations and top-notch service.

When booking, guests are able to choose the specific suite they'd like to stay in, with options ranging from gardenview, oceanview or oceanfront junior, one-, two- and three-bedroom suites. Each suite is privately owned, and most of the owners also hold shares in the property.

The financial and emotional investments result in greater accountability in keeping Seven Stars an authentic, luxury experience, CEO Ken Patterson explained during a recent media visit.

Patterson, who has been with Seven Stars since its inception in 2008, can be found on site nearly every day, meticulously inspecting and adjusting things big (he recently replaced every suite's balcony furniture with those of a more chic design) or small (I saw

him move an outside table to better protect diners from the wind).

The F&B at Seven Stars is equally as indicative of the resort's luxury status: the main restaurant, simply called Seven, is one of the top-rated fine dining establishments on the island; the pumpkin ravioli and fresh mahi mahi are not to be missed.

Guests can find casual dining as well as some choice Caribbean cocktails outside at the Deck. Try ordering a Mango Sunrise (Patron Silver, mango puree, lime and grenadine) or opt for fresh coconut milk served in the shell from the adorable beachfront coconut stand (served nonalcoholic, but they will spike with a bit of rum if you ask).

Every Sunday night, Seven Stars hosts a barbecue buffet and bonfire. Open to resort guests and locals, the bash features unlimited barbecue, live music and a roaring fire, all steps from the ocean on the sands of Grace Bay. Private dining is available, too, any day of the week: guests can book a Feet in the Sand dinner on the beach complete with butler service or enjoy a relaxing meal in one of the private beachside cabanas.

The Spa at Seven Stars is also very special. There are a variety of massages, facials and body treatments on the menu; it would be a mistake to miss the spa's signature treatment, the SSR Signature Candle Massage. Fragrant soy candles are melted into a warm lotion that is worked into the skin via Swedish massage, leaving your entire body smooth and glowing. It's a similar sensation to a hot stone massage, but dreamier.

In addition to Seven Stars' prime location by the beach, the resort is a short walk to many attractions in the Grace Bay area. Excellent restaurants, unique shopping, fun nightlife and even a grocery store are all within a few blocks, enabling guests to forgo the island's expensive taxis. Though you may be tempted to never step foot off the property, it's nice to have options, especially ones that are so accessible.

Standard rates start at \$700. Visit www.sevenstarsgracebay.com.

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