

# Southwest Airlines Marks Milestones on Transformational Journey by Operating First Redeye Flights and Beginning Interline Operations with Icelandair

On February 14—Valentine’s Day—the first five Southwest redeye flights touched down. Employees in these markets celebrated the Company milestone and holiday in true Southwest style. Employees hosted celebrations in the gate area and gave Customers onboard all inaugural redeye flights special swag, including a commemorative card, and eye mask, and ear plugs—just what they needed before a night of rest onboard.

Currently, Southwest operates five redeye flights, including Las Vegas (LAS) to Baltimore/Washington (BWI), Las Vegas (LAS) to Orlando (MCO), Los Angeles (LAX) to Baltimore/Washington (BWI), Los Angeles (LAX) to Nashville (BNA), and Phoenix (PHX) to Baltimore/Washington (BWI). Over the coming months, Southwest will continue to scale redeye flying, peaking at 33 flights per day in June.

While redeye flights will make up a small portion of Southwest’s overall schedule, they bring additional connectivity and more itineraries to transcontinental and Hawaii markets. As an example, Southwest will offer Honolulu (HNL) to Las Vegas (LAS) in April, and this one redeye flight increases the number of itineraries the airline can offer Customers by 50% as they connect to other parts of the network.

Redeye flying is a key part of the Southwest. Even Better. transformational plan and offers more options to Customers, increases aircraft utilization, and supports the carrier’s financial position. Southwest strategically selected redeye markets based on high local demand from Customers and connectivity to large stations and Flight Crew Bases. Redeye flying will also help free up ~18 aircraft worth of flying this year through more efficient use of the fleet, aiding in the modest capacity growth plans without needing additional aircraft.

Nearly 75% of Customers who are currently booked on an itinerary that includes a redeye flight are on a connecting flight either before or after the redeye.

Interline Operations with Icelandair

February 13 marked the first day of interline operations with Icelandair through the shared gateway in Baltimore/Washington. This means that Customers can book itineraries through Icelandair's website and third-party channels that include travel on both carriers. Later this year, Southwest will add Nashville and Denver as shared gateways for the Icelandair partnership and continue to add gateways in the future. Southwest plans to announce at least one additional partner carrier this year.

#### ABOUT SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

[Southwest Airlines Co.](#) operates one of the world's most admired and awarded airlines, offering its one-of-a-kind value and Hospitality at 119 airports across 12 countries. Southwest took flight in 1971 to democratize the sky through friendly, reliable, and low-cost air travel and now carries more air travelers flying nonstop within the United States than any other airline<sup>(fn. 1)</sup>. By empowering its more than 73,000<sup>(fn. 2)</sup> People to deliver unparalleled Hospitality, the maverick airline cherishes a passionate loyalty among more than 134 million Customers carried in 2025. Southwest leverages a unique legacy and mission to serve communities around the world including harnessing the power of its People and Purpose to put communities at the Heart of its success. Learn more by visiting [Southwest.com/citizenship](#).

1. Based on U.S. Dept. of Transportation quarterly Airline Origin & Destination Survey as of Q4 2025
2. Fulltime-equivalent active Employees as of March 31, 2026

Media Contacts:

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