

TRAVEL: THIS JUST IN
Fairer Fares

Even with fuel prices plunging, the cost of travel on the major airlines has barely budged. Seeing an opportunity, a new batch of ultra-low-cost airlines has jumped into the market. Frontier Airlines regularly runs deals of \$19, \$49, and fly-for-a-buck days. Iceland's Wow Air flies from four U.S. cities to Reykjavik with fares as low as \$99; or fly through Reykjavik to 21 European cities from \$199. Last winter, Norwegian Air began offering flights from three East Coast cities to Guadeloupe and Martinique beginning at \$49, and new routes to Europe are in the



Take a seat: JetBlue offers extra space, early boarding, and budget-friendly rates.

works. And JetBlue has added new discounted fares to South America, including flights from Fort Lauderdale to Medellín, Columbia, beginning at \$164 and to Bogotá from \$146.

—Stephanie Citron



YOU BE THE JUDGE

By Joan SerVaas

When Is a Farm Not a Farm?

In 1985, Robert Schmidt and his family bought the 225-acre Maple Lane Farms in Tennessee, where they raised cattle, corn, and other crops. In the 1990s, they began to offer public attractions, including a multi-week fall festival featuring a corn maze, hayrides, and more. In 2006, they started an annual spring Strawberry Jam Festival with face painting, rock climbing, and games and added more events, including live concerts, helicopter rides, and fireworks.

In 2003, retiree Velda Shore moved from Nashville to the subdivision adjacent to Maple Lane Farms, seeking a quiet life away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Unaware of the farm's festivals, she'd been told that there was no commercial activity in the area.

At first, she was not troubled by the festivals, and she even enjoyed watching the children play. But she soon found the live concerts and helicopter flyovers intolerable.

In 2007, Shore filed a complaint with the County Commission, stating that being next door to Maple Lane Farms was like living "close to ... Dollywood." She asked for a reasonable "accommodation" so she could enjoy her home. In January 2008, the Commission responded and informed the Schmidts that helicopter rides and concerts violated county zoning

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How suite it is: One of nine such accommodations offered at The Ivy, this group of rooms overlooks the historic brownstones in the heart of Baltimore.

THE SPLURGE

The Swankiest Sleep in Baltimore

The Ivy is an opulently restored 19th-century mansion hotel in Baltimore. Guest rooms feature lilac-perfumed Frette sheets on regal canopy beds; in-room "barmoires" are stocked with complimentary gourmet goodies, wine, and local beer. Bathrooms have deep-soak tubs atop heated floors. Gourmet breakfast, afternoon tea, cocktails, 24-hour room service, and outings in The Ivy's antique London taxi are all included. Also on site is a spa and the acclaimed restaurant, Magdalena.

Rates from \$525 a night at theyivybaltimore.com.

—Stephanie Citron

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