

Published based on [American Airlines: From Texas To The World](#)

# **American Airlines: From Texas To The World**

One of the world's largest and best known passenger [airlines](#) is headquartered in the unlikely location of Fort Worth, Texas, which is just a few miles from DFW, its main hub. American Airlines offers thousands of flights to hundreds of locations in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, India, China, and Japan.

American Airlines, affectionately known as AA, was founded in 1930, and has pioneered several [travel](#) industry firsts. It was the first airline to offer a frequent flyer program. It was the first airline to use electronic ticketing. Its AAdvantage rewards program remains the largest frequent flyer program in the world, with in excess of 50 million members.

American Airlines currently offers [travel](#) service to over 260 cities with almost 700 aircraft. American is very popular on routes between the United States and Latin American, carrying over a million passengers between the two markets each year. In fact, American Airlines carries more passengers between the United States and Latin America than any other airline. In addition, American Airlines has a strong international market.

American has four hubs, at DFW (Dallas-Fort Worth), San Juan, Puerto Rico, Chicago, and Miami. American is also strong in Boston, Los Angeles, and New York. The company maintains and services its plains at facilities in Fort Worth, Kansas City, and Tulsa.

American Airlines is also the parent company of a regional carrier called American Eagle Airlines. American Eagle Airlines offers regional service in the United States, the Caribbean, Canada, and Mexico. Like American Airlines, American Eagle is also headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas.

American Airlines was one of the founding members of Oneworld, the third-largest airline alliance on earth, sharing ticketing and luggage transfer facilities with numerous other carriers to make flying more convenient. Oneworld airlines also share passenger terminals and frequent flier programs. Oneworld celebrates 10 years of service in 2009.

Part of the reason American Airlines serves so many destinations around the world, but especially in the USA, was its acquisition of Trans World Airlines (TWA) and the TWA hub in St. Louis in 2001. Unfortunately, the acquisition of TWA caused American to bleed cash, and these financial problems were compounded when two American Airlines planes were hijacked and crashed on 9/11. After the September attacks, American Airlines was forced to relinquish its St. Louis hub and to lay off a small number, that is, a few dozen, former TWA employees. American Airlines continues to struggle to minimize its losses, and in 2008 was the first airline to charge fees for checked baggage. Despite the nearly universal unpopularity of the move with passengers, just as they adopted other American Airlines innovations, other carriers also announced their own baggage fees.

Of American's fleet of nearly 700 jets, most of them are McDonnell Douglas MD-82 and MD-88 twinjets. American recently announced it will order the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner to add to its fleet.

In 2008 American became the first carrier to offer in-flight Internet service on all its planes. This innovation came only a year after the airline began offering Wi-Fi on its flights within the United States.

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