

TECHNOLOGY

Technology arranges the world so that we don't have to experience it. - Max Frisc

GOOGLE+ FUNCTIONS BETTER THAN FACEBOOK

Brian Chiasson

Google+ (Google Plus) is a brand new social site that intends to compete with Facebook.

Already it functions better, even though it doesn't have millions of people yet.

After logging in, here are some of the features:

► You can create circles, like Friends, Family, Co-workers, acquaintances, thinkers, artists, musicians, computer geeks, writers, campers, or any other cat-

egory, as a place to put your contacts. This is completely missing from Facebook, preventing being more organized.

► You can post status updates to specific circles, keeping it private from everyone else - only visible to those in that circle. For example, you can share project information in a circle created for a project team. Nobody else can see it. Facebook cannot facilitate this yet.

► You can also start "Hangouts", where you can have a web camera discussion live that includes as many as 9

other people, all on web cameras.

► You can also add "Sparks" to your profile - news items curated by different sources on the web.

► Like Facebook, it also let's you know how many notifications you have.

Psst: I got a profile with my name, Brian Chiasson, You can choose to follow me if you wish.

You can create a business profile if you go to Google+ Page. Goggle+, itself, will not allow business profiles.

SPRING TRAVEL

"A good traveler has no fixed plans, and is not intent on arriving." - Lao Tzu



FLY ALL AROUND THE USA FOR FREE

Brian Chiasson

Would it interest you to fly from city to city around the United States for free?

If you are impulsive and adventurous, this is an ideal chance to explore America.

Here's the deal (only from major US airports):

► The night before you start, go online and book a flight on the fullest and most popular flight you can find. View the seat map to determine which flight is likely to be overbooked.

No Show

► US airlines can overbook flights to allow for "no-show" passengers. If passengers are bumped, airlines are required to ask for volunteers (whether it's one person or nine) to give up their seats in exchange for compensation, even if they can be rerouted, take a later flight or take another flight altogether.

► The idea is to volunteer to give up your seat in exchange for an airline voucher to go to another city, valued anywhere from \$400 to \$800 and redeemable at an airport for a flight. The cost is covered by the voucher, also called a travel voucher, travel certificate or travel coupon.

► Be as flexible with your time as possible. Most vouchers expire so read the small print for the usage details.

All The Way

► On the day of departure, go online and check your flight again. You should be willing to go all the way if you're not overbooked.

► Don't wait for an announcement for volunteers. At the ticket counter, ask, "Do you need a volunteer?"

► Then, again, when you go through security and approach the gate agent for your flight, ask again.

► At the point when they realize they must bump someone, they will approach you before making an-

nouncements.

► It also helps to book with as many connections as possible. When going to Los Angeles from New York, most people book a direct flight (bad idea). Never fly non-stop. Intentionally book a double or triple connection, hoping to get stuck in the middle of the country. You might get a voucher from each stop.

Royal Treatment

► Here are some cities you might get stuck in, allowing you to explore their local sites: Philadelphia, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Dallas or Denver.

► You don't need to stay long in any city if you plan to travel a lot - you will likely end up back in that city again with another voucher.

► Furthermore, you get treated like royalty at the gate and while boarding the flight. After all, you gave an airline a break by allowing them to bump you.

► If your flight is stuck, or delayed for mechanical or weather reasons, or cancelled, look for a supervisor immediately and be nice about it (it's imperative to go above the gate agent.)

Compensation

There are lots of supervisors at most airports.

► Ask the right question: Will the airline give you money for meals (a meal voucher or meal certificate or meal coupon), hotel rooms and phone calls (\$200 to \$900 - depending on the policy)? You can make \$2,000 or \$3,000 through flights requiring several connections.

► Additionally, if you stick with one airline (every time you fly), you can accumulate frequent flyer miles just by using vouchers.

With this in mind, it's very possible to vacation for free full-time (all year long) and, sometimes, be paid for it.

Most bumped passengers can receive the following minimum compensation:

► There is no compensation if alternative transportation will take the passenger to the destination within one hour of the scheduled arrival.

\$400 to \$800

► If the destination arrival is between one and two hours late the passenger is entitled to the equivalent of the one way fare to a maximum of \$400.

► If transportation will be more than two hours late to your destination, the compensation doubles to a maximum of \$800.

► Likewise, if the airline does not provide substitute travel arrangements, the compensation doubles to a maximum of \$800.

► There are exceptions. This compensation does not apply to:

- 1) Charter flights,.
- 2) Planes that hold 30 or fewer passengers.
- 3) Flights from Canada (or any other country) to the United States.

More and more people are doing it but you need to be free to go anywhere to succeed. Also, two single people will benefit more than one couple.

Information

Most of the information, visit Scott Ford at his website: <http://www.packabagandgo.com/> He's been flying this way for 52 weeks a year, over the last three years.

Scott Ford has also posted these two YouTube videos, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-XjeRsmZ44> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8E9ZYm95Rc&feature=related>

These tips work on most flights but not all, purposely booking on flights that might be overbooked.

Scott has flown to Costa Rica, Venice, Amsterdam, and Hawaii almost 10 times in 2011. After spending on some tickets, he broke even, which means it was free.

He is now approaching 1,000,000 air miles.