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The Amnesty International USA Annual General Meeting 2003

April 4-6, 2003
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

TRAVELING BY AIR ON A BUDGET

Traveling to Pittsburgh by air can be much less expensive than what most people may believe. With a little effort on your part, you can often find exceptional travel bargains. There are two options you can investigate in order to find the best-priced ticket to Pittsburgh.

1. Call **Seagate Travel** Group (toll free: 800.645.3392 or 888.706.3841; email: Lois.Trinka@seagatetravel.com)) and identify yourself as an Amnesty International member for specially negotiated low conference fares.
2. Search for bargains yourself on the internet, where there is an abundance of low fares.

Before trying either of the above options, there are a couple of points you should keep in mind in order to get the best-priced ticket. First give yourself as much flexibility as possible when you are booking your ticket. The prices of airline tickets vary depending on the date and time of travel you chose. Moving your departure or return time even a few hours can sometime make a substantial difference in price. Second book your ticket early. By airline standards, this means 21-14 days before you depart or earlier. The price of tickets generally being increasing the closer you get to your travel date. As a rule, the price of a ticket will increase significantly if you book less than two weeks before you depart.

Nearly all-major full service airlines offer flights to the Pittsburgh International Airport. In addition, several low fare airlines offer service to Pittsburgh and are worth paying close attention too on your search for the least expensive ticket.

Using the Internet to Save Money:

With a little time and persistence using the internet to book an airline ticket can often save you a substantial amount of money. This is because airlines run specials on their websites and negotiate deals with many online booking companies that they do not offer to travel agents or at their reservation centers.

Every airline has their own website that periodically offers exclusive specials. These range from weekly travel bargains to slicing 10-20% off a published fare for booking your ticket online. Further, many airlines contract with online booking companies to sale tickets at discounts. Below are examples of companies where you can find travel specials.

- www.priceline.com Priceline can save travelers up to 40% off published fares, although many restrictions apply.
- www.flycheap.com Fly Cheap negotiates special reduced prices with a variety of airlines.
- www.cheaptickets.com Cheap Tickets has been serving customers for almost 15 years, offering discounted airfares and low fare travel options with 1 million non-published discount airfares are offered on 40 airlines.

In addition to the above online booking companies, there are many others that will search airfares for all major airlines and find the least expensive ticket for the route you chose. Travelocity (www.travelocity.com) is such a company. Travelocity also offers "Fare Watcher," a service that you can sign up for which will alert you via email when specific routes you chose drop or rise in cost by the amount you set. This is an extremely helpful service if you do not have time to monitor ticket prices every few days because it does that for you.