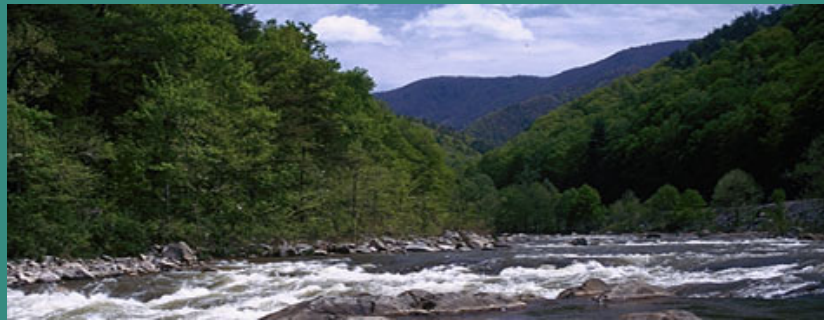


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**AVL Celebrates United Inaugural Flight to the Windy City**

Just hours ago we commemorated today's inaugural United Airlines flight from AVL to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport (ORD) with a ribbon-cutting and celebration in the B-Gate area of the terminal.



There to help kick off the new service, which runs twice daily on a 50-seat CRJ200 regional jet aircraft operated by SkyWest Airlines, were Airport Authority Board and staff members, representatives from United Airlines, and local officials, plus members of the Asheville Symphony, who performed "Rhapsody in Blue" and other great selections.

We're excited about this great new destination and the opportunities it gives to area businesses as well as leisure travelers. Not only that, but it also opens the door for tourism from Chicago -- the third largest city in the U.S.!

You can book your trip now at [www.united.com](http://www.united.com) and [www.flyavl.com](http://www.flyavl.com).



**Holiday Contest Winners Announced**

The Asheville Regional Airport Authority is proud to announce the winners of its fourth annual *Holiday Decorating Contest* benefiting local charities.

To take part, area businesses each sponsored a charity and used their imaginations to festively decorate 11 trees and a menorah, which are located throughout the terminal.

The public was invited to vote online via the Asheville Regional Airport website for their favorite display. After more than 1800 votes were tallied, the winners are:

- **1st Place:** Hendersonville Printing Company – American Legion Post 77 HonorAir Fund (*pictured: Jeff Miller, founder of HonorAir, left, and the staff of Hendersonville Printing Company*)
- **2nd Place:** WNC Magazine – Arts for Life
- **3rd Place:** Insurance Specialties, Inc. – The Chabad House of Asheville
- **Most Creative:** Hendersonville Printing Company – American Legion Post 77 HonorAir Fund

The three winning charities will receive contributions totaling \$2100 in the name of the sponsoring company.

“Asheville Regional Airport is proud to help bring local businesses and charities together through this contest,” says Lew Bleiweis, A.A.E., Airport Director. “We invite everyone to visit the airport and enjoy the displays this holiday season.”

The decorations will remain on display in the terminal through Jan. 1, 2010.

### Give Us Your Feedback

Sure we've got a [Facebook](#) page, a [Twitter](#) account, phone numbers, [e-mail addresses](#), and more, but now we've made it even easier for you to give us your input about AVL and your travel experience.

Log on to [www.flyavl.com](http://www.flyavl.com) and [take our survey](#) to share your comments, questions, complaints, and more.

We can't wait to hear from you!

### Gifts for Travelers

Some highly ambitious people already have all their holiday shopping done, but the rest of us are still scrambling, trying to find gifts for those impossible people on our lists.

Frequent travelers can be difficult to buy for because they either seem to have everything already, or don't have room for anything else in their carry-on.

We've done a little shopping of our own to find some useful and portable gifts for people on the go. Featured here are our top 11 gifts for travelers. Because sometimes 10 just isn't enough.

In no particular order...

1. [WindPro Mini Umbrella](#): Just over 14-ounces, and 11-inches, this umbrella is ultra-portable, and comes in a variety of colors.
2. [TSA-Approved Locks](#): If you plan on locking your checked luggage, the only way to go is with a TSA-Approved device.
3. [Leather Passport Wallet](#): We like this one because it has a zipper to keep those

important documents where they belong.

4. [Fitness Workout Travel Kit](#): Stay fit even when you're away from home.

5. [Talking Travel Translator](#): Great for the international traveler!



6. [Handheld Digital Sudoku](#): Traveling can be a great time to get work done, but taking breaks is important too. This gadget features over 1 million games of sudoku!

7. [Portable DVD Player](#): Six-hour battery, two headphone jacks, and only two pounds. Plays music and movies on the go!

8. [Emergency Mobile Phone Charger](#): If you have a cell phone, you've probably found yourself in a bind with a low battery. This little device gives you up to four hours of power!

9. [Sleep Balm](#): This USDA certified organic product claims to "calm, encourage, cheer and relax." We haven't tried it yet, but we'd sure like to find it in our stockings!

10. [Kindle Wireless Reading Device](#): Meet the #1 Bestselling, #1 Most Wished-For, #1 Most Gifted product on Amazon.com. Lighter than most paperbacks and holds up to 1,500 books. We're sold.

11. [Bose Noise-Cancelling Headphones](#): Pair these with item #7 and you've got a winning combination!