



SkyWest Airlines

SkyWest Airlines, based in St. George, Utah, began in 1972 as a commuter airline with an operation primarily centered at a hub in Salt Lake City, Utah (SLC). In 1986 SkyWest became a Western Express feeder carrier on behalf of Western Airlines which then merged with Delta Air Lines the following year switching SkyWest to become a Delta Connection carrier. SkyWest began service to Albuquerque as Delta Connection on May 1, 1995 using a 50-seat Canadair CRJ-200 regional jet on a single flight to SLC supplementing Delta Air Lines. Service was later expanded adding more flights to SLC, eventually replacing all Delta mainline jets in the market. Flights from Albuquerque to Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) were added in 2002 to supplement Delta in that market but were discontinued in early 2005 when Delta ended their hub operation at DFW. Larger CRJ-700 and CRJ-900 aircraft were added for the SLC flights in the latter half of the 2000's decade. Other Delta Connection carriers including Atlantic Southeast, ExpressJet, and Mesaba Airlines supplemented SkyWest for brief periods in 2005 through 2012. In 2015 Delta re-entered the Albuquerque-SLC market by replacing one SkyWest flight with a Delta mainline jet and in late 2017, Delta Connection carrier Compass Airlines also began flights to SLC. In October, 2017 new service was inaugurated from Albuquerque to Los Angeles with one daily flight using an Embraer 175 regional jet however this service was replaced by Compass Airlines one month later. Compass also replaced all SkyWest flights on the Albuquerque-Salt Lake City route as of November, 2017 temporarily leaving no Delta Connection flights at Albuquerque operated by SkyWest, a service that lasted more than 22 years. SkyWest soon returned however and by early 2020 had replaced all Compass Airlines flights on both the Albuquerque to Los Angeles and Salt Lake City routes as well as flying newer Embraer 175's on all flights.



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SkyWest/Delta Connection Canadair CRJ-200 at Albuquerque in the original Delta livery.



SkyWest/Delta Connection Canadair CRJ-200 in a new livery worn from 1997 through 2000.



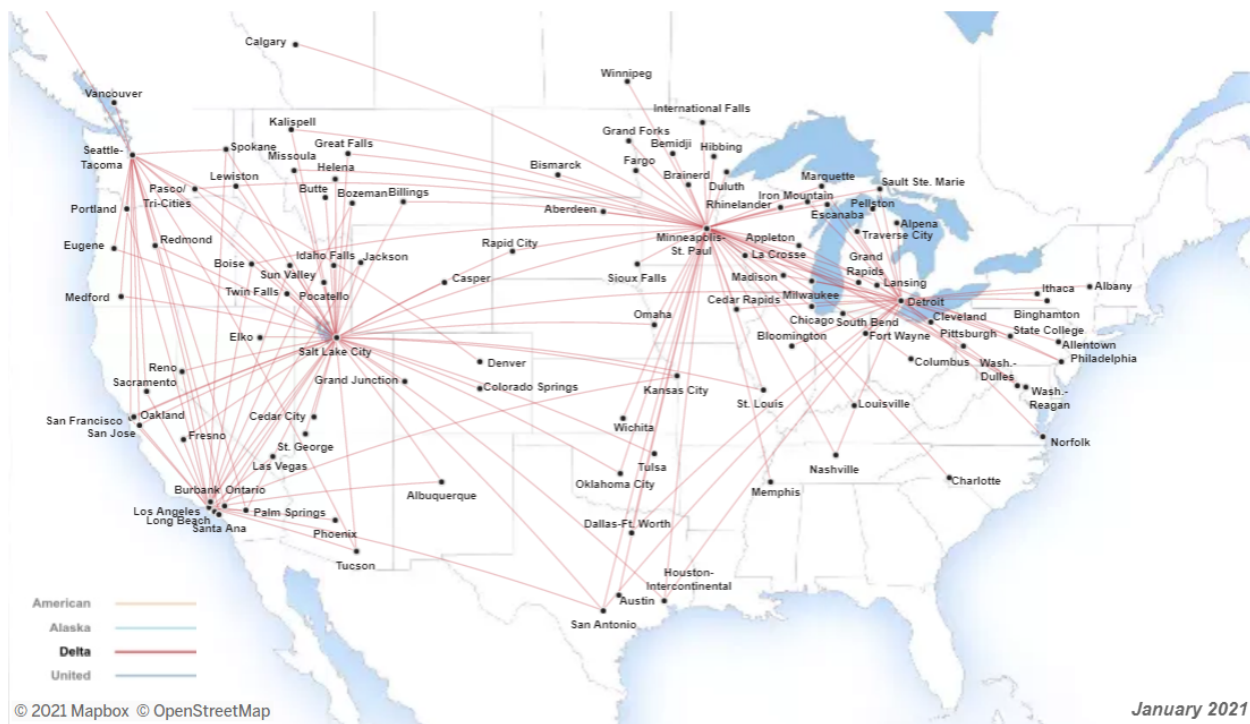
SkyWest began flying the Canadair CRJ-700 for Delta Connection in 2006 wearing a new “Colors in Motion” livery for Delta.



In 2009 SkyWest began flying the longer Canadair CRJ-900 for Delta Connection wearing yet another new livery called “Onward and Upward”.



In 2017 SkyWest introduced the Embraer 175 on Delta Connection flights at Albuquerque. This aircraft would be used on all Delta Connection flights at Albuquerque by 2020.



SkyWest/Delta Connection route map from January, 2021 showing the carrier's routes from Albuquerque to Los Angeles and Salt Lake City.



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In 2003 SkyWest entered into a second regional feeder operation as United Express on behalf of United Airlines. Canadair CRJ-200 and CRJ-700 aircraft were initially used on flights from Albuquerque to Denver, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The flights to Los Angeles were discontinued in early 2019 but return briefly during early October each year for the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. 30-seat Embraer 120 Brasilia turboprop aircraft were also used on select flights to Denver in 2003 and 2004. New service from Albuquerque to Houston began in 2011 as United began merging with Continental Airlines. In 2015, the 76-seat Embraer 175 regional jet was introduced to SkyWest and used on flights from Albuquerque. Most markets from Albuquerque are supplemented by other United Express carriers and SkyWest does not operate them on a consistent basis. SkyWest flights from Santa Fe to Denver began in October, 2018, supplementing ExpressJet and TransStates Airlines, and were occasionally operated using CRJ-200 and CRJ-700 aircraft. The Santa Fe-Denver service was then replaced by CommuteAir in May, 2022. New SkyWest/United Express service from Hobbs to Denver and Houston began in October, 2019 using CRJ-200 aircraft. The Hobbs-Houston service was previously operated by ExpressJet. All service at Hobbs was briefly dropped in early 2020 with the Coronavirus outbreak. SkyWest service to Hobbs as United Express ended in June, 2022 when it was replaced by CommuteAir. SkyWest had applied to provide United Express service to Clovis, New Mexico from both Denver and Houston beginning May 1, 2020 under the Essential Air Service act however the Clovis service was awarded to Denver Air Connection. On June 23, 2020, SkyWest signed an agreement with the city of Farmington, New Mexico to begin United Express service to Denver on October 15 however that start date was delayed due to the Coronavirus pandemic and later cancelled as the pandemic lingered on. Roswell, New Mexico had also planned to receive new United Express service to Denver by SkyWest however this was also cancelled due to the pandemic. The planned service for Farmington and Roswell was initiated when both cities received Small Community Air Service Development grants through the federal government. During 2022, SkyWest's service as United Express at Albuquerque was slowly being replaced by United Airlines mainline jets with only one flight left by the end of the year. It is possible that SkyWest will return as United Express to Santa Fe or Hobbs in the future.



SkyWest/United Express Canadair CRJ-200 at Albuquerque in the United livery worn up until 2004.



SkyWest/United Express Embraer 120 Brasilia's were briefly flown into Albuquerque in 2003 and 2004.



SkyWest/United Express Canadair CRJ-700 in the Rising Blue livery worn from 2004 through 2012.



SkyWest introduced the Embraer 175 on United Express flights in 2015 wearing the former Continental Airlines livery after United and Continental merged in 2012.



SkyWest/United Express Embraer 175 in the latest United Airlines livery that began in 2019.



SkyWest/United Express route map from January, 2021 showing United Express routes from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Hobbs, New Mexico that were operated at that time.

U·S AIRWAYS E X P R E S S

In January, 2012 SkyWest began a US Airways Express operation on behalf of US Airways with flights from Albuquerque to Phoenix using CRJ-200 aircraft. This was in addition to Mesa Airlines which also operated as US Airways Express. Larger CRJ-900 aircraft came on line in July, 2013. US Airways then entered into a merger process with American Airlines which was completed on October 17, 2015 at which time all US Airways Express flights became American Eagle.

Route Map

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SkyWest/US Airways Express route map from September, 2014 showing the carrier's single route from Albuquerque to Phoenix.



SkyWest/US Airways Express Canadair CRJ-200 at Albuquerque before US Airways merged into American Airlines in 2015.



SkyWest introduced the Canadair CRJ-900 on US Airways Express flights at Albuquerque in 2013.



2012 also saw SkyWest begin an American Eagle feeder operation on behalf of American Airlines with service from both Albuquerque and Santa Fe to Los Angeles using CRJ-200 aircraft. The Santa Fe-Los Angeles flights ended in September, 2015, and Albuquerque-Phoenix flights began operating as American Eagle after American Airlines and US Airways merged in October, 2015. SkyWest supplemented Mesa Airlines under the American Eagle banner between Albuquerque and Phoenix and began using CRJ-700 aircraft in 2016, replacing the CRJ-200's and CRJ-900's. The Albuquerque-Los Angeles flights ended in November, 2015 being replaced by Compass Airlines, another American Eagle operator. New American Eagle service from Roswell to Phoenix began on March 3, 2016 using the CRJ-200 and was upgraded to a CRJ-700 one year later. New service from Santa Fe to Phoenix began on December 15, 2016 using a CRJ-700. SkyWest flights from Roswell and Santa Fe to Dallas/Fort Worth began in early 2018 replacing Envoy Air and ExpressJet. By the end of 2018 all American Eagle Service from Roswell and Santa Fe to both DFW and Phoenix was operated by SkyWest Airlines. With the Coronavirus outbreak in 2020, the Roswell-Phoenix flight was suspended in April, 2020 followed by the Santa Fe-Phoenix flight in July. A new flight on Saturdays only between Santa Fe and Los Angeles was planned for much of 2020 but was cancelled however it did operate during the summer of 2021. After Compass airlines shut down in April, 2020, all American Eagle service between Albuquerque and Los Angeles was cancelled. SkyWest reinstated this route on July 7 only to cancel on July 29, 2020 due to low passenger volume. The Roswell-Phoenix flight resumed on April 3, 2021 and the Santa Fe-Phoenix service on June 3, 2021. Albuquerque-Los Angeles service also resumed on June 3, 2021. SkyWest briefly operated CRJ-900 aircraft once again at both Albuquerque and Santa Fe in mid-2021 and by fall 2021, began flying new Embraer 175's as American Eagle on the Albuquerque to Phoenix and Los Angeles routes in addition to the CRJ-700's. Service between Roswell and Phoenix will be suspended on May 5, 2023 due to a lack of pilots that has begun to plague the industry. Service continues to operate from Roswell and Santa Fe to Dallas/Fort Worth and from Santa Fe to Phoenix using CRJ-700's. Embraer 175's were introduced at Santa Fe in February, 2023.



SkyWest/American Eagle CRJ-200 at the Roswell airport wearing the original livery for American Eagle. The SkyWest CRJ-200's ended service with American Eagle in 2019.



SkyWest introduced the Canadair CRJ-700 on American Eagle flights in 2016. This aircraft is seen at the Santa Fe airport wearing the latest livery for American Airlines.



SkyWest/American Eagle began flying the Embraer 175 into the Albuquerque Sunport in 2021 and into Santa Fe in 2023.



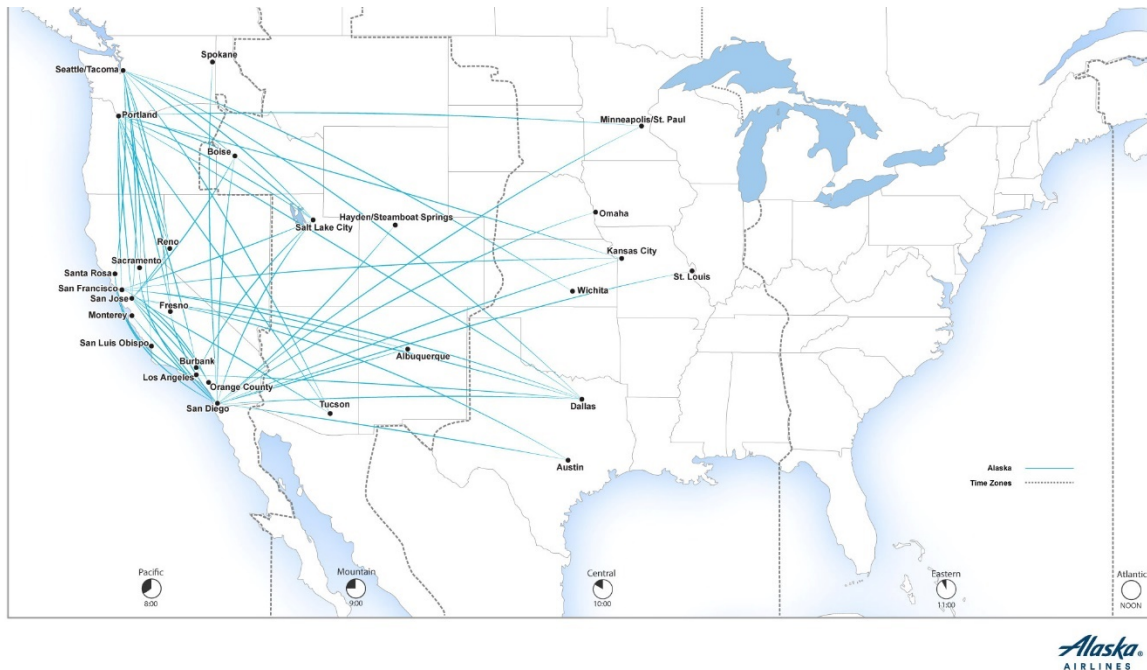
SkyWest/American Eagle route map from January, 2023 showing routes from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Roswell, New Mexico.



SkyWest added flying for Alaska Airlines to its list in 2011 and began supplementing Horizon Air as Alaska SkyWest at Albuquerque starting on May 20, 2018. Flights were first added to San Francisco then later to Portland, San Diego, and Seattle. Embraer-175 regional jets were used. Flights to San Diego and San Francisco were discontinued in late 2019 and the remaining flights to Portland and Seattle ended in early 2020. Portland service was reinstated in mid-2021 and alternated operations with Horizon Air from month to month until all service was replaced by Alaska Airlines mainline jets on March 17, 2022.



Alaska SkyWest Embraer 175 at the Albuquerque Sunport.



Alaska SkyWest route map from January, 2019 showing the Alaska routes from Albuquerque flown by SkyWest at the time.

As the year 2021 wound down, SkyWest and most other regional airlines was stricken with a shortage of pilots. Many flights had to be discontinued and, in some cases, the mainline carrier had to begin using their own much larger mainline jets to cover the service needed. On March 4, 2022 for example, United Airlines replaced two daily United Express flights operated by SkyWest on the Albuquerque-San Francisco route with one flight using a United mainline Airbus jet.

As of May, 2023, SkyWest was flying the following services in New Mexico:

American Eagle flights from Albuquerque to Los Angeles and Phoenix, from Santa Fe and Roswell to Dallas/Ft. Worth and from Santa Fe to Phoenix.

Delta Connection flights from Albuquerque to Los Angeles and Salt Lake City.

United Express flights from Albuquerque to Chicago.

All SkyWest service for Alaska Airlines in New Mexico has been suspended.

SkyWest also has several CRJ-200 and CRJ-700 aircraft painted in the companies' house colors so that these aircraft can be used as needed for different major carrier affiliates.



SkyWest CRJ-200 at the Santa Fe airport wearing the companies' house colors livery.



SkyWest CRJ-700 at Albuquerque in the house colors livery.