

Duff on Hospitality Law

## **OTA & Travel Distribution Update: Expedia unable to stop withholding of critical airline data; Accor partners with Middle Eastern distributor**

By Greg Duff on 4.12.19 | Posted in OTA Update

### **Expedia Unable to Stop Withholding of Critical Airline Data**

*("U.S. judge rules against Expedia in United Airlines fare listings lawsuit," Reuter US News, April 5, 2019)*

In the continuing saga of United Airline versus Expedia, a federal judge in NYC ruled last week that Expedia was not entitled to a court order prohibiting the airline for cutting off access to critical fare and schedule data following the September 30 contract termination. According to the court, while Expedia was able to demonstrate a "likelihood of success" on the merits of its breach of contract claim, it was not able to satisfy the requirements needed for an immediate injunction. More to come...

### **Accor Partners with Middle Eastern Distributor**

*("Accor enters global deal with Al-Tayyar Travel," Arab News Corporate News, April 1, 2019)*

Accor and Saudi Arabia based distributor Al-Tayyar Travel Group (ATG) announced plans last week for Accor to provide ATG's OTAs and other distribution points with direct connect access to Accor's 4800 hotels and resorts. ATG operates two OTAs in the Middle East (Almosafer and Tajawal) and maintains over 400 points of sale in Saudi Arabia alone.

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Other news:

### **AirAsia CEO Looks to Disrupt Again, This Time in Online Travel**

*Skift Travel News, April 3, 2019*

Tony Fernandes is taking AirAsia on "the final part of the company's evolution," one that will see the airline become a tech player. But it's one thing to disrupt legacy carriers, and another to disrupt the disruptors in the online travel space. He disagrees, of course.