

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

Airline adding direct flights from Columbus to New Orleans

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Visitors stroll along the French Quarter in New Orleans.

Travelers to the Big Easy can now get there a bit easier.

[Southwest Airlines](#) (NYSE:FUN) is adding direct flights from John Glenn Columbus International Airport to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

The once weekly direct flights will start April 30, departing from Columbus on Sundays at 7:25 p.m. and arriving in New Orleans two hours and 15 minutes later at 8:40 p.m. Central time.

Direct return flights leave from New Orleans at 3:40 p.m. on Sundays, arriving back in Columbus at 6:50 p.m.

It will be the first direct flights to New Orleans from the former Port Columbus airport. [Allegiant Air](#) has offered direct flights to the city from Rickenbacker International Airport since February 2015. It runs the route on Mondays and Fridays.



According to information from the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, an average of 74 people a day travel from Columbus to New Orleans, an increase of 10 percent over a year ago.

In other new service for Central Ohio travelers, Allegiant (NASDAQ:ALGT) this summer is [adding twice-weekly service to the Florida panhandle.](#)