

## **Private Jet Charter Luxury Options: the Sky is the Limit**

By Daniel J. Quigley

It is true that private jet charters have the tools and the potential provide clients with faster, more convenient ways to arrange transportation that fits their specific needs; however, it's not always where one is going, but how he or she gets there that counts. On top of creating the advantage of having direct, no-hassle travel at one's fingertips when and where a person needs to travel, without the impediment of having to come and go on a commercial carrier's preordained schedule and destination, private jet charter offers endless possibilities of the style and experience of traveling within hours of notice. In fact, with the luxury options available to private jet charters and their clients, just getting somewhere can greatly enhance and even top whatever comes before or after a flight. When using a private jet charter, the luxury options available to a client are only limited by the imagination and the amounts of money one wishes to spend.

### **Choose wisely: size does matter**

One of the primary options one should consider when chartering a private jet is the type of aircraft that will suit his or her party's needs. In opting for the right vehicle, a party should consider how many people are flying, the distance of travel and whether or not it is acceptable to stop for refueling, whether the flight is for business or pleasure or both, which amenities and flight staff a party wishes to have onboard, cost, storage space, and the required runway distance for takeoff and landing at the desired airports. For these reasons, one should know the differences between light jets, midsize jets, heavy jets and jet airliners. It should be mentioned that there are also comparable classes of propeller-driven aircraft, but this report concentrates on the options available in the private jet category.

The light-jet class can be a wise choice for short to medium ranges with a minimum of passengers and luggage. Common examples of the light-jet style aircraft include the models Learjet 35, Cessna Citation series I and II, and Beechjet 400. The light jet's range – without refueling – is about 1,500 miles. Most light jets cruise an average speed of 400-450 miles per hour. Light jets can come with curtained, partial, or full lavatories and most comfortably accommodate four to eight passengers. They can cost

\$1,900-\$4,000 per hour to charter. Light jets are advantageous because they require less runway length than larger aircraft and, therefore, leave open more options to land at smaller, less busy airports. The obvious disadvantages of light jets are that they are limited in space to a small number of passengers, and smaller passenger space also comes with smaller storage space. Items such as large golf bags, skis, or big pieces of luggage can be problematic. Of course, cross-country or intercontinental travel is also a problem with the fuel limitations of light jets. Trips of more than 1,500-1,600 miles require one or more refueling stops, thus much longer travel times. Compounded with a lack of space – most light jet cabins are less than 5 feet in width and height – longer travel times could also make longer distances undesirable, especially if one will be conducting business or recreation immediately upon landing because of a lack of comfort and a resulting need for more time to recuperate after a trip.

A step up from the light jet is the midsize jet. A few midsize types include Cessna's Citation series III, VII and X models, the Raytheon Hawker series 800 and 1000 models, and the Bombardier Learjet 55 and 60 models. Midsize jets will bump up comfortable passenger capacity to between 5 and 10 passengers. Range also increases to 2,000-3,000 miles, making travel across multiple states and provinces less of an inconvenience. Cruising speed averages increase to 430-480 miles per hour, as well. As one may have guessed the cost also climbs; chartering a midsize jet costs \$3,000-\$6,000 per hour. However, the rise in cost almost guarantees a full lavatory, more storage space and more comfort, and a little more room to move around during long trips. The cabin width and height on midsize jets are usually between 5 and 7 feet, granting almost enough room to stand up for passengers of average heights. Just like light jets, midsize aircraft have the advantage of being able to land on smaller runways than large commercial airliners, yet they also have some similar disadvantages, such as limited passenger and baggage capacities and comfort.

To open up a world of possibilities to luxury amenities, comfort, faster trips, and nonstop travel, one can use a model from the heavy-jet class. Capable of accommodating 10-18 passengers, heavy jets include models from the Gulfstream IV and V series, the Bombardier Challenger 600 series, and the Dassault 900 series, to name a few. Some heavy jets can travel continuously up to 6,200 miles at speeds between 480 and 560 miles

per hour. They can cost \$8,000 or more per hour, but with the added cost, come added room (6 to 8 feet cabin height and width) and infinite potential for added amenities, including flight attendants, entertainment, and a full galley. These vessels also have external storage compartments to handle almost any baggage needs.

If a travel party wants the ultimate combination of speed, distance without refueling, absolute comfort and freedom to stretch out during flight, and storage capacity, a private jet airliner is the best way to charter. At costs ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per hour, examples of jet airliners include Boeing's 727, 737, 757, and 767 series, the Boeing Business Jet and the Airbus A320. Jet airliners range in size and hold between 25 and more than 300 passengers. Jet airliners also range in performance, from non-refueling distances of 1,200 to 7,000 miles, and speeds from 400 to nearly 500 miles per hour. Cabin widths and heights can range from 6 to 15 feet or more. One model, the Airbus A300B4, actually has a cabin width of 17.4 feet and a cabin height of 14.1 feet, giving passengers more than enough room to stand, walk around, or even jump up and down. Baggage holds on jet airliners can accommodate the heaviest packers and even large cargo in many cases. They can be designed to accommodate maximum passenger capacity or fewer passengers with tons of amenities, such as gyms, showers, meeting spaces, lounging areas, onboard service staff, and room for entertainment. The only real disadvantage of jet airliners – other than higher costs – is that they usually need to land on – and take off from – larger runways than smaller-class aircraft, often requiring distances of tarmac found at large, busy airports.

### **Membership has its privileges: ask your local executive jet charter broker**

If a party of business or recreational travelers flies often with the same class of airline, always to the same destinations, and with roughly the same amount of passengers, the best option with whom to charter may be a single charter operator who is the most reliable and safety-conscious in dealing with that party's needs and where the party can get the best deal. Even full or fractional jet ownership could be the most efficient arrangement for such a party. However, if a party's travel needs vary over time, or if the party is new to private jet charter and not sure which type of aircraft would best suit its needs, then the best way to go is most-likely an executive jet charter broker. Charter

operators are usually small in size with anywhere between one and 30 aircraft at their disposal (the latter figure for large operations). Charter brokers, on the other hand, usually have access to vast networks of operators and are able to discuss with travelers which options are best for their purposes. Also, the most reliable charter brokers are members of safety-auditing companies such as Charter X Wyvern or Aviation Research Group/U.S., Inc. (ARG/US). Such auditors monitor the safety precautions taken by charter operators and make the information available to business jet charter brokers, so the brokers can use it to ensure their clients that the operators which they use sufficiently cover all safety concerns.

Another benefit available through several charter brokers is membership cards. For instance, Daytona Beach, Fla.-based Paramount Business Jets offers the Paramount Jet Card. According to the Paramount Business Jets Web site, with the Jet Card, Paramount clients can create prepaid accounts that enable its customers to experience higher levels service, guaranteed availability of aircraft, fixed hourly flight rates, freedom to choose jet makes and models, and cost savings. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the same organization that protects funds placed into banking institutions, also insures funds added to the card. Other charter brokers have membership programs with similar benefits.

### **Flying in style: anything's possible**

There are virtually no limits as to which amenities one can choose to have on a chartered private jet, as long as it fits on the size of aircraft. In January 2009, Paramount Business Jets advertised a mega-tour to the Seven Wonders of the World aboard a Boeing Business Jet. For \$5.7 million dollars, the trip offered 16 people the six-continent excursion of a lifetime via a jet with a full bar, a full shower, a meeting room, full telecommunications capabilities, an executive suite, and lounging areas loaded with easy chairs and couches. The aircraft was to be fully staffed by service attendants and offer a gourmet menu.

The trip even included professional tour guides onboard to brief the passengers on what to expect during each leg of the journey; day-spa staff to give massages, facials, pedicures and manicures; a spiritual mentor to instruct passengers on self-improvement;

and a world-renowned leadership expert. Entertainment on the jet was to include a movie-music composer.

According to Paramount Chief Executive Richard Zaher, he even attempted to book the pop-artist sensation, Shakira, for part of the trip, who would have gladly accepted for a guaranteed \$1 million dollars, whether or not the trip sold. Though the trip did not sell, it did show that any luxury amenity option is available aboard on the right-sized private jet to anyone with a willingness to pay for it.

### **Going green: guilt-free luxury**

One of the latest trends in travel is the option to offset the “carbon footprint,” – or CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – of one’s trip. Companies, like San Francisco, Calif.-based TerraPass, offer travelers just such an opportunity. The way it works is the carbon-offset company calculates the carbon pollution emitted from a vehicle during travel. The organization then offers a figure – based on the calculation – of how much it costs to offset the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by the trip. The money that the consumer pays for the offset is then invested into “green” technologies, like development of solar or wind power, allowing environmentally conscious travelers to enjoy all of the luxury options private jet charters offer without the destruction the aircraft inflict on the planet festering in the backs of their minds.

### **Back to earth: you’re here, now what?**

One of the most important luxury options of private jet charter has nothing to do with the flight at all but, rather, with how a party will arrive at its destination once the jet has landed. Most private jet charter brokers not only have networks of charter aircraft carriers, but they also have close business partnerships with luxury ground transport companies. A respectable executive jet charter can arrange for one’s safe transport to his or her destination by car, limousine or even a large luxury van or tour bus, so the traveler is not left hanging at an airport after landing.

Flying commercial can be a nightmare of delays, long lines, and overcrowded aircraft with screaming babies and impersonal and rude airline staff. Flying private jet charter cannot solve every problem; air traffic control and airports are still overburdened,

long flights are always trying, and freak safety issues will always be a possibility, no matter how one travels. But with the endless list of possibilities of luxury options, the private jet charter client is surely more likely to have a smoother, more comfortable, and even more enjoyable experience than one who flies commercial.

#### **Sources**

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**Other facts come from experiences and conversations at Paramount Business Jets,  
101 Ivy Lane, Suite A, Daytona Beach, FL 32114**