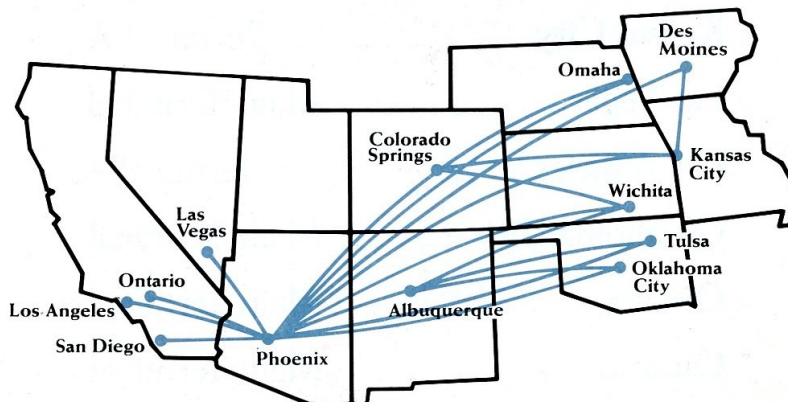




## America West Airlines

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America West Airlines was a successful new airline that began operations on August 1, 1983 with its base and primary hub in Phoenix, Arizona. The airline started service to Albuquerque four months later on December 1, 1983 with flights to Phoenix using Boeing 737-200 aircraft. In the first few years, several flights from Phoenix to Albuquerque were extended onto Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Wichita, Austin, and Durango, Colorado. Newer, updated Boeing 737-300 aircraft were acquired in 1985 and a new hub was created at Las Vegas the following year in which the company operated a late-night flight to and from Albuquerque. The return flights from Las Vegas generally arrived Albuquerque around 300am then continued onto either El Paso or Austin, Texas. Due to the late hour of this flight, no tickets were sold from Albuquerque. By late 1987 flights to Phoenix were operating every 90 minutes as well as two daily flights to Las Vegas however the frequency to Phoenix proved to be too much capacity and was later scaled back. The Las Vegas flights ended in early 1998 but made a comeback from 2005 through 2007. Airbus A320 aircraft began arriving in 1993 followed by the Airbus A319 in 2000. From 1996 through 2001 America West periodically operated a much larger Boeing 757 aircraft on an evening flight to Phoenix. Some of the 757 and Airbus aircraft had special paint schemes honoring the states of Arizona, Nevada, and Ohio as well as the Phoenix Suns and Arizona Cardinals and Diamondbacks sports teams. One 757 had a unique "Teamwork Coast to Coast" paint scheme.



America West route map from December, 1983 when service began at Albuquerque.



America West Boeing 737-200.



America West Boeing 737-300 introduced in 1985.





America West Boeing 757's served Albuquerque from 1996 through 2001.



America West Airbus A320 in a new livery introduced in 1996.



## America West Express

In late 1992 America West contracted with Mesa Airlines to initiate a feeder operation at Phoenix known as America West Express. Mesa's existing flights from Phoenix to Gallup and Farmington, New Mexico began operating as America West Express using 19-seat Beech 1900 aircraft as well as an occasionally 30-seat Embraer Brasilia. Service to Gallup ended in 1999 and new service from Phoenix to Santa Fe began in 2000 but ended one year later. A 37-seat Dash-8 aircraft was used on one Phoenix-Farmington flight for a brief time in 2001. America West Express service came to Albuquerque in 2002 with supplemental flights to Phoenix. Initially 50-seat Canadair CRJ-200 regional jets were used but larger 70 seat CRJ-700's and 86 seat CRJ-900's came within a year later. The larger regional jets were operated at first by Freedom Airlines, a subsidiary of the Mesa Air Group, but then blended in with Mesa Airlines by the end of 2003. Mesa also bought out Air Midwest, a competing commuter airline, in 2001 and all flights operating with Beech 1900 aircraft, including the Phoenix to Farmington and Santa Fe service, began operating under Air Midwest as America West Express. More information on Mesa, Air Midwest, and Freedom Airlines can be found in separate links for each carrier.



America West Express Beech 1900D operated by Mesa Airlines at the Farmington Four Corners Airport.





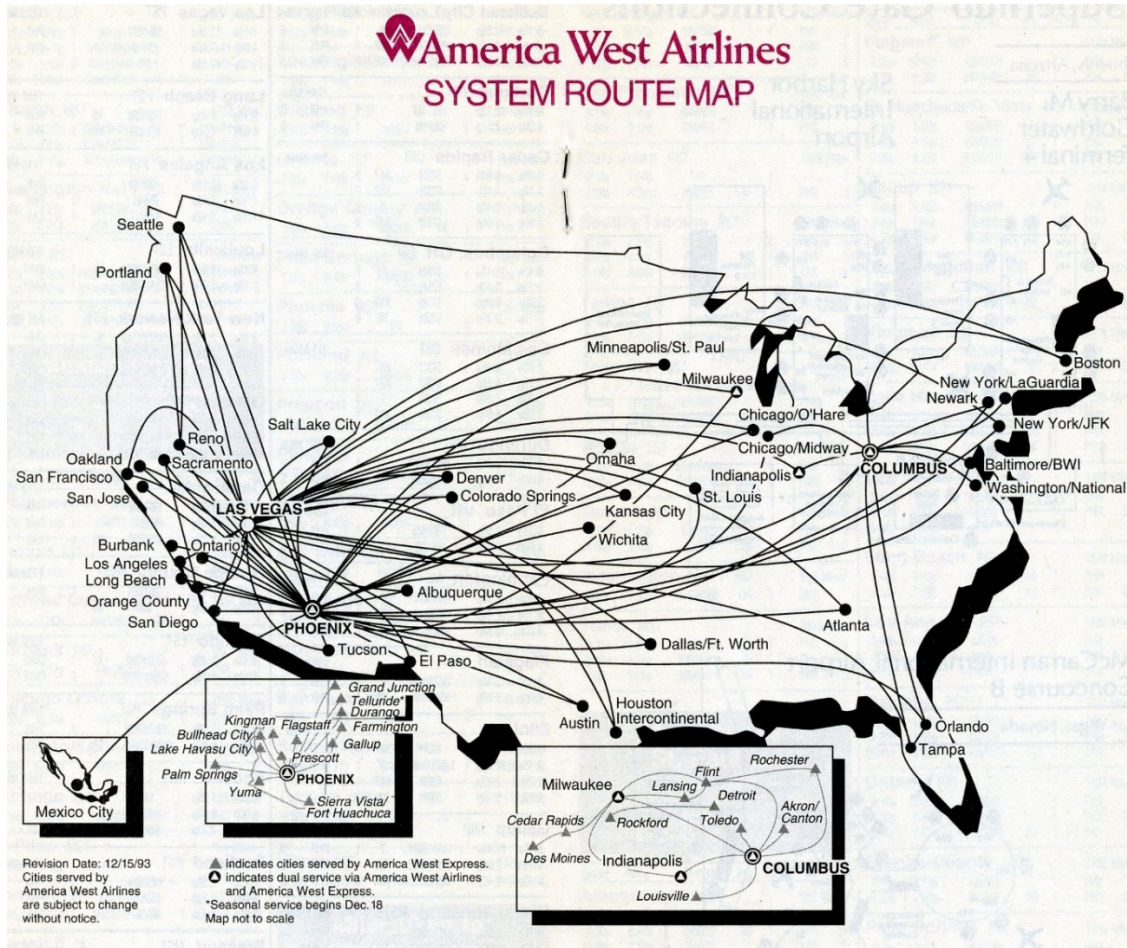
America West Express De Havilland Dash-8 operated by Mesa Airlines served Farmington in 2001.



America West Express Canadair CRJ-200 operated by Mesa Airlines at the Albuquerque Sunport.



America West Express Canadair CRJ-900 operated by Freedom Airlines at the Albuquerque Sunport.



America West route map from December, 1993.

In 2005 America West bought out U-S Airways and the two companies completed a merger process on November 4, 2007 retaining the U-S Airways brand. In remembrance of America West Airlines, a pair of Airbus A319 aircraft were retained with the two paint schemes that America West had operated with. Eight years later U-S Airways was then merged into American Airlines and the A319 with the second America West paint scheme still flies for American.





A former America West Airbus A319 flew with U-S Airways from 2007 through 2015 in a retro livery commemorating America West.



Another former America West Airbus A319 now flies for American Airlines in a retro livery commemorating America West.