



Great Plains Airlines

Great Plains was a small regional airline created in 2001 and based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The carrier was established by purchasing the operating certificate of the second Ozark Airlines (2000-2001) as well as Ozark's two 32-seat Fairchild Dornier 328 Jets. Great Plains began serving Albuquerque on May 25, 2001 with three daily flights to Oklahoma City that continued onto Tulsa and Nashville, Tennessee. Flights were added to Colorado Springs, Colorado the following year and to Austin, Texas in 2003. The airline later obtained a Dornier 328 turboprop aircraft which was unique due to fact that it had the same airframe as the 328 regional jet. A marketing agreement was set up with commuter air carrier Rio Grande Air in 2002 where service from Albuquerque to Alamogordo and Taos, New Mexico as well as to Durango, Colorado was operated by way of a code share. Great Plains struggled to find niche markets and exhausted all of its financing causing the carrier to shut down in 2004. Albuquerque service ended on Jan. 23 of that year.

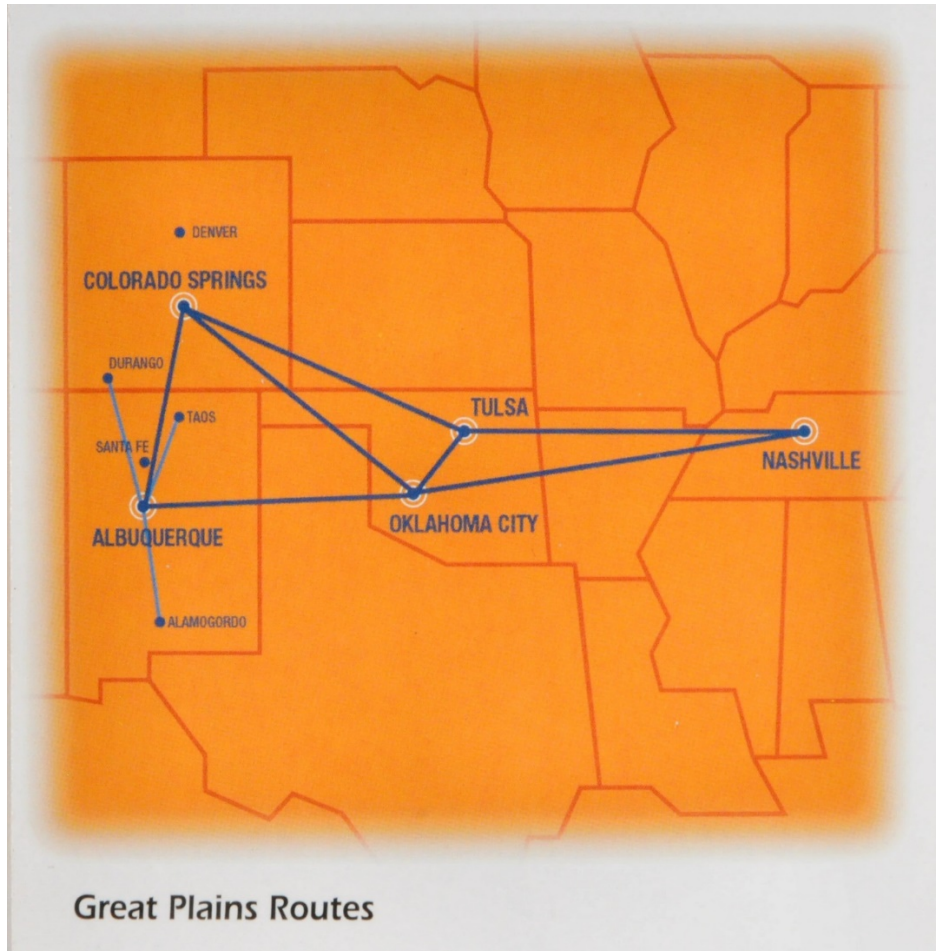
A complete overview on Rio Grande Air can be found in the Commuter Airlines section.



Great Plains Fairchild Dornier 328 Jet at the Albuquerque Sunport.



Great Plains Dornier 328 prop at the Albuquerque Sunport.



Great Plains route map from September, 2002.



Rio Grande Air Cessna 208 Caravan at the Albuquerque Sunport.