



Northwest Airlines

Northwest Airlines was one of the original legacy airlines of the United States founded in 1926. Initial routes were from Alaska to the Pacific Northwest, through Montana, and skirting the most northern states of the United States into New England. After airline deregulation in 1978, Northwest Orient, as it was called at the time, was based in Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP) and focused on building upon MSP and Detroit as their primary hubs. In 1986 Northwest merged with its primary competitor, Republic Airlines, which strengthened its two hubs and added a third hub at Memphis.

Northwest Orient indirectly served Albuquerque from 1985 through 1988 when it operated code-share relationships with America West and Pacific Southwest Airlines (PSA), designating each as "Airlink" carriers. Certain flights operated by America West between Albuquerque and Phoenix as well as PSA flights between Albuquerque and Los Angeles and San Francisco, were also designated as Northwest Airlink flights. Northwest dropped "Orient" from its name in 1986 and began its own mainline service to Albuquerque on October 1, 1992 with two daily flights to MSP using Douglas DC-9-30 aircraft. The new service to ABQ was greatly influenced by the opening of a General Mills cereal plant in Albuquerque in 1992 which required significant travel to Minneapolis. Three days after service began, Northwest operated a Boeing 757-200 aircraft into ABQ and made a special flight tour of the opening of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta before the scheduled morning flight to MSP. Within two years, both flights were upgraded to Boeing 727-200 aircraft and periodically a third MSP flight was added during the summer months and at Christmas. By 2001 the 727's were retired and Airbus A319's and A320's were operated. In the summer of 2005, the third flight was operated by Northwest Airlink carrier Pinnacle Airlines using a Canadair CRJ-200 regional jet. Northwest merged with Delta Airlines on January 31, 2010 at which time Delta took over operating the service to Minneapolis while the Northwest Airlines name was retired. During their 17 plus years at Albuquerque, Northwest only operated flights to Minneapolis. Delta has maintained the MSP hub however flights from Albuquerque are now seasonal, only operating from May through the summer and early fall of each year.



Northwest Douglas DC-9-30



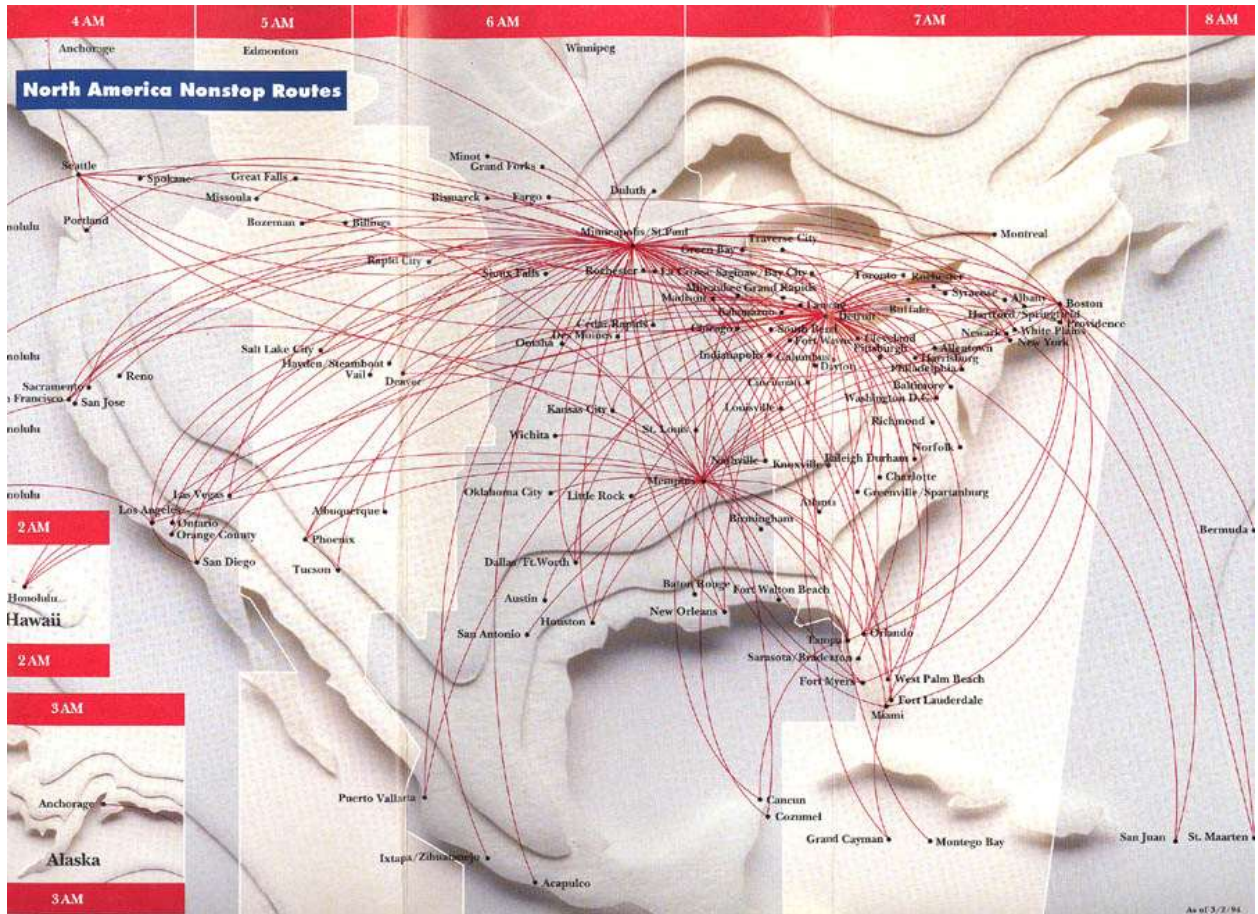
Northwest Boeing 727-200 at the Albuquerque Sunport



Northwest Airbus A320 at the Albuquerque Sunport wearing a new livery introduced in 2003



Northwest Airlink Canadair CRJ-200 operated by Pinnacle Airlines in 2005 at the Albuquerque Sunport.



Northwest route map 2001