

Theme flight on Finnair, theme park in China strictly for 'Angry Birds'



**ELLEN
CREAGER**
**TRAVEL
DIVA**

Dear Travel Diva: What's new in "Angry Birds" travel? — **Cheep Cheep**

Dear Cheep: What an obvious softball question! You already know the Travel Diva is a huge fan of the addictive online game in which birds try to knock off pigs. But here's the answer:

On Sept. 21, Finnair flew its Helsinki-Singapore flight featuring an "Angry Birds" theme. The crew wore "Angry Birds" aprons, passengers ate off an "Angry Birds" menu, an "Angry Birds" mascot walked the aisles and 50 passengers competed in an "Angry Birds" tournament midflight — all approved by Rovio, the creator of the game.

Meanwhile, an unauthorized yet whimsical "Angry Birds" theme park opened Sept. 1 in Changsha, China, according to CNNGo.

"Players pull a real catapult and shoot 'Angry Birds' plush toys at

green piggy balloons placed around a toy brick fortress," it reported, adding that doing so fostered great happiness.

Dear Travel Diva: Why is it so expensive to fly to most cities but so cheap to fly to Chicago? — **Windy Wonder**

Dear Windy: One word — competition. From Detroit, Southwest Airlines is trying to undercut Delta on fares to Chicago Midway, while Spirit is pressuring competitors on flights to O'Hare. In some cases, round-trip prices are under \$100.

Meanwhile, American and Spirit are suppressing prices on the Detroit to New York LaGuardia route, to about \$260 round trip.

Overall, fall is a lackluster time for flying, so watch for fare sales now through early December as airlines try to fill their planes.

Dear Travel Diva: Is American Airlines going bankrupt? I heard they might. — **Back Fence**

Dear Fence: Rumors the airline might have to file Chapter 11 bankruptcy did not take into account a big pile of cash American has on hand.

But even if it had to file, so what? It likely would not disrupt travel, and plenty of airlines have gone that route before.

Come to think of it, in this day and age, whoever hasn't filed bankruptcy, raise your hand.

■ CONTACT ELLEN CREAGER: 313-222-6498 OR
ECREAGER@FREEPRESS.COM