

16 January 2018

Lucky 13 for Budapest Airport

In the past year, 13 million passengers have passed through Budapest Airport, a traffic record in the history of the Hungarian gateway. Experiencing its third year of double-digit passenger traffic growth, and holding its position as one of Europe's fastest growing major airports, Budapest welcomed 1.6 million more passengers last year than in 2016, a robust 14% year-on-year increase. Over one million passengers per month travelled through Budapest from April-December – the first time the airport has achieved these figures, showing a distinct reduction of seasonality.

At the end of 2017, Budapest offered more than 850 direct weekly flights to 125 destinations across 45 countries on 44 carriers. Heightened by the addition of 25 new routes last year, the airport has recorded an impressive 34% increase of destinations on its route network map in the last five years. Air freight also developed positively in 2017 – processing 127,000 tons which represents a 13% increase and another high for Hungary's capital city airport.

What's new for BUD in 2018?

Looking ahead at another year of strong growth, Budapest will offer one million more seats in 2018. The airport has already announced eight new routes and added yet another carrier to its roll-call when American Airlines makes a welcome return. Notably resuming Hungary's US ties from May, the oneworld member will operate a daily seasonal service to Philadelphia, joining LOT Polish Airlines' long-desired new links to New York JFK and Chicago O'Hare.

easyJet kicked off the route launches this year with yesterday's inaugural of its daily service to Berlin Tegel, while home-based Wizz Air will further increase Budapest's route network during S18 timetable with two new connections; Stavanger and Athens. The start of the summer season will also see Ryanair add new destination Santander as well as doubling the airport's operations to Cyprus when the low-cost carrier commences its three times weekly service to Paphos.

New airlines and routes

Airline	Destination	Start date	Frequency
easyJet	Berlin Tegel	9 January	Daily
Wizz Air	Stavanger (new)	15 March	Twice-weekly
Wizz Air	Athens	25 March	Four times weekly
Ryanair	Santander (new)	26 March	Three times weekly
Ryanair	Paphos (new)	27 March	Three times weekly
Wizz Air	Basel	3 May	Five times weekly
LOT Polish Airlines	New York JRK	3 May	Four times weekly
LOT Polish Airlines	Chicago O'Hare	5 May	Twice-weekly
American Airlines	Philadelphia	5 May	Daily

With considerable increase of flight frequencies, Budapest will also see extensive growth on a number of existing successful routes:

Airline	Destination	Frequency/Capacity increase
Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Five times daily to six times daily
Flybe	London Southend	Twice-weekly to three times weekly
LOT Polish Airlines	Warsaw Chopin	Four times daily to five times daily
Finnair	Helsinki	Twice-daily to three times daily
Turkish Airlines	Istanbul Atatürk	Twice-daily to three times daily
Aeroflot	Moscow Sheremetyevo	Twice-daily to three times daily
Iberia	Madrid	Seasonal to year-round operation

“Our airport is better connected than ever before and we continue to grow as we focus on Budapest as a popular destination for both tourism and trade – ultimately leading to higher demand from each sector,” explains Jost Lammers, CEO, Budapest Airport. “Our double-digit growth is not a given in such a competitive environment, therefore we cannot be complacent and expect extra capacity to fall into our laps. We start the year with the extremely significant expansion to the US and with worldwide connectivity being crucial in today’s economy we must always strive for more,” adds Lammers.

Notes for Editors

- Budapest Airport Zrt. is the operator of Budapest Airport. It is owned by an international consortium of investors, led by the privately-owned German company AviAlliance, an independent airport manager holding a 55.438% stake, together with Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (21.228%), and Malton Investment Pte Ltd. (23.334%).
- Budapest Airport welcomed more than 13 million passengers in 2017, flying on the airport’s services to 125 destinations across 45 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth December 2017 has exceeded +12.7%.
- Budapest Airport’s route development includes:
 - Already launch:
 - easyJet daily service to Berlin Tegel, 9 January 2018;
 - To launch:
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Stavanger, starting 15 March 2018;
 - Wizz Air four times weekly service to Athens, starting 25 March 2018;
 - Ryanair three times weekly service to Santander, starting 26 March 2018;
 - Ryanair three times weekly service to Paphos, starting 27 March 2018;
 - Wizz Air five times weekly service to Basel, starting 3 May 2018;
 - LOT Polish Airlines four times weekly service to New York JFK, starting 3 May 2018;
 - LOT Polish Airlines twice-weekly service to Chicago O’Hare, starting 5 May 2018;
 - American Airlines daily service to Philadelphia, starting 5 May 2018.

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