

5 May 2015

Budapest Airport resurrects links to Beijing as it celebrates Air China's inaugural flight

Budapest Airport celebrated a significant development last week, welcoming the inaugural flight of its new airline partner, Air China. Operating a triangular route via Minsk Airport on the inbound sector, with a direct connection on the return leg from Budapest to Beijing, the Chinese flag carrier will use its 237-seat A330-200s on the four times weekly service. Air China will be the sole operator to provide a non-stop connection between the two cities, with their Beijing hub becoming the first point in East Asia to be served directly from Budapest since 2012.

At the official opening ceremony on Friday 1 May, Budapest Airport's CEO, Jost Lammers welcomed the arrival of this major new link, exclaiming: "We're absolutely ecstatic to welcome Air China as a new airline, adding Beijing to our significant brand new services available this year. Hungary is a fast growing tourism market for China, with last year showing a 19% increase of Chinese visitors travelling to Budapest. We have been working hard to secure this service and are proud to launch this vital link from East Asia to Budapest. Having again won the Skytrax Best Airport award, Budapest Airport is extremely excited to be able to offer Air China customers a best-in-class airport experience and have no doubt this new route will be a huge success."



Photo caption: Budapest Airport marks the launch of Air China's significant new service to Beijing. Cutting the ribbon with the crew are Huo Yu Zhen, Special Ambassador for Chinese Central/Eastern European Cooperation (third from left); Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Xiao Qien, Chinese Ambassador; Jost Lammers, CEO, Budapest Airport; and Jan Csien-Su, Chief Representative, Air China. Jost Lammers, CEO, Budapest Airport (third from right) comments: "We're absolutely ecstatic to welcome Air China, adding Beijing to our significant brand new services this year."



Photo caption: Budapest Airport greets Air China's inaugural four times weekly service from Beijing with a traditional fire truck water arch.

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 52.66% stake, together with Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (20.17%), Malton Investment Pte Ltd. (22.17%) and KfW IPEX-Bank GmbH (5%).
- Budapest Airport welcomed 9.1 million passengers in 2014, flying on the airport's services to 88 destinations across 35 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth in the period to end-March 2015 has exceeded +12%.
- Budapest Airport's route development for 2015 include:
 - Already launched:
 - Vueling thrice-weekly services to Barcelona and Rome, 27 March 2015
 - SAS four times weekly service to Stockholm Arlanda, 29 March 2015
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Lisbon, 30 March 2015
 - Ryanair four times weekly service to Athens, 1 April 2015
 - Air China four times weekly service to Beijing, 1 May 2015
 - To launch:
 - Wizz Air four times weekly service to Maastricht, starting 15 May 2015
 - Wizz Air once-weekly service to Hurgada, starting 16 May 2015
 - SkyGreece Airlines twice-weekly service to Toronto, starting 22 May 2015
 - Iberia and Iberia Express seven-times services to Madrid, starting 2 June 2015
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Bologna, starting 5 June 2015
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Glasgow, starting 13 June 2015
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Alghero, starting 15 June 2015
 - Air Transat weekly service to Montréal-Toronto, starting 18 June 2015
 - Wizz Air daily service to Copenhagen, starting 25 October 2015
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Tenerife South, starting 30 October 2015

To find out more on Budapest Airport, visit www.bud.hu

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