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Budapest Airport moves further east with flights to Korea



Korea move: Jost Lammers, CEO of Budapest Airport, and Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, announce the launch of Asiana Airlines services from Budapest Airport to Seoul Incheon Airport, commencing 1 July.

Experiencing yet another month of exceptional growth by recording 13.5% passenger traffic increase in March, Budapest Airport continues its route network enhancement in welcoming Asiana Airlines as its latest airline partner, the third this year to join the Hungarian gateway. The launch of a weekly service to South Korea's second biggest carrier's (in terms of weekly seat capacity) international hub, Seoul Incheon Airport, is set to start on the 1st July at Budapest, using the airline's 262-seat 777-200s. Expanding its presence in Europe, the Star Alliance member faces no head-to-head competition on this airport pair.

The Asian-Budapest market last year experienced an impressive 20% increase, with the number of Korean visitors alone increasing by 10%, having tripled over the last five years. Records show the real market size between Korea and Hungary as being over 100,000, mostly

arriving by land presently, demonstrating the high demand for Asiana's new link between the two countries.

Commenting on the significant announcement, Jost Lammers, CEO, Budapest Airport said: "We have worked extremely hard alongside the Foreign Ministry and the Hungarian National Tourism Office to secure this exciting new charter flight with Asiana Airlines. The launch of Air China's service to Beijing last year saw the first point in Asia to be served directly from Budapest since 2012, and the confirmation of Asiana's link to Korea reinforces the huge need of further connections to the East. I fully believe that this announcement is the first step in securing further capacity to Korea in the coming seasons."

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 10.3 million passengers in 2015, flying on the airport's services to 95 destinations across 36 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth in the period to end-March 2016 has exceeded +13%.
- Budapest Airport's route development for 2016 include:
 - Already launched:
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Nice, 11 March 2016;
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden, 11 March 2016;
 - Ryanair twice-weekly service to Malaga, 17 March 2016;
 - Ryanair twice-weekly service to Malta, 19 March 2016;
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Liverpool, 23 March 2016;
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Reykjavik/Keflavik, 24 March 2016;
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Baku, 24 March 2016;
 - Ryanair, weekly service to Gran Canaria, 3 April 2016;
 - To launch:
 - easyJet thrice-weekly service to Lyon, starting 26 April 2016;
 - Ryanair, weekly service to Corfu, starting 28 April 2016;
 - Air Canada rouge, thrice-weekly service to Toronto, starting 11 June 2016;
 - Wizz Air weekly service to Ibiza, starting 18 June 2016;
 - Ellinair weekly service to Thessaloniki, starting 19 June 2016;
 - Wizz Air four times weekly service to Bucharest, starting 19 September 2016;
 - Ryanair daily service to Berlin, starting 30 October 2016;
 - Ryanair daily service to Nuremburg, starting 1 November 2016;
 - Wizz Air thrice-weekly service to Sofia, starting 1 November 2016.

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