

28 March 2018

airBaltic's new travel experience bound for Budapest

Budapest Airport has today welcomed the arrival of its first CS300 flight with its closely-held airline partner airBaltic. The Latvian flag carrier will use the next generation aircraft on its three times weekly service between Budapest and Riga – the 1,101-kilometre sector being the Hungarian gateway's primary link to the Baltic States.

"airBaltic's service has been a crucial connection for us, not only to Latvia but to further destinations within the region. As a result of the introduction of the faster, environmentally-friendlier and ultimately larger jet, even more travellers can make this enhanced journey," states Kam Jandu, CCO, Budapest Airport. "We have a commitment to ensure our customers have greater connectivity as well as offering improved sustainability. The arrival of our partner's new aircraft illustrates our dedication to this goal while also improving our connection to further destinations via airBaltic's hub," adds Jandu.

Marking the Latvian flag carrier's eighth year with the Hungarian gateway, the arrival of the new aircraft signifies the expansion of the low-cost carrier's (LCC) flight network and the demand on the link between the two capital cities. Previously served by the airline's fleet of 73-seat Q400s, the new 145-seat CS300 will provide an additional 13,000 two-way seats on the airport pair, offering 30% more capacity than last summer.

In the year its home-country celebrates its centenary, airBaltic will offer close to 20,000 one-way seats from Budapest to its hub at Riga. The LCC has had a busy time serving Hungary since 2011:

2,430	number of flights between Budapest-Riga since 2011.
8	number of CS300s currently within the airBaltic fleet (with plans to have 14 by the end of 2018).
245	days in the air flying between the two cities each year.
1,662,435	approximate number of miles airBaltic has flown between Budapest and Riga since launch.

Martin Gauss, CEO, airBaltic comments: "By upgrading the route to the CS300 aircraft, and increasing the capacity offered by 38%, we will boost our competitiveness by being able to offer more comfort and more affordable prices to our passengers." Gauss added: "Flights to Riga are popular among transfer passengers choosing airBaltic for its convenient connections via Riga. This year the most popular transfer destinations thus far have been Tallinn, Helsinki, Vilnius, St. Petersburg and Moscow among others."



Photo caption: Budapest Airport welcomes the arrival of its first CS300 flown on airBaltic's three times weekly link to Latvia's capital city, Riga. "The introduction of the faster, environmentally-friendlier and larger jet results in more travellers being able to make this enhanced journey," stated Balázs Bogáts, Head of Airline Development, Budapest Airport (left) at the inaugural celebrations alongside: Yana Denisova, Area Sales Manager, airBaltic; Krisztina Kovács, GSA, airBaltic; and Gints Serafinovičs, Second Secretary, Embassy of Republic of Latvia in Hungary.

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 February 2018 has exceeded +15%.
- Budapest Airport's route development includes:
 - Already launched:
 - easyJet daily service to Berlin Tegel, 9 January 2018;
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Stavanger, 15 March 2018;
 - Wizz Air four times weekly service to Athens, 25 March 2018;
 - Ryanair twice-weekly service to Santander, 26 March 2018;
 - Ryanair three times weekly service to Paphos, 27 March 2018.

To launch:

- LOT Polish Airlines six times weekly service to Krakow, starting 28 April 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;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Marseille, starting W18/19;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Amman, starting W18/19.

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