

27 March 2018

## Ryanair continues summer season surge at Budapest

The start of the summer season sees a further two new connections from Budapest Airport as the Hungarian gateway continues to expand its route map. Supporting the growth of the airport, Ryanair added a twice-weekly service to Santander yesterday, which sees Budapest now offer 11 Spanish destinations on its network this year. Today the ultra-low-cost carrier (ULCC) also launched the airport's first connection to Paphos, adding to Budapest's growing list of destinations.

"It's always a pleasure to launch a new connection from our airport, and to be able to welcome two in as many days with a valued partner is a very good reason to celebrate," enthuses Balázs Bogáts, Head of Airline Development, Budapest Airport. "Ryanair now offers 36 destinations from Budapest and, having seen a fantastic 23% increase in passengers from our airport in 2017, we look forward to working closely with the airline during what is already promising to be another successful year of traffic development for Budapest," added Bogáts.

Facing no direct competition on the 1,646-kilometre sector to Santander – a potential market of 39,000 passengers – the ULCC's latest link to Spain joins its established operations to Barcelona, Gran Canaria, Madrid, Malaga and Valencia. The carrier's second inaugural flight this week to Paphos will result in Budapest offering more than 200 flights to Cyprus this summer, and close to 40,000 one-way seats to the Mediterranean island.

Following a busy first two months of the year, Budapest increased its passenger traffic by an average 16.5%. Welcoming an additional 250,000 travellers by the end of February, the airport is firmly on the path to hitting the one million passenger mark in March, a month earlier than it did last year, and breaking another record in the history of the airport.





Photo caption: Celebrating Ryanair's sixth Spanish link from Budapest Airport, the gateway's Head of Airline Development, Balázs Bogáts (third left) welcomes the Irish ultra-low-cost carrier's inaugural flight from Santander. Today also sees Ryanair launch the airport's first connection to Paphos – the ULCC's 36<sup>th</sup> destination from Budapest.

#### 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.

#### For more information:

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