

24 July 2017

Two Russian jumbo jets move Red Bull Air Race to Kazan

(Text prepared by Budapest Airport)

Last week on 18 July two 747-400s, with a payload of 120 tonnes each, were needed to move the Red Bull Air Race aircraft and equipment from Budapest to Kazan in Russia. The extraordinary cargo was carried by Russian airline AirBridge Cargo.

Dismounted wings, aircraft fuselages tightly tied down, back-up engines on separate pallets – these were the items, among other things, in the consignment flown from Budapest by the two 747-400s of Russian airline AirBridge Cargo to Kazan, the capital of Tartary, Russia. The latest event of the Red Bull Air Race was held in the historic city on the river Volga last weekend (22-23 July).

The aircraft participating in the Red Bull Air Race series are rather light: the wet weight of a Zivko Edge 540 racing plane is only 816kg, easily fitting on a large pallet. The technical equipment needed for the race, however, includes rather complex and valuable goods, which in itself justifies transportation by air. The nose of the AirBridge's 747-400s can be opened, allowing the Red Bull aircraft without their wings to be conveniently lifted into the cargo compartment. The 747-400 only needs four hours for the Budapest-Kazan flight, thus transportation by air was significantly faster than it would have been by train, giving the pilots practice time for the weekend race over the Volga River.

"The loading operation went surprisingly smoothly, Celebi Ground Handling staff really wrapped it up fast this time. As a result, it only took two days to move the complete ground and air equipment of the Red Bull Air Race from the Danube to the Volga," said József Kossuth, Head of Cargo Development, Budapest Airport. He also pointed out that over the years several consignments of extraordinary value or dimensions have been successfully flown out of Budapest, including power station turbines produced by General Electric in Hungary that were carried to Algeria on board the Ukrainian Antonov AN-124 'Ruslan' or the largest cargo aircraft, the AN-225 'Mriya'.

Pictures of loading the Red Bull Air Race equipment at the airport can be downloaded from: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/RAnIKIXvLBKwVhfQ2>

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 11.4 million passengers in 2016, flying on the airport's services to 111 destinations across 38 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth June 2017 has exceeded +13.6%.
- Budapest Airport's route development includes:

Already launched:

- easyJet three times weekly service to Amsterdam, 6 February 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Faro, 1 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Skopje, 2 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Podgorica, 3 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Tirana, 5 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Sarajevo, 5 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Pristina, 7 April 2017;
- Wizz Air four times weekly service to Hannover, 10 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Bergen, 10 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Lamezia Terme, starting 12 April 2017;
- Flybe three times weekly service to London Southend, starting 4 May 2017.

To launch:

- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Astana, starting 8 June 2017;
- Ukraine International Airlines, daily service to Kiev Boryspil, starting 15 June 2017;
- TAP Portugal daily service to Lisbon, starting 2 July 2017;
- Wizz Air, twice-weekly service to St Petersburg, starting 27 August 2017;
- Wizz Air, twice-weekly service to Bordeaux, starting 22 September 2017;
- Ryanair five times weekly service to Prague, starting 29 October 2017;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Palermo, starting 29 October 2017;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Marrakech, starting 30 October 2017;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Valencia, starting 30 October 2017;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Edinburgh, starting 30 October 2017;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Naples, starting 30 October 2017;
- Wizz Air daily service to Frankfurt, starting 15 December 2017;
- Wizz Air, twice-weekly service to Stavanger, starting 15 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, starting 5 May 2018.

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