

14 January 2015

## Budapest Airport storms into 2015 with three new airlines and nine new routes

On the back of a record-breaking year for passenger traffic, with average +7% growth, Budapest Airport is already set to storm into 2015 continuing its ceaseless growth and relentless route network expansion. Serving 9,155,961 passengers at the end of 2014 – an all-time high in the history of the airport – the Hungarian gateway has already announced an additional nine new routes and three new airlines to maintain the progression. Early forecasts indicate further traffic increase for 2015, with expectations to surpass 9.6 million passengers.

Budapest Airport kicks off the summer season in March with three new routes in the very first week. Vueling returns with a new link to Rome, while it will also resume its Barcelona service – both frequencies will be four-times weekly in average. Meanwhile, Ryanair will add its 15<sup>th</sup> route from Budapest with a four-times weekly service to Athens, while SAS will commence a four-times weekly service to Stockholm Arlanda, meeting considerable consumer demand for more flights between the Swedish and Hungarian capitals.

Supporting the advancement of its home-base, Wizz Air has also announced further expansion in Budapest, basing its ninth aircraft at the airport on 15 May, as well as adding four new services – Lisbon, starting 30 March; Maastricht, starting 15 May; Hurghada, starting 16 May, and Alghero, starting 15 June. With the addition of another 17 frequencies on existing routes, the continuously-expanding airline will add the equivalent of 15% more capacity to the Budapest market. In an historic return later in the summer, Spain's national carrier, Iberia, and its low-cost subsidiary, Iberia Express, will launch a seven-per-week seasonal Madrid service from June.

### North Atlantic services to resume with Air Transat

The return of vital direct routes connecting Budapest Airport with North America begin on 18 June with yet another new airline partner, Air Transat, which is launching a weekly service to Toronto Pearson International Airport (with an intermediate stop at Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport). Commenting on this key development, Jost Lammers, CEO, Budapest Airport, says: "We worked hard for years with our Canadian partners to start this new service. All the preliminary research shows there is real demand for this, both in the leisure and the business segment, and will soon lead to increase of frequencies."

### New airlines and routes

Airline	Destination	Starting Date	Weekly Frequency
Vueling	Rome	27 March	3
SAS	Stockholm Arlanda	29 March	4
Wizz Air	Lisbon	30 March	2
Ryanair	Athens	Early 2015	4
Wizz Air	Maastricht	15 May	4
Wizz Air	Hurghada	16 May	1
Iberia (new)	Madrid	2 June	3
Wizz Air	Alghero	15 June	2
Air Transat (new)	Montréal-Toronto	18 June	1
Iberia Express (new)	Madrid	18 July	4

## Significant frequency enhancements

The increase in several flight frequencies means Budapest Airport is also experiencing growth on a number of existing successful routes. These routes (listed below) add some 7,100 seats per week to available capacity from Budapest.

Airline	Destination	Starting date	Extra weekly flights	Weekly flights increase	Weekly seat capacity increase
Qatar Airways	Doha	1 March	3	75%	75%
Finnair	Helsinki	5 March	2	14%	14%
Air France	Paris CDG	29 March	7	33%	30%
UP by El Al	Tel-Aviv	29 March	3	38%	38%
Aegean	Athens	29 March	1	33%	33%
LOT	Warsaw	29 March	8	40%	40%
SAS	Copenhagen	29 March	1	33%	32%
Germanwings	Hamburg	Early 2015	-	-	66%
Germanwings	Düsseldorf	Early 2015	-	-	66%
Transavia France	Paris Orly	20 April	1	33%	39%
Transavia	Rotterdam	26 April	3	50%	50%
Wizz Air	London Luton	Early 2015	2	8%	8%
Wizz Air	Brussels Charleroi	Early 2015	1	8%	8%
Wizz Air	Eindhoven	Early 2015	1	8%	8%
Wizz Air	Milan Malpensa	Early 2015	3	27%	27%
Wizz Air	Barcelona	Early 2015	2	40%	40%
Wizz Air	Madrid	Early 2015	2	40%	40%
Wizz Air	Malmö	Early 2015	2	40%	40%
Wizz Air	Stockholm Skavsta	Early 2015	2	40%	40%
Wizz Air	Bari	Early 2015	1	33%	33%
Wizz Air	Alicante	Early 2015	1	100%	100%
Jet2.com	Edinburgh	22 May	1	33%	33%
Norwegian	Copenhagen	13 July	2	33%	33%

Looking to the future, Kam Jandu, Budapest Airports' CCO comments: "Budapest Airport has unquestionably signaled that it is on the up. Fuelled by new routes and new airlines, the upsurge of our growth is further enhanced by the solid foundation of our thriving existing services. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners for their entrepreneurship and enterprise throughout 2014 – reaching the nine million threshold was certainly the best Christmas present Budapest Airport could have hoped for."



Photo caption: "9,000,000<sup>th</sup> Passenger" – Jost Lammers, CEO, Budapest Airport (centre) celebrates the airport's landmark achievement last month.

#### 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-December 2014 has exceeded +7%.

To find out more on Budapest Airport, visit [www.bud.hu](http://www.bud.hu)

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