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## Air Transat's Toronto and Montréal route marks return of North American long-haul to Budapest Airport

Continuing the trend of its exceptional growth and the enhancements of its route network, Budapest Airport announces the return of a long-haul service to the Americas, securing a new weekly service with Air Transat to Canada, starting next summer. Set to begin 18 June 2015, the seasonal route will serve Toronto Pearson International Airport, with an intermediate stop at Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport. Operated by the carrier's A330s, the launch will see the second wide-body scheduled service secured by the Hungarian gateway after the new daily Dubai service from Emirates, starting 27 October.

Following a break of six years since Toronto has been directly served, this significant expansion also marks the return of the first long-haul flights from the Americas to Budapest since American Airlines and Delta Air Lines North Atlantic services ceased in 2011. By serving its main bases at Toronto and Montréal, Air Transat will add 345 seats to Budapest's market of 3,423 weekly long-haul seats (currently mainly in the Middle East) giving the Canadian holiday airline a 10% share of all scheduled long-haul seats at the airport. (Source: Innovata schedule data, week commencing 2 November 2014, with flights over 4.5 hours considered long-haul.)



Photo caption: Air Transat's weekly Montréal-Toronto service marks the return of North American long-haul to Budapest Airport in 2015.

Commenting on this key development, Jost Lammers, CEO, Budapest Airport, says: "We have been working hard for years with our Canadian partners to start this new service and now we are proud to announce the success of our joint effort with the start the new flights." Lammers added: "With a sizeable number of people living in the Toronto and Montréal area with Hungarian ancestry or family ties the new flight is for sure to be a success. The launch of Air Transat's services provides a vital direct route from North America to Budapest, one of Europe's most popular and fast-growing cities. All the preliminary research shows there is real demand for this kind of service, both in the leisure and the business segment, and will soon lead to increase of frequencies as early as possible."

### 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 8.5 million passengers in 2013, flying on the airport's services to 99 destinations across 34 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth in the period to end-September 2014 has exceeded +7%.
- Budapest Airport's route development for 2014 include:
  - Already launched:
    - o Norwegian thrice-weekly service to London Gatwick, 30 March
    - o Air Serbia daily service to Belgrade, 30 March
    - o Jet2.com twice-weekly service to Leeds Bradford, 3 April
    - o transavia.com France thrice-weekly service to Paris Orly, 15 April
    - o Wizz Air weekly service to Alicante, 14 June
    - o Vueling thrice-weekly service to Barcelona, 21 June
    - o Pegasus four times weekly service to Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen, 16 July
    - o Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Kutaisi, 30 September
  - To launch:
    - o Emirates Airlines daily service to Dubai, starting 27 October

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

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