

3 September 2014

Budapest Airport stages “The Charity Race to Find the Fastest Airline in the World”

When: Saturday 6 September 2014

Where: Runway 13R-31L of Budapest Airport, specially closed for a few hours, just for this event.

Who: 600 runners drawn from 15 airlines, 10 airports, 45 other enterprises, and running enthusiasts from throughout Hungary and Europe.

Who benefits: The race is all in aid of international child cancer charities and other good causes.

Winners’ prizes: Fastest Airline in the World, Fastest Airline CEO, Fastest Airport, Fastest Male/Female and many more prizes...

For just a few hours on Saturday 6 September Budapest Airport will be closing one of its two busy runways – Runway 13R-31L – so that some 600 runners can take part in the exceptionally rare opportunity to race on the runway of a major airport. “bud:runway run” is organised by race host Budapest Airport, global sport leader, Nike, the specialist airline news service, www.anna.aero, and platinum sponsor and official carrier, Wizz Air.

Europe’s biggest low cost carrier, Ryanair, is sending a team in the hope of denying Wizz Air a ‘home’ victory, although seriously competitive teams have been fielded by Swiss International Airlines, Qatar Airways and Southwest Airlines, which also qualifies for the unofficial “Air Miles Prize” for having travelled the most distance (from Dallas) just to take part.

Meanwhile 10 airports ranging from nearby ‘friendly rival’ Vienna and major hub Aéroports de Paris, are also hoping to beat Budapest Airport on its own Tarmac, along with hundreds of other runners drawn from dozens of companies and organisations based on the airport (one of the biggest employment sites in Hungary), as well as many other enthusiasts drawn from the local running community.

Expert race organiser, Nike, has set two race lengths for the day – 6km (two runway lengths) and 12km (four runway lengths) with most competitors choosing the longer distance with the fastest finishers expected to complete the course in 35-42 minutes. Any runners taking significantly longer than this will need to be off the course before 14:00 when the runway re-opens to traffic.

The current weather forecasts predict temperatures of 28C for Saturday, suggesting that Budapest’s long summer will continue to stretch through September, helping the airport to maintain a record year of +7% average monthly growth involving nine new routes, and four new airlines, including the recent announcement that Emirates will commence daily Dubai services in October.

Jost Lammers, Budapest Airport CEO says: "Throughout this year "bud:runway run" has been a great means to promote the airport to the international airline community, and we're thrilled to have so many of our partners coming to experience both this fantastic city, and our superb modern airport facilities – by literally running the runway! The race also meets the objectives of Budapest Airport's "bud:sport" programme for encouraging a healthy employee lifestyle and, with competitors paying between €50-75 to take part – all of which goes to the benefiting charities – "bud:runway run" really is a win-win-win for Budapest Airport, the partners, and the good causes."



Photo Caption: Budapest Airport will close runway 13R-31L for just a few hours on Saturday 6 September so that "bud:runway run" can take place. First and foremost this is a charity event with 100% of entry fees donated to the benefiting charities.

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 49.67% stake, together with Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (18.17%), Malton Investment Pte Ltd. (18.17%), Aero Investment S.á.r.l. (10%) and KfW IPEX-Bank GmbH (4%).
- Budapest Airport welcomed 8.5 million passengers in 2013, flying on the airport's services to 99 destinations across 34 countries.
- Budapest Airport's route development for 2014 include:
 - Already launched:
 - Norwegian thrice-weekly service to London Gatwick, 30 March
 - Air Serbia daily service to Belgrade, 30 March
 - Jet2.com twice-weekly service to Leeds Bradford, 3 April
 - transavia.com France thrice-weekly service to Paris Orly, 15 April
 - Wizz Air weekly service to Alicante, 14 June
 - Vueling thrice-weekly service to Barcelona, 21 June
 - Pegasus four times weekly service to Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen, 16 July
 - To launch:
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Kutaisi, starting 30 September
 - Emirates Airlines daily service to Dubai, starting W14

To find out more on Budapest Airport, visit www.bud.hu

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