

13 December 2016

11 million reasons to celebrate at Budapest Airport

Following an impressive month of 15% growth in passenger traffic in November, Budapest Airport has today welcomed its 11 millionth passenger this year, the first time this milestone has been reached in the airport's 66-year history. Setting a new record for annual passengers for a third year running, the Hungarian gateway has experienced an average 10% growth in passenger traffic, establishing Budapest as one of the fastest growing tourism markets in Europe at this time. Heightened by the addition of 16 new destinations this year, along with 14 airlines significantly increasing frequency to essential hubs such as Amsterdam, London Heathrow and Doha, the airport has connected to more than 100 scheduled destinations throughout the year.

Today's achievement was celebrated with airberlin, with the oneworld alliance airline carrying Budapest's 11 millionth passenger from Budapest to Berlin Tegel – a route which has also seen a frequency increase this year with the addition of a third daily flight.

"Last year we experienced remarkable passenger traffic growth and to watch the robust development continue into 2016 is a rewarding time for us all," said Kam Jandu, CCO, Budapest Airport. He added: "We approached this year with a strategy to do all we could to ensure Budapest, and Hungary, remain an attractive and competitive market, and I believe we've not only succeeded in this goal but also ensured the demands of our passengers, as well as our business partners, have been met."

Expanding to the demand

To ensure the Hungarian gateway is ready to meet further demand, the airport will invest approximately €180 million into its infrastructure over the next three years. The investment will see a number of developments including a new airport hotel, check-in area extension, a new Pier B, and a new Terminal C cargo facility. Expecting to welcome 11.3 million passengers overall by the end of December, Budapest will have delivered an impressive 22% growth from 2014 to this year-end, a record-breaking expansion in Central and Eastern Europe.



Photo caption: Hitting another all-time high, Budapest Airport has today welcomed its 11 millionth passenger this year. Celebrating alongside the lucky passenger Hangonyi Nagy Hajnalka and her daughter are: Budapest Airport's Sándor Saly, Senior Airline Development Manager; Bálint Bogáts, Head of Airline Development; Kam Jandu, CCO; airberlin's Sándor Sali, Sales Manager for Hungary and Mohammed Nasr, Area Manager Eastern Europe; and Máté Ritter, Airline Development Manager, Budapest Airport.

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 10.3 million passengers in 2015, flying on the airport's services to 95 destinations across 36 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth in the period to end-November 2016 has exceeded +15%.
- Budapest Airport's route development includes:
 - Launched since September:
 - Ryanair daily service to Berlin, 2 September 2016;
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Porto, 4 September 2016;
 - Air Algerie twice-weekly service to Algeria, 15 September 2015;
 - Wizz Air four times weekly service to Bucharest, 19 September 2016;
 - Wizz Air weekly service to Fuerteventura, 30 October 2016;
 - easyJet thrice-weekly service to Venice Marco Polo, 31 October 2016;
 - Ryanair daily service to Nuremberg, 1 November 2016;
 - Wizz Air thrice-weekly service to Sofia, 1 November 2016;
 - Wizz Air weekly service to Lanzarote, 2 November 2016.

To launch:

- easyJet thrice-weekly service to Amsterdam, starting 6 February 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Faro, starting 1 April 2017;
- Wizz Air four times weekly service to Hannover, starting 10 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Bergen, starting 10 April 2017;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Lamezia Terme, starting 12 April 2017;
- TAP Portugal daily service to Lisbon, starting 1 June 2017.

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