

REPORT: AIRLINES: EUROPE

What you need to know

July 2022

This report presents a roundup of what's been happening to Europe's airlines over the last month.

Major network airlines

Air France-KLM

Air France adds to winter network

Air France's schedule for the 2022/2023 winter will include new weekly services from Paris Charles de Gaulle to Kittila in Finland and Tromso in Norway, which will both launch on [December 10](#). It will also resume services to Rovaniemi in Finland and restart flights from Pointe-a-Pitre in Guadeloupe to Montreal.

KLM warns against shrinking Schiphol

KLM has warned that government plans to limit aircraft movements at Amsterdam Schiphol airport to reduce noise and carbon emissions will threaten its viability as a hub. From [November](#), the Dutch government has reduced the limit on annual aircraft movements from the current 500,000 to 440,000.

If it is forced to surrender slots to achieve this figure, KLM has indicated it is most likely to end smaller aircraft operations, reducing the number of destinations on its Amsterdam network.

IAG

Aer Lingus resumes Seattle service

On July 7, Aer Lingus resumed direct transatlantic service from Dublin to Seattle, offering [five](#) weekly flights. It joins U.S. West Coast flights to Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Lufthansa Group

A380s to return in 2023

Lufthansa will return its Airbus A380s to regular passenger service in summer 2023 in response to a steep rise in customer demand and delays to deliveries of wide-bodied aircraft currently on order.

Austrian outlines winter schedule

Austrian Airlines' winter schedule will include more than 80 destinations, including new direct flights to Tromso and Reykjavik, launching in [December](#) and [January](#) respectively. The schedule will also include the relaunch of Cancun, Mauritius and Male in the Maldives, as well as [daily](#) Bangkok services.

Winter capacity at Swiss to hit 80% of 2019 levels

During the coming winter season, Swiss plans for its operations from Geneva and Zurich to be at [80%](#) of their 2019 level. From Zurich, it will increase frequencies to Alicante, Barcelona, Belgrade, Malaga and Porto, with [weekly](#) flights to Bristol launched on [February 4, 2023](#). From Geneva, there will be extra flights to Scandinavia, Funchal and Tenerife. A new service to Brussels will continue in the winter.

Other network airlines

Aeroflot

More flights to China

Aeroflot resumed regular flights from Moscow Sheremetyevo to Beijing on July 20, initially flying the route **weekly**. The airline also launched a new **weekly** service from Moscow to Chengdu on July 22.

Rossiya adds new UAE service

Subsidiary carrier Rossiya Airlines has launched **four times weekly** services from Sochi to Abu Dhabi.

Air Serbia

Co-operation grows with Turkish Airlines

Air Serbia aims to deepen commercial co-operation with Turkish Airlines. The two airlines will explore a joint venture to offer more competitive and affordable flights between their home countries. Air Serbia will increase Belgrade-Istanbul flights to **10 per week**, while Turkish Airlines will allocate wide-bodied aircraft to the route **twice-weekly**.

Azerbaijan Airlines

New Delhi services

Azerbaijan Airlines will launch **twice-weekly** services from Baku to Delhi from **August 9**.

Finnair

Mixed financial performance in Q2

Finnair increased second quarter revenue by **392%** year-over-year to €550 million, a figure that was still 30% below 2019 levels. The airline managed to reduce operating losses by **one-third** from €139 million to €93 million, but net losses more than **doubled** to €280 million.

Icelandair

Profits return in Q2

Icelandair Group increased second quarter revenue by **324%** year-over-year to \$329 million. Improved load factors and higher yields helped the airline swing from an operating loss of \$62.2 million in 2021 to a \$1.21 million profit this year.

ITA Airways

Two bidders compete to buy airline

New Italian airline ITA Airways, launched as a replacement for Alitalia, is in the process of being privatized. It has received two joint bids from shipping company MSC with Lufthansa Airlines and from U.S. fund Certares in co-operation with Delta Air Lines.

SAS

Airline files for Chapter 11

SAS and certain of its subsidiaries have voluntarily filed for Chapter 11 in a US bankruptcy court. The airline claims this will enable it to accelerate its transformation. Its operations and flight schedule are unaffected by the filing, as the court has authorized SAS to continue operating its business as usual.

Virgin Atlantic

Tampa to join network

From **November 3**, as part of its transatlantic expansion, Virgin Atlantic will launch a new service from London Heathrow to Tampa. Launched with **four weekly** flights, frequency will increase to **daily** by the end of November.

Low-cost carriers

EasyJet

Losses reduced on surge in revenue

EasyJet reported revenue of £1.76 billion (US\$2.1 billion) for the quarter ended June 30, significantly higher than the £213 million recorded during the same period in 2021. Passenger revenue increased by **658%** to £1.15 billion. With headline costs rising by **252%** to £1.87 billion, EasyJet reported a pre-tax headline loss of £114 million, although this was an improvement on 2021's £318 million loss.

Norwegian

Passengers reach new post-pandemic peak in June

Norwegian carried 1.94 million passengers in June, **19%** more than in May and the most passengers the airline has transported since the start of the pandemic. Compared to 2021, Norwegian increased its load factor by 22 points to **85%**.

Wideroe interline planned

Norwegian has signed a letter of intent for an interline agreement with Norwegian regional airline Wideroe. The two airlines will cooperate on ticket sales to allow passengers to seamlessly travel across both of their networks.

Ryanair

Profits return in Q2

Ryanair reported a **602%** increase in operating revenue to €2.6 billion during the first quarter of its fiscal year (and the second quarter of the calendar year). The airline also swung from an operating loss of €305 million to report a €240 million (US\$244 million) operating profit for the April-June period.

Big jump in passengers in June

Ryanair Group carried 15.9 million passengers in June. This was **200%** higher than the 5.3 million it transported in the same month in 2021. The airline lifted its load factor from **72%** in 2021 to **95%**.

Smartavia

New domestic route launched

Russian low-cost carrier Smartavia launched regular flights from Moscow Sheremetyevo to Ekaterinburg on **July 22**. It's operating the domestic route with **four weekly** flights. Ekaterinburg is now the 14th domestic destination served by Smartavia from Moscow.

Wizz Air

June traffic soars

The number of passengers carried by Wizz Air in June jumped by **179%** year-over-year to more than 4.34 million. Even with a 107% increase in capacity, the airline's load factor jumped by 22.1 points to **86%**.

Second quarter losses deepen

The cost of disruption and the pricing environment have resulted in second quarter net losses at Wizz Air deepening to **€450 million** from €114 million last year.

Capacity growth plans scaled back

In an attempt to minimize further delays and cancellations, Wizz Air will cut capacity by **5%** compared to its original plan for the peak summer travel season. Capacity will still be **35% above** pre-pandemic levels.

Regional carriers

Emerald Airlines

New Aer Lingus services in July

Irish regional carrier Emerald Airlines, which operates as Aer Lingus Regional, started **five weekly** services to Cardiff and **daily** services to Southampton from Belfast City airport on **July 7**. These routes join existing services from Belfast to Birmingham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford and Manchester.

Red Wings

New Kazakh routes

On July 17, Russian carrier Red Wings launched **weekly** flights from Kazan to Nur-Sultan and from Chelyabinsk to Almaty. It then expanded its Kazakh network to four destinations with the **July 29** start of **weekly** flights to Aktobe from Moscow's Zhukovsky airport.

Red Wings will continue its expansion in Kazakhstan on **August 4** with the start of **weekly** flights from Ufa to Almaty and Nur-Sultan. Both services will be operated by Sukhoi Superjet 100s. These will be followed by the August 9 start of twice-weekly flights from Omsk to Nur-Sultan.

Sky Express

New partnership with Emirates

Greek regional carrier Sky Express has entered into a strategic partnership with Emirates. Passengers flying with the UAE carrier from New York or Dubai can now connect over Athens to 34 Greek destinations served by Sky Express.

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at July 27, 2022. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please email mike.eggleton@bcdtravel.co.uk to share your thoughts.