

# REPORT: AIRLINES: EUROPE

## What you need to know

December 2024

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

## Major network airlines

### Air France-KLM

#### Co-operation expansion agreed with Saudia

Air France-KLM has signed an agreement to strengthen co-operation with Saudia. The deal includes expanded codeshare arrangements and significant maintenance commitments.

#### Saudi Arabian expansion under way

During summer 2025, Air France intends to launch a new service from Paris Charles de Gaulle to Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh. Its low-cost division, Transavia, has previously disclosed plans to start flights to Jeddah from Paris Orly and Lyon.

#### KLM Cityhopper network expanding

Regional division KLM Cityhopper is to launch three new routes from Amsterdam in 2025. From **March 30**, it will start **daily** services to Exeter and Ljubljana. **Daily** flights to Biarritz will start on **April 19**, with frequency reduced to twice-weekly in the winter months.

### IAG

#### Aer Lingus expanding Cork network

In summer 2025, Aer Lingus will add two destinations to its Cork network. **Thrice-weekly** flights to Bilbao will run from April 16 until September 14; flights at the same frequency will operate to Bordeaux from May 15 until September 13. The airline will also add frequencies to existing services to Lanzarote, Palma de Mallorca and Tenerife. Seasonal Dublin-Malta services will now also be year-round.

#### BA to add three Italian routes

During May 2025, British Airways plans to add three Italian routes from London. There will be **thrice-weekly** flights from Heathrow to Rimini, **thrice-weekly** services operated from Gatwick by BA Euroflyer to Salerno Costa d'Amalfi airport, and **twice-weekly** flights from London City to Olbia.

#### BA suspending Abu Dhabi services

Because of delays to the delivery of Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 engines and parts, British Airways will halt its services to Abu Dhabi between **March 30 and October 25, 2025**. It will re-route passengers via Dubai or Doha, Qatar.

#### Iberia adds four destinations to its winter schedule

As part of its winter schedule, Iberia has added four new routes from Madrid. It's now offering **twice-weekly** flights to Innsbruck and Salzburg until the last week of **March 2025**. It will also serve Tromsø in Norway **twice-weekly** until March 2, and is operating **four** weekly flights to Rovaniemi in Finland until March 1.

## Lufthansa Group

### Green fares going global

On [December 4](#), Lufthansa Group rolled out its green fare tariff across its global network. It originally launched green fares in February 2023, making them available only on short- and medium-haul routes. They're bookable in all fare classes and include the full offset of the individual, flight-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions using sustainable aviation fuel and a contribution to the airline group's climate project portfolio.

### Group adding four new European routes in summer 2025

Lufthansa Group airlines are to add four new routes to the network for summer 2025. From Frankfurt, Lufthansa will operate [twice-weekly](#) flights to Lamezia Terme from [April 6, 2025](#). It will add a [weekly](#) service to Figari from [May 17](#). Swiss will offer [five](#) weekly flights from Zurich to Dubrovnik from [April 17](#). And Brussels Airlines will introduced [weekly](#) flights from Brussels to Funchal from [April 5](#).

### Brussels Airlines expanding African network

Brussels Airlines plans to expand its network to sub-Saharan Africa for summer 2025, increasing capacity by 10%. Service to Accra and Nairobi will be upgraded to [daily](#). There will also be extra frequencies to Banjul, Conakry and Freetown and a new [daily](#) direct service to Kinshasa. However, Brussels Airlines will now end direct flights to Luanda.

### ITA Airways remedies approved

The European Commission has approved the remedies proposed by Lufthansa Group to allow it to take a 41% minority stake in Italian carrier ITA Airways. The package includes the transfer of slots to EasyJet to allow it to expand operations at Milan Linate and Rome Fiumicino airports. British Airways and Air France-KLM have also been granted additional slots.

## Other network airlines

### Aegean Airlines

#### Eastward and domestic expansion

Greek carrier Aegean Airlines is to expand its international network eastwards in 2025. On [February 23](#), it will start [twice-weekly](#) flights from Athens to Erbil in Iraq. [Twice-weekly](#) services to Baku, Azerbaijan, will follow on [April 14](#).

Aegean is also planning an expansion of its domestic operation. From Rhodes, it will start [daily](#) flights to Heraklion on [March 30](#), with [twice-weekly](#) flights to Chania and Santorini following in early [June](#). At this point, it will start [twice-weekly](#) services to Naxos and Corfu from Heraklion and [thrice-weekly](#) Heraklion-Kos services. Also in early June, Aegean is planning [twice-weekly](#) flights to Chania and [thrice-weekly](#) to Santorini, both from Rhodes. The final piece of its domestic expansion should be the [June 3](#) start of [thrice-weekly](#) flights from Thessaloniki to Syros.

### Air Serbia

#### Three new destinations joining summer schedule

Air Serbia will link Belgrade to three new destinations this summer. [Twice-weekly](#) flights to Florence will resume on [April 18](#). Service to Mykonos will begin on [June 6](#), with [twice-weekly](#) services to Alghero following on [June 10](#). Air Serbia is also considering adding Ibiza to its network.

## Bulgaria Air

### Tel Aviv services resuming

Bulgaria Air has announced plans for the December 26 resumption of flights from Sofia to Tel Aviv. It will initially operate **two** weekly flights during daylight hours. A **third** flight will be added in **February 2025**.

## ITA Airways

### Icelandair codeshare launched

ITA Airways has launched a codeshare with Icelandair covering the two airlines' combined network. The partnership will initially link Iceland with Bologna, Florence, Naples and Venice via Rome. This winter, Icelandair is increasing its Reykjavik-Rome services to **four** times weekly.

## SAS

### Copenhagen network expanding

In 2025, SAS plans to grow its intercontinental operation from Copenhagen with the addition of two destinations. In **May**, it will start flying to Seattle. From **September 12**, it will also launch **four-times weekly** services to Seoul, downgraded to thrice-weekly during the winter season.

The airline will also add four European destinations to its Copenhagen network. As well as services to Bilbao and Wroclaw, for the summer SAS will also add leisure routes to Cagliari in Italy and Varna in Bulgaria. Away from Copenhagen, SAS will also start flying from Bergen to Malaga, from Oslo to Rhodes and from Stockholm to Bodø in Norway.

## TAP Air Portugal

### U.S. services to expand in summer 2025

TAP Air Portugal has announced plans for two summer season transatlantic services. **Four-times** weekly services between Lisbon and Los Angeles will start on **May 14**, operating until **October 25**. Over the same period, TAP will use an Airbus A321LR to fly **thrice-weekly** between Porto and Boston.

From **June 3**, one of TAP's weekly flights between Lisbon and San Francisco will make a stopover on Terceira in the Azores, providing a direct link to the U.S.

### Porto Alegre service to be restored

From **April 1, 2025**, TAP Air Portugal will restore service to Porto Alegre, Portugal, with the start of **thrice-weekly** services from Lisbon. The airline had suspended services in May 2024, after floods in Rio Grande do Sul state had disrupted airport infrastructure.

## Virgin Atlantic

### Profits expected in 2024

According to its CEO, Shai Weiss, Virgin Atlantic is on course to record its first annual net profit in eight years in 2024. As well as being its first positive result since 2016, Weiss also expects the airline to report record revenues and operating profit. In 2023, Virgin had declared a £139 million pre-tax loss on revenues of £3.1 billion.

### Cabin upgrade may await 787s

Once it has received the last of its remaining orders for Airbus A330neos, due in 2028, Virgin will make a decision on its Boeing 787 fleet. This is likely to include a refurbishment of the remaining 14 Boeing 787-9s in operation by that time. The aircraft currently feature 31 premium business, 35 premium economy and 192 economy seats.

## Low-cost carriers

### EasyJet

#### Annual profits up by more than one third

For the 12 months to the end of September 2024, EasyJet posted a **14%** rise in revenue to £9.3 billion. Revenue in the final quarter rose by around **10%** from £3.1 billion to £3.4 billion. For the year, EasyJet lifted pre-tax profits by **34%** to £610 million (US\$769 million).

#### Six new U.K. routes in summer 2025

EasyJet has announced plans for six new routes from the U.K. in summer 2025. On **March 30**, it will start **seven-times-weekly** flights from Edinburgh and Manchester to Milan Linate airport, enabled by the remedies arising from Lufthansa's purchase of ITA Airways. From Birmingham, EasyJet will also launch **twice-weekly** services to Bordeaux on **May 1** and to Gibraltar on **June 1**. Bordeaux will be a seasonal service while Gibraltar will be year-round.

In the **last week of June**, EasyJet will start **twice-weekly** services from Bristol to Almeria and Palermo.

### Eurowings

#### Summer expansion for Berlin

Lufthansa Group-owned Eurowings will next summer launch new services from Berlin to Bilbao, Corfu, Faro, Jerez de la Frontera and Newcastle. It will also increase frequency on existing services to Erbil, Graz, Heraklion, Kos, Malaga, Nice, Rhodes, Split and Yerevan.

### Norse Atlantic Airways

#### Wet leasing to transform business

Norse Atlantic is to place half its remaining fleet of 12 Boeing 787-9s with an international airline on wet lease. Two aircraft will depart in February 2025, with four more in October. The value of the deal will match the airline's entire revenue for the first nine months of 2024, and so it could be transformative for Norse Atlantic's finances. As it shrinks its fleet, it will focus its scheduled services on its most profitable routes.

#### Stockholm-Bangkok flights announced

Norse Atlantic has announced plans for the **October 29, 2025**, start of **twice-weekly** flights from Stockholm Arlanda airport to Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International airport. The move marks the airline's move into the Swedish market.

### Norwegian

#### New routes announced for 2025

Norwegian has announced several new routes for its summer 2025 schedule. From the U.K., it will start services from London Gatwick to Alesund (April 11) and Riga (March 30), and from Newcastle to Copenhagen (May 2). There will also be new flights from Helsinki to Bucharest (June 3) and Malta (June 4). Norwegian will also commence services from Stockholm Arlanda airport to Bilbao (June 14) Bucharest (May 1), Porto (June 4) and Lyon (June 13).

### Volotea

#### Malta operations resuming

Spanish low-cost carrier Volotea plans to return to Malta with the **May 30, 2025**, start of **twice-weekly** services from Bordeaux, France. It will be the only airline on the route.

## Wizz Air

### Moldova operations to expand

Hungarian low-cost carrier Wizz Air is to establish a permanent base in Chisinau, as it builds up its operations in Moldova. This will enable it to launch new routes in 2025 to Barcelona, Larnaca and Wroclaw, and to increase frequency on existing services on seven existing routes from Chisinau. As a result, summer 2025 capacity from the airport will increase by **211%**.

### Skopje operations expanding

Wizz Air is to launch three new routes from Skopje, North Macedonia. **Thrice-weekly** flights to Lyon will start on May 1, with **twice-weekly** services to Barcelona following two days later. Then, on September 29, Wizz Air will launch **thrice-weekly** services to Stuttgart.

## Regional carriers

### Loganair

#### New Guernsey service

Between **May 24, 2025 and September 13**, Scottish regional carrier Loganair is to start a new **weekly** service between Edinburgh and Guernsey.

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at December 20, 2024. 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.eggleson@bcdtravel.co.uk](mailto:mike.eggleson@bcdtravel.co.uk) to share your thoughts.