

REPORT: AIRLINES: NORTHEAST ASIA

What you need to know

July 2022

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

Major airlines

Air China

Passengers halved in June

Air China carried nearly 3.2 million passengers in June, **50% fewer** than in the same month in 2021. The group cut available seat kilometer capacity by 41%. As a result of a 48% fall in traffic, its load factor dropped by **9 points** to **63%**.

Cathay Pacific

Traffic still at just 5% of pre-pandemic levels

Cathay Pacific carried 150,077 passengers in **June**. While this was **269%** higher year-over-year, it was still **95%** down on pre-pandemic levels. Capacity was up 36% on 2021, but down 89% on 2019. Traffic was up 320% and down 92% respectively. The airline's passenger load factor improved by 45.3 points year-over-year to reach **67%**.

China Eastern

Traffic slumps by more than 60% in June

Passenger numbers at China Eastern slumped by **61%** year-over-year in June to 3.16 million. The airline responded with a 53% cut in capacity. With traffic falling by 58%, the airline's load factor slipped by 9 points to **65%**.

China Southern

Traffic down by almost one-third in June

The number of passengers carried by China Southern dropped by **30%** year-over-year in June to 6 million. Available seat kilometer capacity was cut by nearly 17%, but traffic fell by 26%, pushing the load factor down by 8 percentage points to **67%**.

Japan Airlines

Tianjin service resumes

JAL resumed flights from Tokyo Narit to Tianjin in China on July 16, initially offering a **weekly** service.

Korean Air

More than half of international flights restored by September

By September, Korean Air aims to have returned flights on international routes to **more than 50%** of their pre-pandemic levels. It will also return its Airbus A380s to service.

Korean Air has so far returned international capacity to one-third of its 2019 level. It's due to increase

frequencies during [July](#) and [August](#) from Seoul to Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York, Vancouver and Washington DC. Extra frequencies will also be added on European routes to Amsterdam and Frankfurt, while flights to Milan and Vienna will resume in [July](#), with Barcelona and Rome services resuming in [September](#).

In Asia, it will increase flights to Bangkok, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Manila, Singapore, Taipei and Ulaanbaatar. On its Japanese routes, Sapporo flights will resume in [July](#), with Okinawa following in [August](#).

[Asiana acquisition further delayed](#)

Korean Air has delayed the completion of its acquisition of local rival Asiana Airlines to the end of [September](#). At its previous June 30 deadline, prerequisites for closing the transaction had not been met.

Other airlines

[Asiana](#)

[Gimpo-Haneda service restarts](#)

Asiana Airlines has resumed flights from Seoul Gimpo airport to Tokyo Haneda after a suspension of more than two years. It's initially offering a [twice-weekly](#) service.

[Beijing services resume](#)

On July 23, Asiana resumed flights from Seoul to Beijing after a break of more than two years. The service will initially operate [weekly](#).

[Eva Air](#)

[Two European routes resume in the winter](#)

Taiwanese carrier Eva will launch non-stop flights from Taipei to two European destinations in the winter schedule. From [October 25](#), it will begin new [twice-weekly](#) flights to Milan. [Four times weekly](#) services to Munich will follow on [November 3](#).

[Hainan Airlines](#)

[Traffic down sharply in June](#)

Chinese carrier Hainan Airlines and its subsidiaries carried more than 2 million passengers in June, [44% fewer](#) than a year ago. The airline cut capacity by 31%. With traffic falling by 41%, its passenger load factor dropped by 11 percentage points to [69%](#).

[Tokyo services restart](#)

On July 13, Hainan Airlines restarted flights from Beijing to Tokyo Narita airport. It's initially operating the route [weekly](#), with Dalian serving as the entry point to China.

[More European services resume](#)

Hainan Airlines has resumed flights from Beijing to Moscow after a break of more than two years. The service operates [weekly](#), with Xi'an serving as an entry point to China. During July, the airline also resumed [weekly](#) services between Beijing and Belgrade, Serbia. On this occasion, Dalian acts as the entry point to China. Hainan Airlines had previously served Belgrade as a tag beyond Prague.

Juneyao Airlines

Traffic slumps in June

Chinese carrier Juneyao Airlines carried 633,300 passengers during June, **61%** fewer than in 2021. The airline cut capacity by 56%, but with traffic down 62%, its load factor slipped to **70%**.

Low-cost carriers

Peach Aviation

International flights to resume from Osaka

ANA subsidiary Peach Aviation will reinstate flights from Osaka Kansai airport to Taipei Taoyuan airport on **September 16**. It will initially operate the service **twice-weekly**. The airline will also resume services from Osaka to Seoul on **August 28**.

Spring Airlines

Big drop in June passenger numbers

Chinese carrier Spring Airlines saw passenger numbers drop in June by **45%** year-over-year to 1.1 million. A 34% cut in capacity fell short of the 41% drop in traffic, resulting in a nine point drop in passenger load factor to **79%**.

Zipair Tokyo

Three new routes added to winter schedule

Zipair Tokyo will link Tokyo Narita with three new destinations from the start of the winter schedule on October 30, 2022. It will offer **daily** flights to Bangkok, **six weekly** flights to Seoul and **three weekly** flights to Honolulu. It's also expected to announce plans to start flights to Los Angeles and Singapore.

Start-up carriers

Feel Air

Plans announced for group of domestic airlines

Japanese start-up Feel Air has signed a letter of intent for 36 ATR turboprops to support the launch of domestic operations in 2024. Feel Air intends to be a group of franchised airlines, starting with Feel Air East, which hopes to start services from Tokyo Narita in **2024**. Feel Air West will be established at the end of 2023, ready to launch flights in spring **2026** from Kobe or Osaka Kansai. Feel Air Central will launch in spring **2027**, followed by Feel Air North and Feel Air South in spring **2028**.

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at July 26, 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.eggleson@bcdtravel.co.uk to share your thoughts.