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American Airlines Announces New Service to Three New European Cities

PHILADELPHIA — American Airlines announced today it will begin non-stop flights between Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) and three European cities next year, affirming its commitment to PHL as its Trans-Atlantic gateway.

American will begin year-round, non-stop service between Zurich (ZRH) and Philadelphia International starting March 25, 2018. This daily service is being moved from JFK International Airport.

Summer seasonal service to Budapest (BUD) and Prague (PRG) will begin May 4, 2018. The flights to Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, and Budapest, capital of Hungary, will be the first opportunity for passengers to travel non-stop to these central European cities from PHL. American is moving the Zurich service to PHL so passengers can benefit from the many connecting opportunities available here. In 2016, American had ended service from PHL to Zurich, the largest city in Switzerland.

“We are very pleased American has decided to expand its international service from Philadelphia,” said PHL CEO Chellie Cameron. “These new European destinations will enhance the options for passengers whose travel either originates or connects through our airport.

“By adding these new destinations, American continues its commitment to PHL as our hub carrier. We value the partnership with American and look forward to these new flights that will bring more visitors to our region.”

Budapest and Prague share with Philadelphia the distinction of being recognized as World Heritage cities.

“As the largest trans-Atlantic hub in our network, American is well-suited for expansion at PHL,” said Olympia Colasante, American’s vice president PHL Hub Operations. “These new routes will further strengthen our commitment to the Airport and region and also leverage connecting power in the U.S. to feed and develop new markets across the Atlantic.”

First inbound ZRH-PHL will be March 25 and then it will continue daily year-round as PHL-ZRH on a Boeing 767-300 aircraft. This flight will continue to operate from JFK until March 24, 2018.

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Seasonal service to Budapest and Prague are May 4 - Oct. 27, 2018. Booking is available starting Aug. 21, 2017. These flights will be served with Boeing 767-300 aircraft.

The PHL-BUD flight departs PHL at 6:25 p.m. and arrives 9:35 a.m. (next day) The BUD-PHL flight departs BUD at 11:35 a.m. and arrives at PHL at 4 p.m.

The PHL-PRG flight departs PHL at 6:30 p.m. and arrives PRG at 9:05 p.m. (next day). The PRG-PHL flights departs PRG at 11:30 a.m. and arrives at PHL at 3:10 p.m.

In 2015 more than 16,000 travelers visited Philadelphia from the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Switzerland combined, according to Oxford Economics data provided by the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau (PHLCVB). That number was projected to grow 4.9% by 2020, estimated before American's announcement of expanded service.

With the new flights, PHL will offer service to 37 international destinations, including 16 capital cities. Most recently, Icelandair began seasonal non-stop service in May between PHL and Reykjavik, marking the arrival of the first new international carrier at PHL since 2014.

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Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$15.4 billion in spending annually and supporting more than 96,300 full-time jobs for the 11-county Philadelphia MSA.