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Qatar Airbus 350 XWB to Make U.S. Debut at Philadelphia International Airport

State-of-the-art aircraft to serve PHL-Doha route on Qatar Airways

PHILADELPHIA -- Qatar Airways' A350 XWB, the new aircraft manufactured by Airbus, will make its U.S. debut at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) on January 1, 2016.

Qatar Airways, the Global Launch Customer of the A350 XWB (Extra Wide Body), plans to begin operating the new aircraft on its daily service to PHL from Hamad International Airport in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

The introduction of the A350 XWB on the daily flights between Doha and Philadelphia brings an additional capacity of more than 9 percent compared to the Boeing 777-200LR, which is currently being operated on the route. Qatar Airways' daily capacity to Philadelphia will grow from 259 seats on the B777-200LR to 283 seats on the A350 aircraft.

In April 2014, Qatar Airways became the first new foreign flag carrier to start service at PHL in more than a decade.

"We are very excited to have this aircraft serving PHL and, even more so, on our Airport receiving the distinction of being the U.S. launch site for the Qatar Airways' A350 XWB," said Airport CEO Mark Gale. "This new aircraft will both add capacity and enhance the passenger experience. The A350 XWB is a marvelous new aircraft and we eagerly anticipate its arrival to PHL."

In a press release issued by the airline, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker noted: "Philadelphia is the sixth largest metropolitan area in the USA and is an important international business hub that is home to seven Fortune 1000 companies. With the launch of the new A350 service, Qatar Airways will be further strengthening its position in Philadelphia and the U.S. overall as an airline offering passengers a world-class travel experience."

The A350 XWB offers wider seats in both Business and Economy classes, the lowest twin engine noise level of any aircraft, advanced air conditioning technology, and full LED mood lighting, which will all work together to enhance the comfort of passengers, according to the airline.

Qatar Airways' A350s feature 36 seats in Business Class in a 1-2-1 configuration, featuring 80-inch fully flat horizontal beds and a 247 seating capacity in Economy Class in a 3-3-3 layout. All seats in Business Class have direct aisle access with 17-inch HD in-flight entertainment screens.

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Qatar Airbus/2

Economy Class features 10.6-inch in-flight entertainment screens and more space for passengers in window seats, thanks to a vertical side wall panel design.

Passengers can also enjoy more than 2,000 movies, games and audio entertainment options on Qatar Airways' newly revealed inflight entertainment system, "Oryx One – Explore. Play. Share." – available in both Business and Economy classes.

Qatar flies to more than 140 cities in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, and North and South America. Since its re-launch in 1997, Qatar Airways has won numerous industry awards and recognition including a 5-Star rating by Skytrax, the respected global airline rating system.

This year, Philadelphia International Airport celebrates the 75th anniversary of its commercial air service. In 1940, the Airport served 40,000 passengers flying to a handful of cities. Today, more than 30 million passengers travel annually to 131 destinations around the world.

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 \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for more than 141,000 jobs.