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## Qatar Airways Arrives at Philadelphia International Airport

*Airport and City officials welcome historic service to Doha in the Gulf region*

**PHILADELPHIA** – Just before 8:00 AM today, the first Qatar Airways flight from Doha arrived at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) after a nearly 14-hour journey from the Gulf region. The Boeing 777 aircraft, carrying more than 200 passengers including Qatar Airways’ Chief Executive Officer, His Excellency Akbar Al Baker, airline officials and international media, passed under a traditional water cannon salute as it taxied to its gate in Terminal A-West.

Inside the terminal, a delegation of City and Airport officials including Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Airport CEO Mark Gale and local elected officials, eagerly awaited the arrival of historic Flight 727. After the passengers cleared the federal inspection area, the special guests were escorted to a ceremony commemorating the event in Terminal A-West.

The arrival of Qatar Airways signaled the first new service by a foreign flag carrier at PHL in more than a decade. The daily service between Philadelphia and Doha, the capital of the State of Qatar, is the first from PHL to the Gulf region. Doha is the 39<sup>th</sup> international city served by non-stop flights from Philadelphia. The new service is expected to generate an annual economic impact of \$95 million.

“This is an historic day for our city and our Airport,” Nutter said. “Qatar Airways’ arrival in Philadelphia brings travelers in our area unprecedented access to the Gulf region, which is one of the key economic centers in the world. I am bullish about the opportunities this convenient service presents to businesses and leisure travelers in both of our great regions.”

Added Deputy Mayor Rina Cutler: “Qatar Airways has distinguished itself as one of the best airlines in the world. Its membership in the **oneworld** Alliance with the new American Airlines opens new doors to the global connectivity our customers demand in today’s marketplace.”

Philadelphia is the sixth North American city in Qatar’s rapidly expanding global network. The airline, which launched in 1994, has added 20 new routes in 12 countries including the U.S. since January 2013. Qatar flies to more than 130 cities in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, and North and South America.

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## Qatar Airways/2

Qatar, which in October 2013 became the only major Gulf airline to join a global airline alliance, is the recipient of numerous industry awards and recognition. At the annual Skytrax 2013 World Airline Awards that took place at the Paris Air Show, Qatar was awarded World's Best Business Class, World's Best Business Class Lounge and, for the second consecutive year, Best Airline Staff Service in the Middle East. Qatar also received the prestigious Skytrax Airline of the Year Award in 2011 and 2012, and was named Best Airline in the Middle East seven years in a row. Qatar's Premium Terminal at Doha International Airport was named Best Premium Service Airport for the third consecutive year in 2013.

Qatar is the fifth new airline since 2012 to launch service at PHL. Virgin America and Alaska Airlines began new service in 2012, and Spirit Airlines and JetBlue launched at PHL in 2013.

"We are very proud to have an international carrier of Qatar's acclaim serving our airport," Gale said. "Qatar's vast network in the Middle East, Africa and Asia is the perfect complement to the extensive network of flights and destinations throughout North and South America provided by our hub carrier, the new American Airlines. We look forward to a long relationship with Qatar Airways."

In a press release issued by Qatar Airways, Al Baker said: "Our newest gateway offers a unique morning route to Doha, our earliest departure from North America, providing passengers with unprecedented access to a new schedule of convenient connections to our entire global network. Our 5-star service begins by forging a connection with the communities we serve, and we appreciate the opportunity to work together with this great city."

### **Philadelphia – Doha Daily Service**

**QR728** departs PHL at 10:30 AM, arrives in Doha at 5:55 AM the following day

**QR727** departs Doha at 1:05 AM, arrives at PHL at 7:55 AM

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### Qatar Airways/3



*A water cannon salute greets the first Qatar Airways flight from Doha to Philadelphia.*

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.