

REPORT: AIRLINES: EUROPE

What you need to know

September 2021

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

Major network airlines

British Airways

New routes to the Azores

British Airways will launch seasonal services to the Azores in summer 2022. It will serve Sao Miguel between July 2 and September 3 and Terceira between July 10 and August 28.

An end to Gatwick short-haul?

British Airways' (BA) plans for a new short-haul subsidiary at London's Gatwick airport have failed to attract the support of pilots' union BALPA. As a result, BA has decided to suspend short-haul operations at Gatwick with the exception of a small number of domestic services that connect onto its long-haul operation at the airport. The airline will look at [alternative uses](#) for its Gatwick short-haul slots.

Iberia

More capacity returns in the winter

This winter, Iberia is due to fly to 23 long-haul destinations across 17 countries, operating nearly 280 flights per week from Madrid. Service to Male in the Maldives resumes in [December](#), with two-weekly flights, while Cali in Colombia rejoins the network with three-weekly flights.

In anticipation of domestic business travel growth, Iberia is also scheduling [four](#) daily return flights from Madrid to Bilbao, La Coruna and Vigo, and [68](#) shuttle services per week between Madrid and Barcelona.

KLM

Canada services resume

As the country reopens to vaccinated travelers, KLM has resumed flights from Amsterdam to a number of destinations in Canada. Montreal and Vancouver will be served [four-times](#) weekly, while Calgary and Toronto will be served [daily](#). [Twice-weekly](#) services to Edmonton will operate via Calgary.

New long-haul destinations for the winter

From [December 6](#), KLM will resume service to Las Vegas and Miami, each served [thrice-weekly](#). Previously-announced new destinations for the winter include Cancun, Port of Spain, Bridgetown (Barbados) and Mombasa.

Other network airlines

Aegean Airlines

Second quarter loss reduced

Greek carrier Aegean Airlines increased revenue by **169%** to €109 million (US\$ 128 million) in the second quarter of 2021. The airline managed to reduce pre-tax losses to €34.8 million (\$41 million) from €88.5 million the year-ago period. It also more than halved net losses from **€73.4 million** to **€33.9 million**.

Aer Lingus

Toronto service restored

After an 18-month break, Aer Lingus restored Dublin-Toronto services on **September 17**. Initially operating **twice-weekly**, service was ramped up to **four** per week by the end of September.

Air Malta

More routes reinstated

The start of the summer **2022** schedule on **March 27** will see Air Malta resume a number of European routes. **Daily services** to London Gatwick will restart, as will **thrice-weekly** flights to Madrid and **twice-weekly** services to Moscow Sheremetyevo.

Aeroflot

August passengers up 50%

Aeroflot Group (Aeroflot, Pobeda and Rossiya) carried **5.54 million** passengers in August. This was up **50%** year-over-year but was still **11%** below **2019** levels. The vast majority (4.49 million) were carried on domestic flights. Both capacity and traffic increased by **59%**, delivering a stable and respectable **87%** load factor, which was only **3.8** points lower than in **2019**.

Austrian Airlines

Transatlantic services return

Austrian Airlines is planning to resume flights from Vienna to the U.S. in **November**. It will initially offer a total of **16** weekly flights across Newark, New York JFK, Washington Dulles and Chicago. Earlier, on **October 1**, the airline will return to Montreal, Canada, with a **thrice-weekly** service from Vienna.

Brussels Airlines

Winter-sun services added

In response to growing demand for travel to winter-sun destinations, Brussels Airlines will add Marrakech to its network from **September 30**. From the end of **October**, the airline will also resume services to Hurghada in Egypt and the Canary Island destinations of Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and Tenerife.

Finnair

Modest rise in August passengers

The number of passengers carried by Finnair in **August** increased by **38%** to **266,500**. Numbers fell by **12%** on Asian routes but increased by **100%** on the North Atlantic, **44%** in Europe and **6%** on domestic routes.

Winter season plans unveiled

In **Asia**, Finnair will continue to operate **daily** services from Helsinki to Bangkok, Seoul and Tokyo, and lower frequencies to Hong Kong and Singapore. Services to Osaka will restart in **October**, followed by Nagoya in **February 2022**.

In **North America**, Chicago becomes a year-round destination, while **daily** services continue to New York

JFK, with [three](#) weekly flights offered to Los Angeles and Miami. Finnair will also start direct services to both Los Angeles and New York from [Stockholm](#), Sweden. The airline will also start flights from the Swedish capital to Bangkok, Miami and Phuket.

In [Europe](#), frequencies will increase to key cities, such as Amsterdam, Berlin, Düsseldorf, London, Munich and Paris, while there will also be more flights to popular winter sun destinations.

New codeshare with Turkish Airlines

Finnair started a new codeshare with Turkish Airlines on [September 29](#). Finnair's AY code will be added to Turkish's flights from Istanbul to Helsinki, Athens, Sofia, Thessaloniki, Amman, Sharm El Sheikh, Hurghada, Luxor, Antalya and Gazipasa. Turkish will in turn add its code to Finnair flights from Helsinki to Kuopio, Oulu, Reykjavik, Riga, Rovaniemi, Tallinn, Tartu, Vaasa and Vilnius.

Icelandair

Winter capacity back at 65%

Icelandair expects its capacity in the final quarter of [2021](#) to be around [65%](#) of its [2019](#) levels, rising to [75%](#) during the [first quarter of 2022](#). This is slightly lower than to [70-80%](#) it had previously predicted.

S7

Low-cost plans revealed

Russian carrier S7 is planning to launch a low-cost carrier in [July 2022](#), which will be known as Citrus, derived from "cities of Russia." Citrus aims to connect Russian cities without the need to hub over Moscow and expects to carry [one million](#) passengers in its first year of operation.

SAS

Passenger numbers rise in August

Scandinavian airline SAS carried [1.08 million](#) passengers in [August](#), up [52%](#) year-over-year, but still well below the [2.8 million](#) passengers carried in August [2019](#). With traffic rising by 109% on 65% extra available seat kilometers, the airline's load factor rose 12.9 points to [61%](#).

Revenues and losses improve

SAS saw second quarter ([May-July](#)) revenue increase by [59%](#) year-over-year to [SKr 3.98 billion](#) (US\$461 million), although this was still [70%](#) below [2019](#) levels. SAS sustained a [pre-tax loss](#) of SKR1.4 billion (\$162 million), an SKr0.7 billion improvement on [2020](#).

Swiss

Winter schedule unveiled

Swiss plans to serve [90](#) destinations from its Zurich and Geneva hubs this winter, matching the extent of its [2019](#) operation, but with fewer frequencies.

From Zurich, Swiss will serve [60](#) short-haul and [21](#) long-haul destinations. These will include summer-only destinations to be offered year-round, including Alicante, Malta, Marseille, Palermo and Thessaloniki.

From Geneva, Swiss will fly to [25](#) European destinations, including summer destinations Funchal, Sharm el-Sheikh and Tenerife. Long-haul flying will resume with the restart of four weekly flights to New York from [December 14](#).

TAP Air Portugal

Second quarter losses reduced

Revenues at TAP Air Portugal increased by more than **270%** year-over-year to **€233 million** (US\$276 million) during the **second quarter** of 2021. However, because of a weak first quarter, **first half** revenues fell **41%** from almost **€646 million** to **€383 million**.

The **second quarter** revenue improvement helped TAP reduce operating losses from **€272 million** to **€150 million** and net losses from **€187 million** to **€128 million**.

Low-cost carriers

EasyJet

Takeover bid rejected

EasyJet has rejected a takeover approach from an undisclosed bidder. To protect itself from further bids, the airline plans to raise **£1.2 billion** (US\$1.7 billion) through a rights issue. The extra liquidity will also enable it to take advantage of growth opportunities across Europe.

Iberian capacity to be expanded

From **May 2022**, easyJet will expand capacity at its seasonal bases in Portugal and Spain. It will add two aircraft each at Malaga and Palma de Mallorca and a single aircraft at Faro.

Eurowings

Stockholm base opening in 2022

Lufthansa's low-cost subsidiary Eurowings is to open a Swedish base at Stockholm Arlanda airport in **March 2022**. An initial fleet of five Airbus A320s will offer connections to both business and leisure destinations across Europe. Initial destinations include Alicante, Barcelona, Berlin, Birmingham, Copenhagen, Faro, Gdansk, Malaga, Nice, Palma de Mallorca, Pristina and Rome. More are expected to be added to this list.

Stockholm Arlanda will be Eurowings' **fifth** base outside of Germany, joining Palma de Mallorca, Prague, Pristina and Salzburg.

Norwegian

Passenger numbers rise

Norwegian posted a **152%** year-over-year rise in **August** passenger numbers to **790,220**. But this is still some way below the **3.5 million** passengers carried in August 2019. With traffic rising by 168% on a 129% increase in capacity, the airline's **load factor** improved by 10 points to **73%**.

Ryanair

More new London routes

As part of its winter 2021/2022 schedule, Ryanair plans to launch **14** new European routes from **three** London airports from **October**. New routes from London **Stansted** include Helsinki and Tampere in Finland, Oradea in Romania, Stockholm in Sweden, Trapani and Treviso in Italy, and Zagreb in Croatia. From London **Luton**, Ryanair will start flights to Fuerteventura and Gran Canaria in Spain, Grenoble in France, Naples and Turin in Italy and Shannon in Ireland. And from London **Gatwick** there'll be a new service to Malaga in Spain.

New routes from Birmingham

This winter, Ryanair plans to launch **six** new routes from Birmingham. Flights to Bergamo, Bucharest, Lisbon, Shannon, Turin and Vilnius will begin in **October**.

Vueling

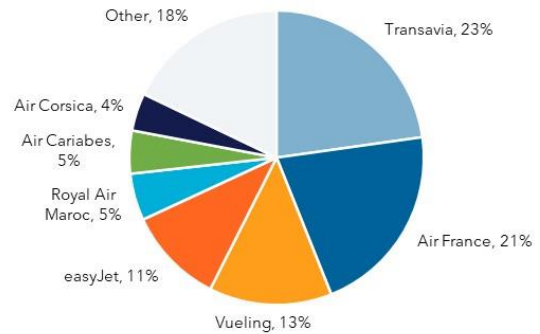
Orly expansion from November

LAG-owned Spanish airline Vueling is due to pick up slots at Paris Orly airport, which Air France must release as a condition set by the European Commission for its receipt of a €4 billion bailout from the French government. Air France must surrender **18 daily** slot pairs, and Vueling has been selected by the Commission to receive them. As a result, it can start operating new routes from Orly from **November**.

Vueling has operated a base at Orly since **2016**, where it is now the **third largest** airline based on

seats behind Air France and its low-cost division Transavia France. The addition of the Air France slots will see Vueling open a clear lead over fourth-placed easyJet (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Seat share at Paris Orly



Regional carriers

BA CityFlyer

Salzburg services planned

BA CityFlyer, the regional division of British Airways, plans to serve Salzburg from both London City Airport and Southampton. Flights from **London** begin on **December 10**, operating **twice-weekly**. **Weekly** service from Southampton begins the next day. BA CityFlyer will also increase frequency on domestic services to Belfast, Exeter, Glasgow and Leeds, while also launching a new double-daily **Belfast-Birmingham** service.

Loganair

New destinations added in 2022

Scottish regional carrier Loganair will add three new routes to its summer **2022** schedule. From **March 27**, 2022, it will start **six-times-weekly** flights from **Teesside** to **Southampton**, enabling one-stop journeys between Aberdeen and Southampton. On **May 9**, Loganair will launch **twice-weekly** flights from **Lerwick** to **Dundee**, from where passengers can then fly to London. And from **May 27**, the airline will start **four weekly** flights from **Inverness** to **Dublin**.

Note

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at September 29, 2021. 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.

Do you have questions or comments regarding this report?

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