



AIR CANADA

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Air Canada to introduce non-stop Montréal-Brussels service

MONTREAL, Aug. 20 /CNW Telbec/ - Air Canada today announced that it will introduce year-round non-stop service between Montreal and Brussels, with same-plane service continuing on to/from Toronto. Flights will begin daily, subject to government approval, in time for summer peak travel on June 12, 2010. Flights on the new Brussels route are timed to offer travellers convenient connections to Air Canada's extensive North America network via the carrier's Montreal hub to and from: Toronto (same plane), Ottawa, Québec City, Halifax, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Washington and New York. In Brussels, connecting flights will be available with future Star Alliance partner Brussels Airlines to/from several European and African destinations including Toulouse, Lyon and Marseilles, France; Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Dakar, Senegal; Douala, Cameroun; Bologna and Milan, Italy; and Porto, Portugal.

"The introduction of the only year-round non-stop service between Montréal and Brussels, headquarters of the European Commission and Parliament, and other international organizations, is great news for customers travelling on business, for leisure as well as freight forwarders," said Marcel Forget, Vice President, Network Planning. "Air Canada's new direct non-stop Brussels service will offer more choice for convenient international travel via our Montreal hub providing easy access to several destinations in Europe and Africa."

Wilfried Van Assche, CEO of Brussels Airport applauds this news: "Both our business and leisure passengers will be delighted with the year-round Air Canada service between Montreal and Brussels. The daily connection will be an asset to the strong links between Belgium and Quebec. This service could not have come at a better time for Canadian passengers as well: they will now fully enjoy an attractive Star Alliance network from Brussels to Europe and Africa."

"Aéroports de Montréal applauds this new non-stop service as it increases Montréal-Trudeau's appeal as an efficient hub between Europe and North America" said James Cherry, president and CEO.

By next summer Air Canada will offer non stop service between Montréal and six European gateway cities including London, Paris, Frankfurt, Geneva and Rome. As well, Air Canada's Star Alliance partners Lufthansa and Swiss International Air Lines offer service from Montréal to Munich and Zurich respectively, further increasing connections and travel options.

Air Canada will operate the new Montreal-Brussels non-stop service using newly refurbished 211-seat Boeing 767-300 ER aircraft offering a choice of Economy Class and Executive First service featuring 24 lay flat bed suites. Further details and a virtual tour of Air Canada's new cabin amenities including personal seatback entertainment are available at:

<http://www.aircanada.com/en/travelinfo/onboard/cabincomfort.html>

Flight	Depart Toronto	Arrive Montréal	Depart Montréal	Arrive Brussels
AC832	17:00	18:15	19:40	08:40 (+1)

Flight	Depart Brussels	Arrive Montréal	Depart Montréal	Arrive Toronto
AC833	10:45	12:25	14:00	15:15

Montréal-based Air Canada provides scheduled and charter air

transportation for passengers and cargo to more than 170 destinations on five continents. Canada's flag carrier is the 13th largest commercial airline in the world and serves 33 million customers annually. Air Canada is a founding member of Star Alliance, providing the world's most comprehensive air transportation network for Canadian domestic, transborder and international travel. Air Canada aircraft offer customers individualized seatback in-flight entertainment systems with hundreds of hours of digital audio-visual entertainment. As well, customers can collect Aeroplan miles for future rewards through Canada's leading loyalty program.

In 2008, the readers of Business Traveler magazine voted Air Canada "Best In-Flight Services in North America," "Best Airline for Business Class Service in North America" and "Best North American Airline for International Travel."

Backgrounder:

AIR CANADA AT MONTREAL-TRUDEAU AIRPORT

Montréal-Trudeau Airport (YUL) is a strategic hub for Air Canada connecting its Québec and Atlantic Canada domestic network, its U.S. transborder routes and as an international gateway for Air Canada's services to and from the Caribbean, Mexico and Europe.

Air Canada provides service in both of Canada's official languages. As a fully bilingual operation, YUL plays a special role in connecting Canada with many French-speaking communities in the world, known as la francophonie, with service to points throughout Québec and New Brunswick among other, as well as to and from France (Paris CDG), Switzerland (Geneva), Brussels (Belgium -

summer 2010), Martinique, Guadeloupe and Haiti.

On August 19, 2009, Montréal-Trudeau International Airport (YUL) inaugurated a new sector for transborder departures to the United States, completing the terminal's transformation which began in 2000. The new U.S. transborder facilities are larger and more customer-friendly, and provide travellers with a smoother, faster check-in and security clearance experience. The new two-storey facility is located adjacent to the existing transborder jetty. By the numbers - Air Canada at Montréal-Trudeau Airport

- YUL is Air Canada's third largest hub.
- Air Canada served more than three million customers at YUL in 2008
- Air Canada, together with its regional affiliate Jazz, operates more than 48,000 flights to/from YUL and 60 destinations (including seasonal routes and Air Canada Vacations destinations): 20 destinations in Canada, 16 in the United States, 19 in the Caribbean and Mexico, and to six European gateways.
- Air Canada has three Maple Leaf Lounges at YUL:
 - A newly renovated Domestic Maple Leaf Lounge
Seating capacity of 160; more than 220,000 annual visits in 2008
 - A Transborder Maple Leaf Lounge opened in February 2004
Seating capacity of 80; more than 75,000 annual visits in 2008
 - An International Maple Leaf Lounge opened in December 2005
Seating capacity of 110; more than 85,000 annual visits in 2008

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- Air Canada serves more destinations in the United States from YUL than any other carrier, accounting for about 40 per cent of total scheduled carriers' U.S. departures and seats at YUL.
- Air Canada together with Jazz operates non-stop service to 17 destinations in the U.S. and will introduce non-stop service to Houston on November 30, 2009 for a total of 17 U.S. cities served directly from YUL.
- Air Canada flies non-stop to the most popular U.S. destinations from YUL: New York City (LGA), Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO), Chicago (ORD), Las Vegas (LAS), Orlando (MCO) and Fort Lauderdale (FLL).
- In addition, Air Canada is the only carrier in YUL to fly non-stop to Boston (BOS), Denver (DEN), Tampa (TPA), Hartford (BDL), and Washington D.C. (DCA)

Simpler baggage formalities for U.S. flights:

- A new baggage drop-off service located just behind the check-in area is now available for passengers travelling to the U.S. It allows customers to drop their checked bags off before proceeding to security clearance and U.S. customs
- International and domestic passengers connecting to U.S. flights no longer need to pick up their bags before passing through security and U.S. customs

More efficient baggage system:

YUL's new transborder facility uses a state-of-the-art baggage system, with greatly improved baggage handling capability.

- Baggage handling capacity has more than tripled from 400 items per hour to 1,400 items per hour
- A new baggage reconciliation system features new bag scanning and boarding pass scanning technology. The new scanning technology tracks the location of passengers and their bags, improving operational efficiency.

What else is new at Montréal-Trudeau airport's transborder facilities:

- The U.S. departures facility has nearly doubled in size from 9,300 to 18,100 m².
- Security checkpoints have doubled from 6 to 12
- Check-in positions increased from 28 to 48, with Air Canada's positions increasing from 12 to 14.
- U.S. Customs counters increase from 20 to 29
- A duty free shop, a MEXX outlet and a Houston's Bar and Grill are among the many new shops and restaurants.
- A new 272-room Marriott Hotel connected directly to the airport terminal provides visitors to YUL with more choice in accommodations, spa and meeting room facilities.

For further information:

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