

## Hermitage Group Digest

Latest news, August 2022

### **More than 282,000 passengers passed through Tallinn Airport in July**

In July, 282,559 passengers passed through Tallinn Airport, an increase of 78% compared to the same period last year. The figure is 88% of the pre-crisis passenger numbers.

There were 35 regular lines operated by 14 airlines in July. Passengers travelled most frequently to the hubs Riga, Helsinki and Frankfurt. The average occupancy rate for scheduled flights in July was 82%. Antalya remained the most popular destination for holidaymakers.

Air Baltic with 25% and Ryanair with 22% market share were in the lead. Lufthansa was chosen by 9% and Finnair by 8%.

<https://turist.delfi.ee/statja/120044950/v-iyule-cherез-tallinnskiy-aeroport-proshli-282-559-passazhirov-ugadayte-samoe-populyarnoe-napravlenie>

### **Wizz Air increases flight network from Warsaw - four new destinations**

Aqaba in Jordan, Venice in Italy, Valencia and Bilbao in Spain - these are Wizz Air's new destinations from Warsaw Chopin Airport. The carrier will place its ninth aircraft at the base of this airport. It will be an Airbus A321.

The earliest flights will start to Valencia - on December 12. They will take place twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays. On December 13, the low-cost carrier will take off for Aqaba, where it will fly on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The following day, 14 December, the first flight will take off to Venice, which will operate every Wednesday and Sunday.

Only next year, during the summer season, on 23 March, Wizz Air will launch a service to Bilbao, in northern Spain. It intends to fly there on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The airline has also announced an increase in the number of flights to Barcelona from five to seven per week, to Malaga from three to four, to Kutaisi from four to seven and to Basel from two to three.

In total, Wizz Air currently has 58 routes to 24 countries from Warsaw in its schedule.

Source: <https://turystyka.rp.pl/linie-lotnicze/art36807931-wizz-air-zwieksza-baze-w-warszawie-i-siatke-lotow-cztery-nowe-kierunki>

## **The best July ever at Modlin airport (Warsaw)**

In July, 329,500 passengers used Modlin Airport's services, 10.9 per cent more than in the best July so far in 2019 and 60 per cent more than a year ago.

The month thus proved to be the best in the airport's 10-year history. The previous record for traffic was set in June 2022, when 315.6 thousand passengers were serviced.

In July, passengers most frequently chose London as their destination, followed by Dublin, Riga, Rome and Stockholm.

<https://turystyka.rp.pl/lotniska/art36847071-lipiec-najlepszy-w-historii-lotniska-w-modlinie>

## **Holidays 2022: Turkey, Greece and Egypt are the most popular. Tunisia is back in the game.**

After a slump in sales caused by the outbreak of war in Ukraine and rising inflation, customers are back in search of overseas holidays. The most popular destinations are Turkey, Greece and Egypt, according to Wakacje.pl in a summary of the first half of the year. Turkey, Greece and Egypt were the most popular destinations in the second quarter. Their share of sales totaled 58.1 per cent. However, this was not an impressive figure, as a year earlier, these top three destinations took a much larger share of 63.7 per cent. One of the changes in the distribution of customer interest for Wakacje.pl is attributed to the return of Tunisia to travel agent programs.

What other destinations are Poles choosing this year? Places from 4 to 10 in the ranking are Spain, Bulgaria, Tunisia, Cyprus, Albania, Italy and the United Arab Emirates.

Turkey, Greece and Egypt are the most popular choices for travelling couples, families with children and singles. Differences in preferences can only be seen in the next rankings. "While couples choose Spain in fourth place and Bulgaria in fifth, the trend is reversed for families, with fourth position belonging to Bulgaria and fifth to Spain. Singles, on the other hand, prefer Tunisia (fourth place), followed by Spain (fifth place)."

The largest number of clients, 69 per cent, are still opting for week-long trips, but already one in five is opting for a non-standard stay - slightly longer, although not 14 days.

Customers of travel agents are most likely to choose air tours, with 95.3 per cent opting for them in the period under review. The nationwide survey, conducted on behalf of Wakacje.pl in March, shows that for many tourists it matters a great deal where they can fly from on holiday. 45 per cent of respondents confirmed that they primarily check offers linked to airports closest to where they live. In the second quarter, they chose ports such as Warsaw, Katowice, Wrocław, Gdańsk and Poznań. Wakacje.pl statistics show a clear increase in the number of journeys from Wrocław, Gdańsk and Poznań, which is due to the increased activity of travel agencies in organising departures from these ports.

<https://turystyka.rp.pl/biura-podrozy/art36772001-wakacje-2022-turcja-grecja-i-egipt-najpopularniejsze-tunezja-wraca-do-gry>

## **Aeroflot will fly to the Seychelles**

Aeroflot Airlines has launched the sales of flights to the Seychelles (Mahe Airport). According to the carrier's website, the flight program will start on October 8. Now two weekly frequencies have been announced: on Mondays and Saturdays.

Flights will be carried out on Airbus A330-300 (28 seats in business class and 268 in economy class). These planes in Aeroflot's fleet are owned by the carrier and are registered in Russia, so they can operate on international routes.

In addition, Aeroflot also transferred four Boeing 777-300ERs to the Russian registry, which can also operate international flights.

“Flights to the Seychelles will have a great demand due to the general shortage of long-haul destinations “, said Dmitry Arutyunov, CEO of the tour operator ART-Tour. “Pre-bookings are already coming in “, he said.

“The Seychelles are in a very high demand, especially in the autumn-winter period, when there is a high season. Moreover, Aeroflot usually is not very willing to give special rates to tour operators, because even direct sales provide a good load. But for tour operators now, the most important thing will be to provide ground service, since the hotel base in the Seychelles is not so large, and the destination is very popular for many Europeans, and this leads to a shortage of places, especially in high-quality five-star hotels”, says Dmitry Arutyunov.

Currently, there are still some restrictions in the Seychelles from the coronavirus pandemic. In particular, before traveling, a tourist must register on a special website five days before entering the country. Upon entry, he must provide a vaccination certificate no older than 6 months, or a revaccination certificate, a negative PCR test result made no earlier than 72 hours before departure, or a negative antigen test no older than 24 hours before departure.

[https://profi.travel/pages/55807/details?utm\\_source=tg\\_channel](https://profi.travel/pages/55807/details?utm_source=tg_channel)

## **Tour operator Russian Express has announced a guaranteed flight program to Phuket with daily departures**

Till that moment there were no tour operators who has had block places to Thailand. One of the main advantages of such flights is the lower cost of tour packages and fixed prices.

As Russian Express told Vestnik ATOR, the tour operator put on sales flights to Phuket (Thailand), formed based on guaranteed blocks of seats on the flights of the company's strategic partner, the national carrier of Abu Dhabi - Etihad.

The block flight program of the tour operator starts on September 28, 2022 and will last until mid-May 2023. Departures will be carried out daily from Moscow with a convenient connection in Abu Dhabi. At the same time, luggage is checked in to the destination and there is no need to pick up and drop it off in Abu Dhabi.

Etihad now has a summer schedule (until the end of October) on the route from Moscow to Phuket, the connection time on the way is 6.5 hours and 4.5 hours on the way back. With the transition to the winter schedule from October 31, the docking time will decrease, and it will take 4 hours on the way there, and 4.5 hours on the way back. For long-haul flights, such convenient connections are in demand. Tourists can take a break, go shopping, have coffee break and just warm up after a long flight.

As emphasized in the Russian Express, a flight on the block seats of the tour operator is much more profitable than other connecting flights of foreign airlines and a direct flight to Phuket by Aeroflot flights.

<https://www.atorus.ru/node/49092>

### **The flow of tourists from Russia to the Maldives has reached the pre-crisis growth period**

In July 2022, the flow of tourists from the Russian Federation to the Maldives, starting from March, showed a significant lag the indicators of 2021, exceeded the figures of the previous year. Experts believe that it will only grow further. Moreover, to grow was made mainly due to tour operator sales - their growth is much higher than the average market values.

Recall that the tourist flow from Russia to the Maldives at the beginning of 2022 also showed indicators higher than last year, but then, due to problems with air traffic, showed a big “failure” in the spring. A recovery trend began in May.

And finally, according to the Maldives Immigration Authority, in July 2022, 19,585 arrivals from Russia were recorded in the Maldives. This is already 10.2% more than in July 2021, and this is an important indicator of the restoration of the tourist flow to the usual values for 2021.

By the way, in July, Russia again was the first in terms of the number of foreign tourists in the Maldives, ahead of India (2nd place) and Great Britain (3rd place).

<https://www.atorus.ru/node/48988>

### **In the seasonal schedule of Moscow Airport Vnukovo appeared direct regular flights to the Maldives (Male) and Sri Lanka (Colombo).**

According to the website of the airport, AZUR Air plans to start flights to Male from September 14 this year. At first, it is planned to operate up to six weekly flights, and from October 3, switch to a daily schedule.

Flights to Colombo will start on November 21 and will operate twice a week: on Mondays and Thursdays.

Flights will be operated on Boeing 767-300ERs - several aircraft of this type in the carrier's fleet could operate foreign flights without the risk of being delayed by the requirements of lessors.

<https://profi.travel/news/55831/details>

### **Tunisia resumes flights with Russia**

The Tunisian airline Nouvelair is launching flights to Russia from August 19. Flights will be operated on the route Monastir – Moscow (Vnukovo) twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Flights (BJ835) will depart Vnukovo on Wednesdays at 05:05 and on Saturdays at 02:15. The duration of the flight will be 4 hours 10 minutes.

At the same time, there is no need to talk about large volumes of transportation. Nouvelair's fleet consists of only Airbus A320-200 aircraft with a capacity of 174 passengers.

The partner of the flight program was the Russian tour operator Grand Express, which specializes in tours to Tunisia. The company confirmed to Profi.Travel that they are the exclusive owner of the blocks on these flights.

<https://profi.travel/news/55779/details>

### **Iran: prospects for growth in demand**

Iran and Russia are expanding cooperation: Iranian companies will start supplying equipment for Russian aircrafts, as well as repair and maintain them. In addition, there is already an agreement to increase the number of flights between the countries (up to 35 per week), a new Iranian carrier is entering the direction. And in Iran they are going to introduce the ability to pay with cards of the Russian payment system "Mir".

On July 27, Russian tour operators told Profi.Travel about the prospects for the growth of the tourist flow in this direction. According to the mutual opinion, Iran is an underestimated direction for Russia. And its appearance in the information flow in a positive way, coupled with an increase in the number of flights, should stir up the interest of tourists in Iran. "We have 'overrated' destinations, with a lot of advertising and hype around, where tourists end up coming once and often returning disappointed. So, Iran is their complete opposite, - says the head of "Art-Tour" Dmitry Arutyunov.

<https://profi.travel/news/55682/details>