



## News

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Astana (Kazakhstan), 15 March 2017

### **Lufthansa and Air Astana sign code share agreement**

- **Lufthansa and Air Astana share flight numbers on all connections between Kazakhstan and Germany**
- **Passengers of both airlines get doubled amount of flight options for their ticket and further benefits**
- **Open for sales starts today**
- **Agreement signed in Astana by Peter Foster and Axel Hilgers**

The Kazakhstan-domiciled carrier Air Astana and Lufthansa, one of Europe's leading airline groups, will soon offer its passengers flights to and from Frankfurt, Astana and Almaty under shared flight numbers (codesharing). A corresponding agreement was signed today by Axel Hilgers, Senior Director Sales Russia, CIS & Israel, Lufthansa Group, and Peter Foster, Chief Executive Officer of Air Astana, at a press conference in Astana.

This partnership with Air Astana will enable Lufthansa to offer its passengers flights operated by Air Astana between Astana and Frankfurt with the beginning of the 2017 summer flight timetable on 26 March 2017. In return, Air Astana will in parallel also be able to book its passengers on Lufthansa flights from Astana and Almaty to Frankfurt. Lufthansa operates during the summer flight services three times a week from Frankfurt to Astana, and a daily service from Frankfurt to Almaty. Air Astana offers a daily service from Astana to Frankfurt. Both a Lufthansa and an Air Astana flight code will be used and shared for these flights. With this agreement these code share flights are open for sale as of today.

Furthermore, passengers will be able to check through their baggage on these routes. In addition, Lufthansa passengers who are members of the Miles & More programme can earn miles on the flights operated by Air Astana.

Frankfurt is Lufthansa's biggest hub, in the heart of Germany and Western Europe. Every week Germany's biggest airline offers its passengers 3,081 weekly connections to 174 destinations in 71 countries worldwide. To make connections easier and transfer times shorter, Air Astana will move in Frankfurt in Lufthansa's Terminal 1.

Axel Hilgers, Senior Director Sales Russia, CIS & Israel, Lufthansa Group said: "This code share agreement is great news for our customers as it makes Kazakhstan more accessible. Passengers of both Lufthansa and Air Astana will have a much greater choice

in flight options. Kazakhstan is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and we highly welcome Air Astana as our new partner and as the leading airline to and from Central Asia.”

“I’m delighted that the longstanding co-operative relationship between Air Astana and Lufthansa is being further strengthened with the signing of the codeshare agreement. Passengers flying from Almaty and Astana to Frankfurt can now enjoy a greater choice of flights to best suit their schedules and the convenience of simply using the ticket of either of the two airlines,” said Peter Foster, President and Chief Executive Officer of Air Astana. “This is a winning step for both airlines and their passengers flying between Kazakhstan and Germany.”

Based on an additional Special Pro Rate Agreement (SPA) between Lufthansa and Air Astana, Lufthansa will be able to sell Air Astana tickets on selected routes to domestic destinations such as Atyrau, Aktau, Pavlodar and Ust-Kamenogorsk. This applies also for Air Astana routes to neighbouring countries such as Bishkek (Kirgizstan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Urumqi (China).

#### About Lufthansa:

Deutsche Lufthansa AG is a globally active aviation group comprising more than 540 subsidiaries and affiliates. The Lufthansa Group is divided into the three strategic areas of Hub Airlines, Point-to-Point Business and Service Companies. In their respective segments, the Lufthansa Group airlines (Lufthansa, Austrian, SWISS, Brussels Airlines and Eurowings) are positioned as quality carriers. The Lufthansa Group’s airlines currently (summer 2017) serve 308 destinations in 103 countries and offer 11.738 weekly frequencies. The Group’s total fleet comprises more than 600 aircraft and will be taking delivery of 251 new aircraft until 2025.

#### About Air Astana

Air Astana, the national carrier of Kazakhstan, operates flights to over 60 domestic and international routes from hubs in Astana and Almaty. The company was incorporated in late 2001 and commenced operations on 15 May 2002. Air Astana fleet consists of Boeing 767, 757, Airbus A319, A320, A320neo, A321 and Embraer 190 aircraft. Air Astana became the first carrier from Russia, the Commonwealth of Independent States (the CIS) and Eastern Europe to be awarded the prestigious 4-Star rating by Skytrax at its World Airline Awards 2012 and was also named ‘The Best Airline in Central Asia and India’ that year. Both achievements were repeated in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

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