

Kutaisi International Airport (IATA: KUT, ICAO: UGKO) also known as David the Builder Kutaisi International Airport[3] is an airport located 14 km (8.7 mi) west of Kutaisi, the third largest city in Georgia and capital of the western region of Imereti. It is one of three international airports currently in operation in Georgia, along with Tbilisi International Airport serving the Georgian capital and Batumi International Airport near the Adjara Black Sea resort. The airport is operated by United Airports of Georgia, a state-owned company.[4]

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History[edit]

The airport was closed for renovation in November 2011. Its reopening ceremony was held on 27 September 2012. It was attended by President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili, Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orbán[5] and Wizz Air CEO József Váradi.[6]

For preparation works, for the commissioning of the airport and training of staff, the French company Vinci Airports was contracted.[7] There is one duty-free shop and two coffee shops operating at the airport. The airport is currently connected to scheduled buses operated by Georgian Bus [8] and Omnibus Express [9] , with services to Kutaisi, Tbilisi and Batumi after each arrival. The airport terminal is located next to the main road between Kutaisi and Batumi, so it is possible to transfer to those cities also by marshrutka.[10]

The priority of Kutaisi airport is to attract low-cost airlines. A significant growth in the number of passenger has been noted soon after the reopening of the airport in 2012, mainly due to Wizz Air operations linking Kutaisi with European airports. For 2013, the operator reported 187,939 passengers.[11] In February 2016, Wizz Air announced a new base at Kutaisi Airport and is planning to add a second base in 2018.

Currently, major expansion works of the airport are underway[12] as the airport is expecting 1 million passengers in 2020. Also, it was planned to build a railway station in the vicinity of the airport which would have connected the airport to Tbilisi, Batumi and any other cities of Georgia served by Georgian Railways.[12] but project was abandoned.

Airlines and destinations[edit]

Airlines Destinations

FlyArystan Aktau, Atyrau, Nur-Sultan, Shymkent

Vanilla Sky Airlines Mestia, Natakhtari

Wizz Air Abu Dhabi, Athens, Berlin, Budapest, Dortmund, Gdańsk, Katowice, Kraków, Larnaca, Memmingen, Milan–Malpensa, Poznań, Prague, Riga, Rome–Fiumicino, Tallinn, Thessaloniki, Vienna, Vilnius, Warsaw–Chopin, Wrocław

Seasonal: Barcelona (begins 31 October 2021)[13]

Statistics[edit]

Annual passenger statistics[11]

Year Total passengers Change from previous year

2019

873,616

41.5%

2018

617,373

52.4%

2017

405,173

49.3%

2016

271,363

48.3%

2015

182,954

16.1%

2014

218,003

16.0%

2013

187,939

1,353.3%

2012

12,932

185.7%

2011

4,527

40.3%

2010

7,446

Annual passenger[edit]

See source Wikidata query and sources.

Routes[edit]

Top 5 scheduled destinations (2019)[14]

Rank Airport Passengers Carriers

1 Warsaw Chopin Airport 54,722 Wizz Air

2 Vienna International Airport 52,319 Wizz Air

3 Berlin Schönefeld Airport 50,804 Wizz Air

4 Dortmund Airport 42,339 Wizz Air

5 Katowice Airport 42,081 Wizz Air

See also[edit]

List of the busiest airports in the former USSR

List of airports in Georgia

Transport in Georgia