

Tuzla International Airport (Bosnian: Međunarodni aerodrom Tuzla/Међународни аеродром Тузла); (IATA: TZL, ICAO: LQTZ) is an airport near Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Tuzla International Airport is the second largest airport in Bosnia and Herzegovina, after Sarajevo International Airport. The airport is known as a low-cost airline hub of Bosnia and Herzegovina, since it is used by people from Bosnia, the diaspora and travelers from neighboring countries Croatia and Serbia. The airport is a civilian airport and also was a military airbase.

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## History[edit]

### Early years[edit]

Tuzla International was once the largest military airport in the former Yugoslavia. The 350th Reconnaissance Aviation Squadron was active there for a time.

In the early 1990s, still within Yugoslavia and prior start of the Bosnian War, Yugoslav airliner Air Commerce performed commercial flights from Sarajevo and Tuzla to Austria and Switzerland.[2]

It was placed under the control of the United Nations Protection Force in 1992, and from 1996 onwards, it became the main hub for the Implementation Force (IFOR), which was charged with supervising the implementation of the Dayton Agreement. In 1998, the canton of Tuzla turned Tuzla International to a civil airport. Tuzla International opened on 10 October 1998 as a civilian airport and military airfield. After the complete international military withdrawal, Tuzla International Airport began implementation of all technical requirements and standards imposed by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

### Development since the 2000s[edit]

Finally, on 5 June 2008, Tuzla International Airport obtained Provisional Certificate for Public Use Airport in international air transportation valid for one year.[3] After general audit implemented by authorized institutions of Civil Aviation in BiH, on 5 June 2009, Tuzla International Airport obtained Certificate for Public Use Airport in international air

transportation with unlimited period of validity.[3]

In June 2015, Hungarian low-cost carrier Wizz Air opened an operating base in Tuzla, by basing one Airbus A320 at the airport.[4] After base opening, total Wizz Air destinations from Tuzla jumped to 9, including 22 weekly departures in the summer flight schedule. 2 June 2016, Turkish Airlines Cargo began operating flights from Tuzla to Istanbul–Atatürk. The Turkish government allocated a quota of 15,000 tons of fresh meat and meat products to import from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Total of 90 flights with Airbus A330 freighter aircraft were planned for 2016. This was the only wide-body aircraft flight operating to and from Bosnia and Herzegovina at the time.[5] On 31 August 2016, Wizz Air announced that it would base its second aircraft at Tuzla Airport as of 27 March 2017. From March 2017, the airline started operating five new services from Tuzla to Cologne/Bonn, Friedrichshafen, and Nuremberg in Germany, Bratislava in Slovakia and Växjö in Sweden. Wizz Air also announced its newest route connecting Tuzla with London–Luton in the United Kingdom beginning 30 October, Billund in Denmark beginning 31 October, and Berlin–Schönefeld beginning 17 December. Total number of weekly flights increased to 43 round trip flights, serving 16 destinations in 7 countries.[6] On 2 November 2016, Tuzla International Airport announced start of terminal expansion and reconstruction. Capacity of the new building is going to be 700.000 passengers per year.[7] The reconstruction was finished in May 2019.[8] In November 2017, Wizz Air stopped flying to London-Luton, Nuremberg and Bratislava.[9] 2017 was the record year for Tuzla Airport since it opened its doors, passing half a million passengers for the first time ever. In June 2018, Wizz Air started operating flights from Tuzla to Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden in Germany. In May 2021, Ryanair planned to launch two routes from Tuzla to Weeze and Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden with potential future routes to Stockholm, London-Stansted, Malta and Memmingen.[10] However, the government blocked and did not approve the flights.[11] On 12 August 2021, Wizz Air announced that it would base its third base aircraft in Tuzla and open two new routes to Milan-Malpensa and Nuremberg in December 2021.[12]

Facilities[edit]

Terminal[edit]

The passengers' terminal building opened in 1998, provides a capacity of 350 passengers per peak hour. The terminal is equipped with one gate for arrival and departure, two check-in counters for registration of passengers, services for handicapped passengers, ticketing service as well as further passenger amenities and a border guard (SBS) control (24 hours) equipped with x-ray machines and customs control. Since passenger terminal has reached its capacity in 2015. Government of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has decided to allocate 2 million KM (approximate 1 million €) in the year 2016 budget for initial plans and works for a new terminal building, while the Government of Tuzla Canton secured 500.000 KM for installation of new and improved approach lighting system.[13] Many rent a car agencies have offices at the airport and the airport also provides long term parking for road vehicles.

Aprons[edit]

Tuzla Airport has three aprons, currently two in use:[14] passenger aircraft apron with size 116 x 106 meters and cargo apron with approximately same size. Aprons are designed to

service all classes of aircraft. Two medium size aircraft Boeing 737 or Airbus 320 family aircraft can be handled at the same time at passengers apron next to the terminal building. On cargo apron two Ilyushin Il-76 or Airbus 330 freighter can be handled at the same time in two parking positions, or an Antonov An-124 or Boeing 747 cargo in one parking position. Tuzla International Airport had a signed agreement with Turkish Airlines to service 130 cargo flights in 2016 from Istanbul with the Airbus A330F. The airport has mixed civil and military use and the airport is home to 3rd Helicopter Squadron of the Air Force of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Next to taxiway F, parallel with runway, there are 31 parking positions for helicopters Bell UH-1 or similar size.

Airport operating hours are from 03:30 to 24:00 LT for commercial air carriers and 06:00 to 17:00 LT for general/corporate aviation with a possible extension.[14] Tuzla International Airport is ICAO-classified as ILS CAT I.

Airlines and destinations[edit]

Passenger[edit]

The following airlines operate regular flights to and from Tuzla:[15]

Airlines Destinations

Freebird Airlines[16] Seasonal charter: Antalya

Wizz Air[17] Basel/Mulhouse, Berlin, Billund, Cologne/Bonn, Dortmund, Eindhoven, Friedrichshafen, Gothenburg, Hahn, Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden, Malmö, Memmingen, Milan–Malpensa (begins 19 December 2021),[18] Nuremberg (begins 17 December 2021),[18]

Vienna

Seasonal: Stockholm–Skavsta, Växjö

Statistics[edit]

Passenger development[edit]

See source Wikidata query and sources.

Year/Month [1] January February March April May June July August September October November December Total Change

2021 12,394 8,427 11,650 13,969 19,880 23,006 45,983 48,630 32,970 216,949 14.6%

2020 35,188 36,588 17,665 0 100 19,456 32,008 28,813 19,509 17,120 9,505 12,473 228,425 61.4%

2019 36,341 30,658 35,679 56,276 52,425 59,581 67,794 66,732 56,412 54,018 35,484 41,617 593,083 1.5%

2018 40,563 35,976 43,112 52,638 49,371 53,709 67,438 65,364 56,062 50,122 30,763 39,471 584,589 9.0%

2017 26,554 23,105 29,116 50,763 47,701 49,662 63,173 63,788 52,816 51,556 37,432 40,178 535,834 72.1%

2016 19,234 19,939 23,598 25,261 27,324 26,673 32,229 31,046 27,793 27,621 23,619 27,061 311,398 20.2%

2015 12,960 12,005 14,474 17,311 18,082 21,563 33,666 33.007 28,900 27,167 22,462 17,427 259,074 71.2%

2014 8,276 6,455 7,289 9,495 9,343 12,195 19,887 19,253 16,.967 16,299 12,363 13,531 151,353 146.0%

2013 1 0 0 0 455 6,251 11,868 11,000 9,071 8,673 7,359 6,835 61,513 1367.7%

2012 8 0 51 13 2 854 1,762 1,243 195 59 4 0 4,191 7.4%

2011 0 0 12 54 8 1.143 1.506 965 10 426 403 0 4,527 N/A

Passenger route statistics[edit]

Tuzla Airport passenger numbers by destination (2019)[19]

Rank Airport Passengers handled % change

2018/2019

1 Basel/Mulhouse/Freiburg 66.762 4,21

2 Dortmund 65.606 8,22

3 Malmö 55.489 5,26

4 Gothenburg 52.095 2,64

5 Berlin-Schönefeld -

6 Hahn 41.872 5,17

7 Memmingen 40.605 4,57

8 Cologne/Bonn -

9 Friedrichshafen 33.134 0,10

10 Stockholm-Skavsta -

Tuzla Airport passenger numbers by destination (2018)[20]

Rank Airport Passengers handled % change

2017/2018

1 Basel/Mulhouse/Freiburg 64.060 29,40

2 Dortmund 60.621 21,77

3 Malmö 58.570 3,73

4 Gothenburg 50.751 0,35

5 Berlin-Schönefeld 41.184 30,16

6 Hahn 39.812 4,60

7 Memmingen 38.830 17,60

8 Cologne/Bonn 36.930 20,69

9 Friedrichshafen 33.168 25,13

10 Stockholm-Skavsta 25.322 0,73

Tuzla Airport passenger numbers by destination (2017)[21]

Rank Airport Passengers handled % change

2016/2017

1 Malmö 56.461 26,72

2 Gothenburg 50.930 18,46

3 Dortmund 49.781 0,93

4 Basel/Mulhouse/Freiburg 49.503 28,95

5 Hahn 38.058 22,76

6 Memmingen 33.016 4,30

7 Friedrichshafen 26.506 0.0

8 Stockholm-Skavsta 25.510 13,16

9 London-Luton 20.708 0,0

10 Växjö 20.269 0,0

Freight statistics[edit]

Year Loaded (in t) Unloaded (in t) Total cargo(in t)

2017 249.6 - 249.6

2016[22] 6.065,92 3.83 6.062,09

2015 219.557 16.689 236.246

2014 55.559 53.793 109.392

Ground transport[edit]

Tuzla Airport is situated at a secondary road that leads to Kalesija to the east and to Živinice to the west. The main road to Sarajevo, Tuzla, and other cities across the country connects from there.

Bus services exist to Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Tuzla to/from the airport

See also[edit]

List of airports in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo International Airport

Mostar International Airport

Banja Luka International Airport