

"Minsk Airport" redirects here. For the former small city airport "Minsk-1", see Minsk-1 Airport.

Minsk National Airport (formerly known as Minsk-2) (IATA: MSQ, ICAO: UMMS) (Belarusian: Нацыянальны аэрапорт Мінск, [natsija'nalʲnʲi aera'port mʲinsk]; Russian: Национальный аэропорт Минск) is the main international airport in Belarus, located 42 km (26 mi) to the east of the capital Minsk, geographically lying in the territory of Smalyavichy Raion but administratively being subordinated to Kastrychnitski District of Minsk. The airport serves as hub of the Belarusian flag carrier Belavia and the cargo carriers TransAVIAexport Airlines, Genex and Rubystar Airways.

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History[edit]

Early years[edit]

Construction of Minsk-2 airport began in 1977. In 1979, a new runway 3,640-m-long and 60-m-wide became operational. By 1981 the Minsk-2 aerodrome was able to handle aircraft and the airport opened in 1982. The first passenger flight was operated with a Tupolev Tu-134.[3]

On 1 July 1983, the Second Joint Aviation Division of Minsk was established in accordance with the decision of the Ministry of Civil Aviation of USSR. This date is considered as the airport foundation day.[4][5]

Development since the 1990s[edit]

Regular flights began in 1983; by 1990 passenger traffic reached 2.2 million passengers. From 1991, the number of flights began to decline due to the dissolution of the Soviet Union and other consequent changes. By 1997, the number of the passengers was 516,000, in 1998 – 480,000, in 2000 – only 400,000 passengers. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the first million passengers was handled by Minsk National Airport in 2008. Due to the substantial growth in passenger traffic, 2008 became a significant mark for the airport.[6] In 2020, the growth was stalled by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Additionally from May 2021 all Belarusian airlines, mainly Belavia, have been banned from operating into the European Union as part of newly established sanctions.[7]

On 9 August 2021, the US has added the airport director Vyacheslav Khoroneko to the SDN list.[8]

Airlines and destinations[edit]

Passenger[edit]

The following airlines operate regular scheduled and charter flights to and from Minsk:[9]

Airlines Destinations

Aeroflot Moscow–Sheremetyevo

Air China<sup>1</sup> Beijing–Capital (suspended)

airBaltic Riga (suspended)

Austrian Airlines Vienna (suspended)

Azimuth Mineralnye Vody

Belavia[10][11] Almaty, Amsterdam (suspended),[12] Baku, Barcelona (suspended), Batumi, Beirut, Belgrade (suspended), Berlin (suspended), Budapest (suspended), Charleroi (suspended), Chişinău (suspended), Dubai–International, Frankfurt (suspended), Geneva (suspended), Hanover (suspended), Helsinki (suspended), Istanbul, Kaliningrad (suspended), Kazan, Kharkiv (suspended), Krasnodar, Kyiv–Boryspil (suspended), Kyiv–Zhuliany (suspended), Larnaca (suspended), London–Gatwick (suspended), Lviv (suspended), Milan–Malpensa (suspended), Moscow–Domodedovo, Moscow–Sheremetyevo, Moscow–Zhukovsky, Munich (suspended), Nizhny Novgorod, Nur-Sultan, Odessa (suspended), Paris–Charles de Gaulle (suspended), Prague (suspended), Riga (suspended), Rome–Fiumicino (suspended), Rostov-on-Don, Saint Petersburg, Sochi, Stockholm–Arlanda (suspended), Tallinn (suspended), Tashkent,[13] Tbilisi, Tel Aviv, Ufa,[14][15] Vienna (suspended),[16] Vilnius (suspended), Voronezh, Warsaw–Chopin (suspended), Yerevan

Seasonal: Aktau,[17] Ashgabat (suspended), Karagandy, Kostanay, Palanga, Pavlodar, Reus (suspended)[18]

Seasonal charter: Antalya,[14] Bodrum,[14] Burgas (suspended),[14] Catania (suspended),[14] Dalaman,[14] Heraklion (suspended),[14] Hurghada,[14] İzmir,[14] Kavala (suspended),[19] Lamezia Terme (suspended),[14] Palma de Mallorca (suspended),[14] Patras (suspended),[14] Rhodes (suspended),[14] Rimini (suspended),[14] Sharm El Sheikh,[14][20] Thessaloniki (suspended),[19] Tirana,[21] Tivat, Varna (suspended)[14]

Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi

flydubai Dubai–International[22]

Iraqi Airways Seasonal: Baghdad

LOT Polish Airlines Warsaw–Chopin (suspended)

Lufthansa Frankfurt, Munich (both suspended)

Motor Sich Airlines Zaporizhzhia (suspended)

Turkish Airlines Istanbul

Ural Airlines Moscow–Domodedovo

Utair Moscow–Vnukovo

Seasonal: Surgut

Uzbekistan Airways Tashkent

Notes: ^1 : Air China's flight from Beijing to Budapest stops in Minsk, but the return flight from Budapest to Beijing is nonstop. Air China does not have local traffic rights for the

Minsk – Budapest sector.[23]

Cargo[edit]

Airlines Destinations

Transaviabaltika[24] Vilnius

Turkish Cargo[25] Istanbul–Atatürk, Vienna

Statistics[edit]

See source Wikidata query and sources.

Traffic by calendar year. Official ACI Statistics[26]

Passengers Change from previous year Aircraft operations Change from previous year

Cargo

(metric tons) Change from previous year

2005 559,114 10.86% 5,456 2.83% 5,488 4.29%

2006 637,560 14.03% 6,144 12.61% 6,059 10.40%

2007 830,481 30.26% 7,590 23.54% 7,290 20.32%

2008 1,010,695 21.70% 9,256 21.95% 7,870 7.96%

2009 1,028,886 1.80% 9,341 0.92% 7,289 7.38%

2010 1,285,423 24.93% 11,020 17.97% 8,553 17.34%

2011 1,437,825 11.86% 13,686 24.19% 8,667 1.33%

2012 1,837,911 27.83% 14,947 9.27% 9,833 13.45%

2013 2,182,177 18.73% 16,586 11.00% 10,477 6.55%

2014 2,593,559 18.90% 20,036 20.90% 19,905 89.99%

2015 2,782,866 7.30% 20,365 1.64% N.D. N.D.

2016 3,429,112 23.2% 23,034 13.1% N.D. N.D.

2017 4,114,512 20.0% 24,508 6.4% N.D. N.D.

2018 4,536,644 10.3% 26,103 6.5% 20,217 N.D.

Source: Airports Council International. World Airport Traffic Reports

(Years 2005,[27] 2006,[28] 2007,[29] 2009,[30] 2011,[31] 2012,[32] 2013,[33] and 2014[34]);

Official website[26] (Years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018).

Ground transportation[edit]

The airport is located 42 km (26 mi) east of Minsk, and is linked with the city with a toll-free (for non-BY registered cars) highway. Free short term parking is available in front of the terminal. Minsk National Airport is linked to the capital by the M2 motorway. Bus, train, taxi and parking services are provided.[35] The airport is served by buses 3009 and 1739 departing from Centralny bus station.

Incidents and accidents[edit]

On 1 February 1985, Aeroflot Flight 7841, a Tu-134AK operated by Aeroflot with registration number SSSR-65910 en route to Leningrad Pulkovo airport, crashed into the forest shortly after takeoff, killing 55 out of 73 passengers and 3 out of 7 crew members on board.[36]

On 6 September 2003, an aircraft Tu-154 operated by an Iranian airline Kish Air hit trees in heavy fog as it was on approach en route from Tehran to Copenhagen. None of the 38

passengers and 4 crew members on board were injured.[37]

On 26 October 2009, S-Air Flight 9607, operated using a BAe 125 RA-02807 crashed on approach to Minsk National Airport. All three crew and both passengers died.[38]

On 23 May 2021, Ryanair Flight 4978, operated using a Boeing 737-8AS with 171 passengers on board, traveling in Belarusian airspace en route from Athens to Vilnius, was intercepted by a Belarusian MiG-29 over Belarusian airspace and forced to land at Minsk National Airport. Upon landing, the Belarusian KGB arrested two of the passengers, opposition activist Roman Protasevich and his girlfriend Sofia Sapega. The other passengers were allowed to reboard the plane to depart for Vilnius after seven hours.

See also[edit]

List of the busiest airports in the former USSR