

Taba International Airport (Arabic: مطار طابا الدولي) (IATA: TCP, ICAO: HETB) is an international airport located on the Sinai Plateau,[3] with an elevation of 2,470 ft,[4] and serves Taba, Egypt. It has only one gate from which mainly charter flights operate. The Taba VOR-DME (Ident: TBA) is located 0.43 nautical miles off the threshold of runway 22.[5][6]

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History[edit]

The airport was constructed by Israel in 1972 during its occupation of Sinai following the Six-Day War. Known as the Etzion Air Force Base,[7] it was demilitarized in 1979 with the Egypt–Israel Peace Treaty. Then Israel's "Golden Eagle", "Phoenix", and "Smashing Parrot" squadrons moved out and the land there was restored to Egyptian control.[8]

A condition of that peace treaty allows tourists to visit certain areas in Egypt, near Taba, for up to 14 days, without a visa. So from Israel and Jordan, travelers and tourists cross the border at Taba, in buses to visit resorts.[9] Egyptian taxis can take fares up to the Israel border but no further.[10]

The airport is located 13 kilometers from Taba and 30 kilometers from Taba Heights, near El Nakb, and adjacent with Eilat, Israel. The airport was named El Nakb Airport. A new terminal building and night lighting[11] was added and the airport was then renamed Taba International Airport in November 2000.[3]

The airport receives charter flights.[12] Traffic at the airport declined considerably. In 2014, the airport served 41,142 and in 2015, only 13,488 (a 67.2% decline).[13] In 2016, it was announced that Thales Group would be modernizing Air Traffic Management at Taba International Airport.[14]

In May 2018, it was announced charter flights to the airport would resume, initially with flights from Poland and then from the Czech Republic.[15][16]

Airlines and destinations[edit]

Airlines Destinations

Blue Panorama Airlines Seasonal charter: Katowice,[17] Vilnius[18]

EgyptAir Charter: Cairo[19]

Smartwings Seasonal charter: Prague[20]

Smartwings Slovakia Seasonal charter: Bratislava[21]

Smartwings Poland Seasonal charter: Katowice,[22] Warsaw–Chopin[22][16]

See also[edit]

Transport in Egypt

List of airports in Egypt