

Belfast International Airport



Over 100 domestic, European and transatlantic destinations can be reached from Belfast International Airport.

With 5.5 million passengers passing through its doors in 2007 Belfast International Airport has seen steady growth over the last few years.

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In 2004 Amsterdam was the only scheduled international service available from the airport. In order to get anywhere local travellers had to make the trek to Dublin or transfer through London Heathrow. This is not the case now with passengers being able to choose from over 100 destinations (scheduled and chartered) direct from their local airport.

A sign of how far Belfast International Airport has come was the announcement in August 2007 that the airport was to become the new European base for Aer Lingus, beating off competition from many other cities across Europe. The move by Aer Lingus has significant ramifications not only for the airport but also for Northern Ireland as a whole and is a significant endorsement of the political changes that have taken place in Northern Ireland, as well as a signal to other international companies to follow suit.

The airline has initially based three Airbus aircraft, flying to ten destinations, the most significant of which is London Heathrow. Belfast International has not had a London Heathrow service since 2001; the reinstatement of this service is good news for business travellers who have previously had to pay high prices and for those passengers

wanting to travel long haul. The Aer Lingus Heathrow service will codeshare with British Airways, linking into their massive network, effectively meaning you can check in at Belfast and fly to anywhere in the BA network. The other significant route is Amsterdam, allowing passengers to link into the massive KLM network at Schipol.

Aer Lingus are not the only airline to see the potential in Northern Ireland. EasyJet has been in the Northern Ireland market for nine years and has based a sixth aircraft at the airport, adding to the number of scheduled destinations that are now accessible from Belfast International. This news will also make Belfast a much more attractive investment location; 32 European and transatlantic destinations can be reached from Belfast International Airport and incoming companies will now have easy, direct access to a wide range of markets.

At the airport, Business travellers can benefit from the well-equipped Business Lounge in association with the Bank of Ireland. Facilities include fax, photocopying and internet access points. Refreshments are also available in the lounge ranging from freshly brewed coffee or a choice of complimentary alcoholic refreshments. Customers can also enjoy a range of snacks specially chosen from the Café Paul Rankin menu. ▶