

Press Release

13 April 2010

KLM adds another Chinese connection from Cardiff

Passengers travelling from Cardiff Airport will be able to reach yet another destination with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines via Amsterdam from May 2010 as the airline launches a new scheduled route to China.

KLM will launch scheduled services between Amsterdam and Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport on 8 May 2010. South Wales travellers will therefore be able to fly from Cardiff to Schiphol and connect onwards to the eastern Chinese province, checking their luggage in at Cardiff, changing aircraft in Amsterdam and collecting it on arrival in China.

KLM is the first airline to offer direct service between Hangzhou and Europe, and this is the sixth destination in China on the KLM network which consolidates the airline's position in this fast-growing market. The airline also operates routes to Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Hong Kong, with connections from Cardiff via Amsterdam.

Hangzhou is the capital of the province Zhejiang, which, together with the neighbouring province Fujian, is home to more than 80 million people. Hangzhou is renowned for its historic ruins and natural beauty, and is one of China's most important tourist destinations. The city is often described as one of the most beautiful cities in the country, with West Lake, which covers an area of 6 km² and includes some of Hangzhou's most notable historic and scenic views, one of the main attractions.

Spencer Birns, Cardiff Airport's Head of Air Service Development said of the new connection: "This is another example of how important KLM is to connecting Wales to the world, offering even more routes from Cardiff via Amsterdam to destinations around the globe.

We're aware of many travellers who frequently drive to London airports to catch flights to countries such as China, and often the flights aren't direct even after making the long journey down the M4 to fly from Heathrow. We therefore encourage people to look at what's available from Cardiff on the KLM network before making any long haul travel arrangements this year.

These new connecting flights give South Wales travellers a chance to explore different parts of the world from their local airport, and we hope the KLM network will continue to expand to offer even more connecting services from Cardiff via Amsterdam."

Henri Hourcade, General Manager AIR FRANCE KLM UK and Ireland, added: "KLM is proud to add this 63th intercontinental destination to its network. With this sixth scheduled service to China, we now offer no fewer than 36 weekly services to this growing market. KLM has thus improved China's connection with Europe and the rest of the world"

The new service will operate three times a week, departing from Cardiff on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 1135, arriving in Hangzhou at 1000 local time the following day. Return flight will depart from Hangzhou at 1305 local time on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, arriving in Cardiff at 2055 local time on the same day.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors

Passenger traffic at Cardiff Airport reached over 1.6 million in 2009 and the airport directly supports over 1,000 jobs in South Wales.

Cardiff Airport is part of the TBI network, which owns, operates or provides services at 13 airports in five countries.

TBI is a company owned by abertis, (90%) the European leader in infrastructure management, present in 17 countries and three continents, and AENA (10%) the Spanish airports operator.