

MEDIA RELEASE

Istanbul, 25 May 2013

Turkish Airlines' 226th destination in 100 countries, Malta...

Turkish Airlines, ranked the best airline in Europe* with the most comprehensive network, added its 226th destination in 100 countries with the addition of Malta...

Turkish Airlines have commenced flights to Malta, its 226th destination in 100 countries. Roundtrip flights between Istanbul and Malta are operated three times per week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Flight TK1369 left Istanbul at 12.35 p.m. local time and arrived at Malta International Airport at 2.20 p.m. to be greeted by the traditional water arch. The aircraft, an Airbus A320 with 144 passengers on board, was welcomed by seven girls and musicians from the Malta Tourism Authority in traditional dress who presented a flower to each passenger before they proceeded to the arrivals lounge.

A high-level delegation of Turkish Airlines officials, led by Senior Vice-President, Sales and Marketing Sezgin Sağlam, was also greeted on the apron by Malta's Tourism Minister Karmenu Vella, the Turkish Ambassador to Malta, Mrs Refika Nihal Çevik, MTA Chief Executive Officer Josef Formosa Gauci and Malta International Airport CEO Markus Klaushofer. They then took part in a ribbon cutting ceremony next to the aircraft's steps.

They then proceeded to the Ministerial Lounge where they addressed the media, followed by the cutting of a celebration cake to mark the occasion.

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Mr Sağlam said: “We want to connect Malta to the world and vice-versa thanks to our fleet of more than 200 aircraft.”

Mr Vella said: “This is a special occasion both for Malta and Turkish Airlines. This three-times weekly flight will create capacity of 25,000 seats a year, enabling tourism between Malta and Turkey to continue to grow. Malta could be Turkey’s undiscovered destination and through Turkey to the rest of the world.”

Mrs Çevik said: “Malta and Turkey share common Mediterranean values.” She augured Turkish Airlines success to help Malta, pointing to the opening of the Turkish Embassy in Malta in 2009 as an important contributor to improving relations between the two countries. “I am confident that Turkish Airlines will enable Maltese and Turkish societies to get to know each other better.”

Mr Formosa Gauci said: “Today’s event is the culmination of a lot of work by the Ministry of Tourism, the airport authority, the MTA and ensures the right accessibility and visibility for Malta across Europe and the globe. We will also gain access to the 226 destinations that Turkish Airlines flies to.”

Mr Klaushofer welcomed this significant event, kicking off a very important operation by one of the leading airlines worldwide. He added that it was not an easy task for the Maltese airport, but thanks to the disposition of Turkish Airlines’ executives and the teamwork with the government and the Malta Tourism Authority, today we are finally witnessing a crucial development in the Airport’s network.

“Turkish Airlines is the fifth new airline commencing operations to and from Malta this Summer, making our Airport a top achiever in Europe as to the addition of new airlines. Turkish Airlines is also the latest new player in the legacy portion of our business mix – highlighting the need of achieving sustainable growth in all three areas and obtain a much-needed balance between legacy, low-cost and charter. We are also pleased to be here today, adding yet another piece to the puzzle enabling further connections to and from the Maltese Islands,” Mr Klaushofer said.

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Introductory round trip fares are available from Istanbul to Malta with Turkish Airlines starting from €99 (including taxes and fees).

Malta flight times** as planned from May 25:

Flight No.	Days	Departure		Arrival	
TK1369	Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday	IST	12:35	MLA	14:20
TK1370	Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday	MLA	15:15	IST	18:35

**All times are in LMT.

* Skytrax rating

Introductory round trip fares are available from Istanbul to Santiago De Compostela starting at 99 Euros (including taxes and fees).

To view the flight schedules, please visit www.thy.com, contact our call centre at +90 212 444 0849 or visit any TK sales office.

Turkish Airlines, Inc.
Media Relations

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Turkish Airlines Flight TK1369 being greeted by the traditional water arch on its arrival at Malta International Airport

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Malta's Tourism Minister Karmenu Vella (centre) addressing the press conference following the arrival of the first Turkish Airlines flight from Istanbul on Saturday afternoon. Turkish Airlines Senior Vice-President, Sales and Marketing Sezgin Sağlam, is on right next to the Turkish Ambassador to Malta, Mrs Refika Nihal Çevik. Malta Tourism Authority Chief Executive Officer Josef Formosa Gauci is on the Minister's right next to Malta International Airport CEO Markus Klaushofer.

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Turkish Airlines Senior Vice-President, Sales and Marketing Sezgin Sağlam (on left), and Malta's Tourism Minister Karmenu Vella tying the pins on the new Turkish Airlines destination - Malta - from Istanbul. Malta is the 100th country to which Turkish Airlines operates a scheduled service and its 226th destination worldwide.

About Turkish Airlines:

Established in 1933 with a fleet of only five airplanes, Star Alliance member, Turkish Airlines is today a four star airline with a fleet of 218 aircraft (passenger and cargo) flying to 225 cities around the world, comprised of 37 domestic and 188 international destinations. One of the fastest growing airline companies, Turkish Airlines has received several "Passengers Choice Awards" from the consumer ranking group, Skytrax. Based on 2011 and 2012 results, Turkish Airlines has been chosen as the winner of "Best Airline Europe", "Best Premium Economy Seats" for its Comfort Class seats and "Best Airline Southern Europe". It has also received awards for its catering and holds a coveted 4-star designation, putting the airline in a small group of top quality carriers. Turkish Airlines was also given the Skytrax designation of "World's Best Economy Class On-board Catering" in 2010, and Skyscanner's "Best On-board Food 2011". Long haul Business Class passengers also enjoy the Flying Chef service on-board.

About Star Alliance:

The Star Alliance network was established in 1997 as the first truly global airline alliance to offer worldwide reach, recognition and seamless service to the international traveller. Its acceptance by the market has been recognised by numerous awards, including the Air Transport World Market Leadership Award and Best Airline Alliance by both Business Traveller Magazine and Skytrax. The member airlines are: Adria Airways, Aegean Airlines, Air Canada, Air China, Air New Zealand,

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ANA, Asiana Airlines, Austrian, AviancaTaca, Brussels Airlines, Copa Airlines, Croatia Airlines, EGYPTAIR, Ethiopian Airlines, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines ,Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, SWISS, TAM Airlines, TAP Portugal, Turkish Airlines, THAI, United and US Airways. EVA Air have been announced as future members. Overall, the Star Alliance network offers more than 21,900 daily flights to 1,329 airports in 194 countries.