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Aer Lingus Returning to MSP Airport in Spring 2024

Dublin service will fully restore all pre-pandemic international destinations from MSP



Credit: Aer Lingus

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL– Irish flag carrier Aer Lingus will return to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) in the spring of 2024. The move will end a pause of the airline's flights to Minnesota that began at the outset of COVID-19. With this resumption, MSP's air service to international destinations will be fully restored to pre-pandemic levels. <u>Aer Lingus</u> will resume year-round service between MSP and Dublin, Ireland (DUB) beginning April 29, 2024, operating Airbus A330 aircraft four days per week (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays). Aer Lingus will transition to daily flights on the MSP-DUB route in late fall 2024 when new Airbus A321XLR aircraft are put into service.

"We're thrilled to welcome Aer Lingus back to MSP and to see the return of non-stop service to one of Europe's most in-demand destinations for both business and leisure travel," said Brian Ryks, CEO of the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), which operates MSP Airport. "Travelers throughout our region have been eagerly awaiting the return of this popular route, which also expands connectivity for passengers on both sides of the Atlantic."

"With Dublin's geographic position as the gateway to Europe, pre-clearance facilities at the airport and the strong, long established Irish American ties, Aer Lingus is ideally placed to connect people and places across the Atlantic," said Aer Lingus Chief Executive Lynn Embleton. "Minneapolis-St Paul is a significant business destination within the US and the return of Aer Lingus' non-stop route facilitates corporate links and connectivity between North America and Europe, through our Dublin Hub."

MSP's full recovery of international destinations in 2024 highlights the increasing demand for overseas travel, particularly to Europe.

"In its first year of operations, Aer Lingus experienced strong demand and established quite a following in Minnesota and the greater Midwest," said MAC Chair Rick King. "We're pleased we can share the news of Aer Lingus' return with our loyal travelers who will have more options to visit Europe next summer."

The MSP-DUB service is one of 18 routes Aer Lingus will operate between Ireland and North America from 2024. This strategic expansion reflects the airline's commitment to its Dublin Hub strategy, not just between Ireland and North America, but also offering seamless connections to Europe, including London and the UK, Paris, Amsterdam, Barcelona and Frankfurt, among others.

Passengers on the route can take advantage of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Preclearance program at Dublin Airport, which allows Minnesota-bound passengers to clear U.S. immigration and customs in Dublin, expediting their arrival at MSP.

Flights are available to book now at aerlingus.com

About MSP

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) owns and operates one of the nation's largest airport systems, including <u>Minneapolis-St Paul International (MSP)</u> and six general aviation airports. The MAC's airports connect the region to the world and showcase Minnesota's extraordinary culture to millions of passengers from around the

globe who arrive or depart through MAC airports each year. Though a public corporation of the state of Minnesota, the organization is not funded by income or property taxes. Instead, the MAC's operations are funded by rents and fees generated by users of its airports. For more information, visit <u>www.metroairports.org.</u>

About Aer Lingus

Aer Lingus is the Irish flag carrier, founded in 1936. Aer Lingus operates over 100 routes from Dublin, Cork, Shannon and Knock to Europe, the UK and North America. Reaffirming its commitment to its North American expansion, the airline will operate 18 transatlantic routes in 2024 from Dublin and Shannon and a further three transatlantic routes from Manchester, UK to North America and the Caribbean.

Aer Lingus is a 4-star airline, awarded by Skytrax, the international air transport rating organization. Aer Lingus is a member of International Airlines Group (IAG), one of the world's largest airline groups. As part of IAG, Aer Lingus has pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and has committed to powering 10% of its flights using sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) by 2030.