

# Cancun sees growth spurt at airport; new luxury hotels in the works

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The number of travelers is up at Cancun International Airport, where easier check-in procedures are in play, while at the same time new hotels are coming to the area, underscoring Cancun's tourism boom and advances.

The latest data shows 1.85 million passengers went through Cancun International Airport this November, an 8.5% increase compared with the same period last year, according to Auerpuertos del Sureste (ASUR), which operates the airport.

So far for the year, passenger traffic at Cancun is up by 10.5% from 19.4 million passengers to 21.4 million, and the numbers are expected to continue to climb.

At the same time, pointing to even more expansion in Cancun, Hilton has announced plans to build two new luxury hotels in Cancun, the Waldorf Astoria Cancun and an all-inclusive Hilton Cancun resort. Both will be developed by Parks Hospitality on neighboring properties set along 100 acres of Caribbean beachfront, about a ten-minute drive from the airport.

To keep up with the growth, ASUR has entered into a multi-year agreement with SITA technology to expand the airport's capacity and provide more flexible services to the 47 airlines that service Cancun.

SITA said at Cancun's new Terminal 4, there are already now has 36 SITA AirportConnect self-service check-in kiosks in addition to a further 104 common-use workstations for check-in and boarding.

The passenger systems will run on SITA's common-use platform 'AirportConnect Open' that allows any airline to use any agent desk, gate position or self-service kiosk.

"The opening of the new Terminal 4 here at Cancun is an exciting development," said Adolfo Castro, ASUR's CEO. "The design and integrated technologies provided by SITA will ensure that our passengers will enjoy a smooth and relaxed journey through the airport while our airlines will find it easy to operate here."

ASUR operates ten airports in Mexico that together serve close to 30 million passengers annually, with Cancun being the largest in terms of passenger volume.