

Istanbul Airport celebrates its first anniversary

By **Mary Jane Pittilla** on October, 29 2019 | Airlines & Airports



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Istanbul Airport has completed its first year of operations with 210,000 passengers per day.

The airport, which opened with a spectacular ceremony on October 29, 2018, has become the largest hub in the region, under the slogan "Turkey's gateway to the world", serving 130 destinations in 60 countries.

The facility has been operating on full capacity since April 6, 2019 and has served over 41 million passengers on 256,521 flights.

To date, 70 airlines have taken off from Istanbul Airport. Eight international airlines, namely Ethiopian Airlines, Nouvelair, Indigo, Air Albania, Sichuan Airlines, China Southern, Tassili Airlines and UR Airlines, have started operations from Istanbul Airport for the first time, since the airport reached full capacity.

In addition, Transavia France is scheduled to start flight operations in October. Since Istanbul Airport reached full capacity, airline companies from different continents including Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia have doubled their flight frequency.

According to the airport operator iGA, Istanbul Airport's duty free area has reached 90% occupancy,

mostly with global brands.

The 54,000 square meter retail area comprises 63 outlets across 34,000 square meters, including nine international and 22 domestic brands. It is home to the world's biggest retail brands, such as Bulgari, Dior, Louis Vuitton, Prada, Celine, Fendi, Hermès and Salvatore Ferragamo.

In addition, YOTEL, the world's largest terminal hotel, is also located in Istanbul Airport and is used by American, British and Russian passengers. Hosting 55,000 guests to date, YOTEL has achieved a 100% occupancy rate.

Istanbul Airport's iGA PASS Loyalty Program currently serves over 5,000 members, and 146,000 people have used the iGA Lounge to date, the airport authority reported.