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<https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2022/03/01/how-overseas-air-travel-kicked-off-2022-orlando.html>

Orlando International Airport overseas travel surges to start 2022

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Orlando International Airport started 2022 with a solid number of passengers, both domestic and overseas, as it continues to recover from the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The airport welcomed more than 3.47 million passengers in January 2022, up 78.25% from 1.95 million in January 2021, said airport data. A rolling 12-month figure ending in January shows more than 41.87 million passengers coming through the terminals, up 118.2% from 19.1 million for the same time in 2021.

Here's more from the airport:

Domestic flight traffic, which made the bulk of passengers, was 3.17 million, up 69.97% from 1.86 million in January 2021.



ISTOCK (OZGURDONMAZ)

Orlando's airport is seeing a steady stream of overseas passengers.

International travel spiked 269.19% to 299,288, up from 81,066 the previous year.

More than 26,428 commercial air carrier flights arrived and departed the airport, up 52.89% from 17,285 in January 2021.

Further, Orlando International Airport has continued to regain service to the region.

Most recently, low-cost Icelandic airline Play announced plans to start flights to Orlando International Airport between September 2022 and April 2023. The airline will operate flights via Iceland from London; Copenhagen, Denmark; Gothenburg, Sweden; Berlin; Dublin and Paris.

New flights like this help Central Florida tap into more travelers, airport executives previously said.

"This new connection adds a second direct link to Iceland from Central Florida and further reach into markets in Europe and North Africa," said Thomas Draper, acting CEO of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, via a prepared statement. (Kevin Thibault will become the next CEO later this month, succeeding former CEO Phil Brown, who retired Jan. 31 after working more than a decade with the airport.)

Orlando International Airport is one of the busiest air hubs in the U.S., ranking No. 7, according to airport data.

The air hub welcomed 40.3 million passengers in 2021, up 86% from 2020's 21.6 million passengers. Orlando International Airport compared traffic figures from other airports to determine its rank. The top airport was Hartfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport with more than 75 million passengers in 2021.

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