

Dortmund Airport
Flugplatz 21
44319 Dortmund

Telefon
+49.231.92 13-518
Telefax
+49.231.92 13-125

E-Mail
presse@dortmund-airport.de
SITA
DTMAPXH

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Für weitere Informationen:
Sebastian Rosendahl,
sebastian.rosendahl@dortmund-airport.de,
Tel.: 0231 92 13-518

www.dortmund-airport.de/presse
www.facebook.com/dortmundairport
www.twitter.com/dortmundairport

Dortmund is “Gateway to the East”

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Dortmund Airport is the third largest airports in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia with some 2 million passengers and connections to around 40 destinations in Europe. Among the city connections throughout Europe, Dortmund Airport is the “Gateway to the East” offering an extensive range of flights to numerous destinations in Central and Eastern Europe. Almost half of the flights connect with the emerging countries in Europe’s eastern part.

This broad spectrum of connections is increasingly enjoyed by private and business travellers alike. More than half of the passengers using Dortmund Airport are heading to countries including Hungary, the Ukraine, Lithuania and Latvia. Wizz Air is Dortmund Airport’s largest carrier with more than one million passengers. The airline now features flights to about 20 destinations in Central and Eastern Europe, with five in Poland and four in Romania alone. Around two third of all Wizz Air flights starting in Germany now fly out of Dortmund.

No other airport in the region offers as many flights to Eastern European destinations. This has become something of a trademark for Dortmund Airport, now known to both business and private travellers as the “Gateway to the East”.

And Dortmund Airport’s appeal extends far beyond its immediate region. Some 80 percent of all passengers flying out of Dortmund come here from within a radius of 100 kilometres. Travellers can choose from a range of attractive offers with fast connections to European holiday areas in countries including Croatia, Italy, Portugal and Turkey along with cities like Warsaw, Budapest and London. But Dortmund is far more than simply a departure point for medium-haul holiday destinations. Around one-fourth of all passengers flying out of Dortmund are business travellers. Most of these (34.6 percent) are headed initially to the hub airport in Munich where they can connect directly to Lufthansa’s worldwide network.

Dortmund Airport is also increasingly becoming a popular destination in its own right. Each year Dortmund Airport welcomes thousands of European travellers, most from Central and Eastern Europe. Almost half of Dortmund’s incoming passengers came from countries such as Poland, the Ukraine, Romania or Bulgaria, trailed by visitors from Eng-

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land (30.5 percent) and passengers arriving from Munich (13.5 percent). In a survey conducted this past April more than one-third of passengers arriving in Dortmund said they were travelling on business and staying overnight in Dortmund and the region to attend events such as trade fairs or congresses. Other arrivals included tourists visiting the Ruhrgebiet district or Dortmund's annual Christmas Market.

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