



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Austin, TX, 04 October 2018

### **Lufthansa selects Austin as its newest US gateway**

- **Flights on Frankfurt – Austin route to commence on May 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- **Austin is third Lufthansa gateway in Texas**
- **Five weekly frequencies planned with Airbus A330-300 aircraft in three class cabin configuration**

Great news for Austin! Europe's leading airline, Lufthansa, is launching a new direct flight from Austin, TX to Frankfurt – the airline's main base.

Commencing on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, Lufthansa will offer five weekly flights from Austin – Bergstrom International Airport to Frankfurt Airport. With this new flight offering, Austin will become the German carrier's third gateway in Texas, following daily service from Dallas and Houston, respectively, to Lufthansa's Frankfurt hub.

"We are thrilled to announce the launch of nonstop service between Austin, TX and our Frankfurt hub in May of next year, which will offer Austin area residents a world of travel opportunities to more than 200 destinations in 100 countries from our European base," said Matt Strong, Lufthansa Group General Manager Sales for the South Central region of the USA. "Those living in Texas' state capital will now be able to experience Lufthansa's outstanding service and 5-star premium product on long-haul travel routes."

Lufthansa will operate the Airbus A330-300 in a three class cabin configuration offering customers Business Class (42), Premium Economy (28), and Economy Class (185). Flights will be operated on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Optimally timed, flight LH469 will depart Austin at 4:00 pm and

arrive at 9:05am in Frankfurt on the following day offering passengers hundreds of connections to Europe as well as Africa, the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent. For passengers flying to Austin, LH 468 is set to take off at 10:00 am from Frankfurt Airport arriving in Austin at 2:05 pm.

“Lufthansa’s flights will make it even easier for global customers to reach the Austin experience and further opens Europe to Austin travelers,” said Jim Smith, Executive Director, Austin Bergstrom International Airport.”

“We are very excited with the announcement of Lufthansa’s new route between Austin and Frankfurt and welcome tourists from Frankfurt and beyond to enjoy everything Austin has to offer,” said Tom Noonan, President and CEO of Visit Austin. “Lufthansa has long been on Austin’s list for airline route expansion, and with year over year increases in visitors from Europe, we anticipate this flight will be extremely successful.”

“This is a major leap forward for our community. We are excited to continue efforts through Opportunity Austin to expand air service at ABIA which makes our region an even more desirable destination for job creators and talent,” said Doug Driskill, Austin Chamber of Commerce Vice Chair for Air Services. “The new non-stop service to continental Europe, and the addition of an award winning carrier Lufthansa that will soon be serving Austin, is crucial to our region’s business recruitment and retention activities. It also provides direct economic benefits to our local economy.”

As the only 5-Star rated airline in the Western Hemisphere (according to Skytrax) Lufthansa is now a member of a select group of ten airlines that have been given this coveted rating. Lufthansa uses state-of-the-art aircraft that offer customers an onboard experience that includes comfortable seating in all classes, acclaimed culinary offerings, a plethora of inflight entertainment options and WiFi throughout the entire journey.

Those arriving from Austin will come to realize that Frankfurt is much more than Lufthansa's main hub. In fact, it is Germany's most international city – offering a rich blend of culture and history. With a population of approximately 5.6 million, the Frankfurt Rhine-Main metropolitan region is one of Europe's leading economic centers and a popular travel destination. Frankfurt is Germany's financial powerhouse where the German Central Bank & the European Central Bank are both located.

## About The Lufthansa Group

The Lufthansa Group is the world's biggest airline group in terms of revenue, and is also the market leader in Europe's airline sector. The Group strives to be the "First Choice in Aviation" for its customers, employees, shareholders and partners. And safety, quality, reliability and innovation are the prime credentials and priorities of all its business activities. The Lufthansa Group is divided into the three strategic areas of Hub Airlines, Point-to-Point Business and Service Companies. The Group's network carriers, with their premium brands of Lufthansa, SWISS and Austrian Airlines, serve its home market from their Frankfurt, Munich, Zurich and Vienna hubs. With its Eurowings brand, the Group also offers short- and long-haul point-to-point services in the growing private travel market. And with its service companies, which are all global market leaders in their individual industries, the Lufthansa Group has found success in further areas of the aviation business.

The Lufthansa Group's airlines currently (Summer Schedule) serve 343 destinations in 103 countries on four continents and offer 25,128 weekly frequencies. The Group's total fleet comprises some 728 aircraft and its member airlines will be taking delivery of 174 new aircraft between now and 2025. In 2017, the Lufthansa Group employed around 130,000 personnel, welcomed 130 million passengers aboard its flights and generated sales of around EUR 35.6 billion.

The Lufthansa Group is headed by its five-member Executive Board. Carsten Spohr is Chairman & CEO; Thorsten Dirks is in charge of Eurowings and aviation services; Harry Hohmeister bears responsibility for the commercial management of the Group's hub airlines and airports; Ulrik Svensson is head of finance & IT; and Dr. Bettina Volkens is in charge of HR and legal affairs.

For further information please visit [www.lufthansagroup.com](http://www.lufthansagroup.com).

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