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Air Astana expands flights to Urumqi



From June on five times per week to the economic center of Central China

Air Astana, the national carrier of Kazakhstan, connects the metropolis of Urumqi in Central China within its own network much stronger: From June on the airline serves the city with its 2.5 million population and its strong oil, steel and textile related industry five times per week. Air Astana connects Urumqi via Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, nonstop and offers one of the best and fastest flights to Central China without long connecting services via one of the big Chinese hubs.

For example: after the nonstop flight Frankfurt-Astana with a duration of around six hours, offered on a daily basis, passengers connect to Urumqi within a short transit and a flight time of two hours and 20 minutes. Air Astana between Kazakhstan and Central China operates either an Airbus A320 or a regional jet Embraer E190. On the route Frankfurt-Astana the Boeing 767-300 had just replaced the smaller Boeing 757-200 which operated during the winter season.

Air Astana commenced regular flight operations on 15 May 2002 and currently operates a network of over 60 international and domestic routes from hubs in Almaty and Astana. Air Astana operates a fleet of 30 aircraft including three Boeing 767-300ER, five Boeing 757-200, thirteen Airbus A320 family aircraft and nine Embraer E-190. Air Astana became the first carrier from Russia, the Commonwealth of Independent States (the CIS) and Eastern Europe to be awarded the prestigious 4-Star rating by Skytrax in its World Airline Awards four times in a row. Air Astana carries also the prestigious Air Transport World Market Leader Award.

Air Astana is a joint venture between Kazakhstan's national wealth fund, Samruk Kazyna, and BAE Systems, with respective shares of 51% and 49%.