

For Immediate Release:

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Icelandair Arrives at Philadelphia International Airport

Airport and City officials welcome flight to Reykjavik

PHILADELPHIA — Icelandair began seasonal non-stop service tonight between Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) and Reykjavik, marking the arrival of the first new international carrier at PHL since 2014. The B-757 aircraft in Icelandair's newest glacier-themed livery arrived from Keflavík International Airport (KEF) and passed under a traditional water cannon salute as it taxied to its gate.

Mayor Jim Kenney, Reykjavik Mayor Dagur Eggertsson, Airport CEO Chellie Cameron and Icelandair CEO Birkir Holm Gudnason and invited guests marked the occasion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, music by Icelandic musician Jon Ragnar Jonsson as well as refreshments that included Philly cheesesteaks and Icelandic hot dogs.

"We are very excited to welcome Icelandair to our family of international carriers," said Cameron. "Flights to Reykjavik open the Philadelphia region's doors for travel, education, and business to Iceland, which serves as a gateway to more than 25 European destinations. This new direct service will also make it easier for overseas travelers from Iceland and beyond to visit and explore the birthplace of America."

Reykjavik is PHL's 34th non-stop international destination, including service to 16 European cities.

Mayor Kenney hosted the Icelandic delegation led by Mayor Eggertsson that toured Philadelphia historical and cultural landmarks on Memorial Day and today. The Icelandic delegation returned to Reykjavik on the inaugural departure tonight with Mayor Kenney and Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Board Chairman Nicholas DeBenedictis. They will tour Reykjavik on a two-day cultural exchange.

"Philadelphia will further strengthen Icelandair's presence in the Mid-Atlantic and better serve our passengers with faster travel times to Europe and easy connections through Pennsylvania's largest city. This is an exciting and significant moment for Icelandair and we look forward to welcoming Philadelphia aboard," said Gudnason.

More

Reykjavik/2

Both Philadelphia and Reykjavik share unique histories that attract millions of visitors each year. In 2016, the Organization of World Heritage Cities recognized Independence Hall as a World Heritage designation. Reykjavik is a vibrant city of literary excellence which became the fifth UNESCO City of Literature in 2011.

Philadelphia – Reykjavik (four weekly departures)

FI 828 departs PHL on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday at 8:35pm and arrives in Reykjavik at 6:10am the following morning.

FI 829 departs KEF at 5:00pm with same-day arrival in Philadelphia at 7:15pm

Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$15.4 billion in spending annually and supporting more than 96,300 full-time jobs for the 11-county Philadelphia MSA.

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