



**BUSIEST
ROUTES
2022**

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BUSIEST ROUTES 2022

**Our annual look at the World's Busiest
Airline Routes data is back.**

**Busiest Routes 2022 looks at the last
12 months to bring an overall picture of
performance with some extra categories:**

- Busiest Routes – by scheduled seats
- Longest Routes – by miles
- Most Competitive Routes
- Largest Unserved Routes



BUSIEST ROUTES

The busiest airline routes are defined as those with the largest volume of scheduled seats in the last 12 months (October 2021 – September 2022).

Top 10 Busiest International Routes

- Middle East airports play an important role; four of the Top 10 operate on high density routes within the Middle East, and a further three start or end in the Middle East.
- The busiest international route is between Cairo and Jeddah (CAI-JED) which has 35 daily flights, this route has the largest volume of scheduled seats at 3.2 million in the last 12 months.
- Next is Dubai and Riyadh (DXB-RUH) which has a higher daily frequency with 40 flights per day but is just slightly behind in seat volume at 3.19 million.
- This shift in focus to the Middle East partly reflects the slower pace of a travel recovery across Asia, where previously many of the key Asian trunk routes dominated the busiest international routes, and the ambitions of Saudia Arabia towards their Vision 2030 goal which will see air traffic grow substantially in the next decade.
- India is also seeing an increase in route capacity with two routes in the Top 10, operating from Mumbai to Dubai (BOM-DXB) and Delhi to Dubai (DEL-DXB).
- The **busiest international route in 2019**, pre-Covid, was between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore Changi (KUL-SIN), this is the only intra-Asian route to appear in the 2022 Top 10 at position five. In 2019, carriers operated 82 daily flights between the two cities, however in the last 12 months this has averaged just 33 flights per day.

Top 10 Busiest Domestic Routes

- Nine of the Top 10 busiest domestic routes operate within the Asia Pacific region.
- The busiest domestic airline route is between Jeju International and Seoul Gimpo International Airport (CJU-GMP).
- CJU-GMP has remained in first position throughout the pandemic, with carriers operating an average of 224 flights per day on this short flight between South Korea's capital and the country's popular leisure destination.
- Three of the Top 10 busiest airline routes are in Japan, which has one of the busiest domestic markets. The other airline routes are spread across South Korea, Vietnam, Australia, India, China and Indonesia.
- Some of the largest Chinese domestic airline routes would have made it into the Top 10 pre-pandemic, however ongoing reductions in airline capacity associated with China's zero-Covid strategy have meant they fall outside of the Top 10. The exception is the largest of Chinese domestic routes, Beijing Capital International – Shanghai Hongqiao International (PEK-SHA), which is in position ten.
- The one route operating outside Asia Pacific is Jeddah - Riyadh (JED-RUH) in Saudi Arabia, where carriers operate nearly 100 flights per day between the two cities.

Busiest Routes

By Seats

Top 10 Global International Routes

Route	Departing Airport	Arriving Airport	Seats
CAI-JED	Cairo International	Jeddah	3,234,683
DXB-RUH	Dubai International	Riyadh King Khalid Intl	3,191,090
JFK-LHR	New York J F Kennedy International Apt	London Heathrow Apt	2,848,044
DXB-LHR	Dubai International	London Heathrow Apt	2,697,593
KUL-SIN	Kuala Lumpur International Airport	Singapore Changi Apt	2,443,176
DXB-JED	Dubai International	Jeddah	2,425,930
MCO-SJU	Orlando International Apt	San Juan Luis Munoz Marin Intl Apt	2,099,234
BOM-DXB	Mumbai	Dubai International	1,977,537
CAI-RUH	Cairo International	Riyadh King Khalid Intl	1,913,991
DEL-DXB	Delhi	Dubai International	1,898,749

Source: **OAG**

Top 10 Global Domestic Routes

Route	Departing Airport	Arriving Airport	Seats
CJU-GMP	Jeju International	Seoul Gimpo International Airport	16,068,983
CTS-HND	Sapporo New Chitose Apt	Tokyo Intl (Haneda)	10,216,765
FUK-HND	Fukuoka	Tokyo Intl (Haneda)	9,894,296
HAN-SGN	Hanoi	Ho Chi Minh City	8,562,009
JED-RUH	Jeddah	Riyadh King Khalid Intl	7,371,119
MEL-SYD	Melbourne Airport	Sydney Kingsford Smith Apt	6,996,156
BOM-DEL	Mumbai	Delhi	6,941,947
HND-OKA	Tokyo Intl (Haneda)	Okinawa Naha Apt	6,910,809
CGK-DPS	Jakarta Soekarno-Hatta Apt	Denpasar-Bali	6,741,923
PEK-SHA	Beijing Capital Intl Apt	Shanghai Hongqiao International Apt	6,321,194

Source: **OAG**

LONGEST ROUTES

Airline routes with the greatest distance between the two points in miles operated.

- The longest airline route in September 2022, currently in operation, is between New York and Singapore (JFK-SIN) at 9,527 miles. This route is operated by Singapore Airlines on an A350-900 and the average flight duration of this super long sector is 18 hours and 40 minutes.
- A very close second is another Singapore route, operating to Newark (EWR-SIN) which is just 2 miles shorter, at 9,525 miles.
- Singapore also features in another two of the Top 10 longest routes, to Los Angeles (LAX-SIN) and San Francisco (SFO-SIN).
- The third longest route in the Top 10 is London to Perth (LHR-PER), operated by Qantas, at 9,009 miles with a flight duration of 16 hours and 45 minutes.
- Another Antipodean originating route, Auckland to New York (AKL-JFK), is fourth longest, covering 8,829 miles and taking a mere 16 hours and 15 minutes.

#1 JFK-SIN

Distance 9,527 miles

#2 EWR-SIN

Distance 9,525 miles

#3 LHR-PER

Distance 9,009 miles

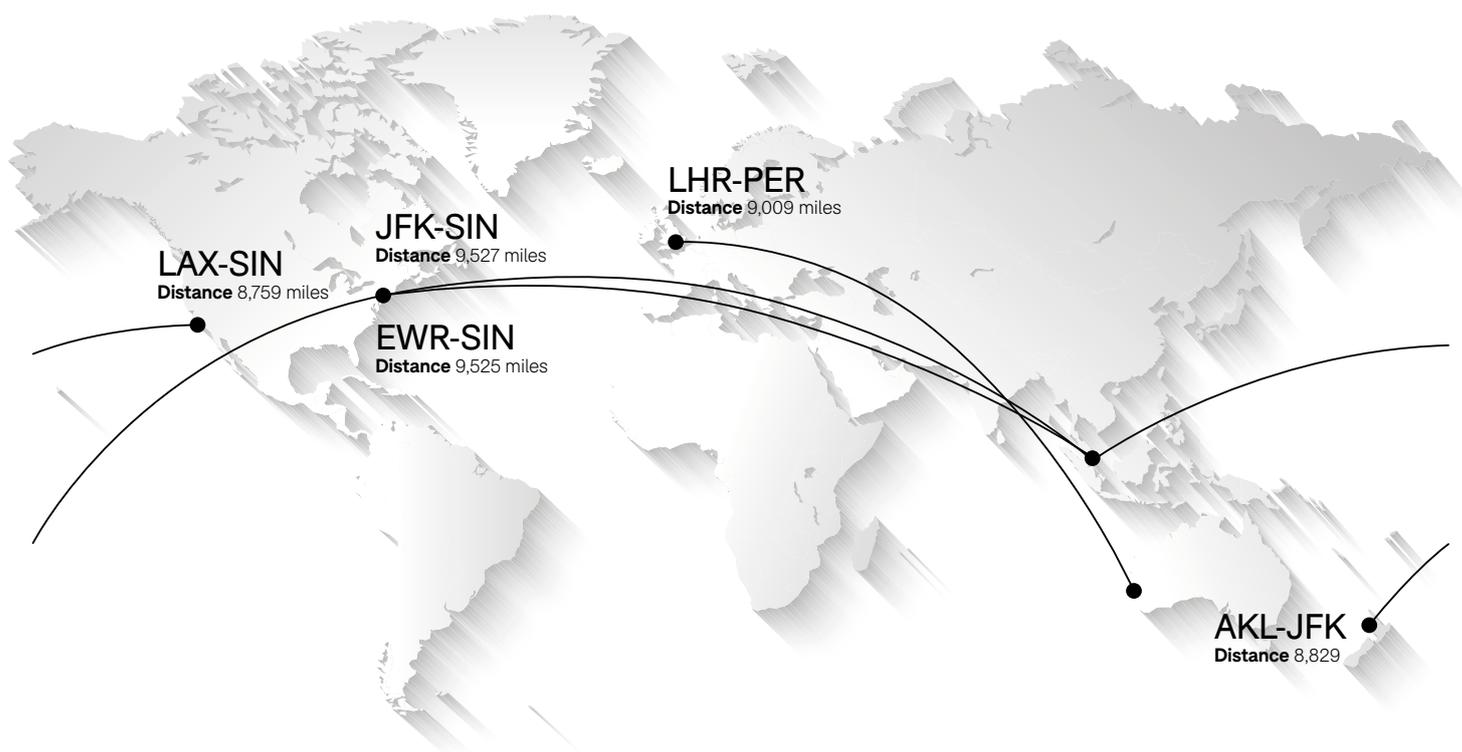
Longest Routes

By Miles

Top 10 Longest Routes

Route	Departing Airport	Arriving Airport	Distance (miles)	Seats in Sept 2022
JFK-SIN	New York J F Kennedy International Apt	Singapore Changi Apt	9,527	9,660
EWR-SIN	Newark Liberty International Apt	Singapore Changi Apt	9,525	9,660
LHR-PER	London Heathrow Apt	Perth	9,009	14,160
AKL-JFK	Auckland International Apt	New York J F Kennedy International Apt	8,829	3,300
LAX-SIN	Los Angeles International Apt	Singapore Changi Apt	8,759	21,758
DFW-SYD	Dallas Dallas/Fort Worth Intl Apt	Sydney Kingsford Smith Apt	8,576	13,688
JFK-MNL	New York J F Kennedy International Apt	Manila Ninoy Aquino International Apt	8,507	3,910
SFO-SIN	San Francisco	Singapore Changi Apt	8,435	42,686
ATL-JNB	Atlanta Hartsfield-jackson Intl Apt	Johannesburg O.r. Tambo International	8,434	15,912
DXB-LAX	Dubai International	Los Angeles International Apt	8,323	30,960

Source: OAG



MOST COMPETITIVE ROUTES

Airline routes where each carrier operates a minimum of 50 flights per year, over the period October 2021-September 2022.

- Out of the Top 10 most competitive airline routes, Cairo International – Jeddah (CAI-JED) has the largest share operated by one carrier, Saudi Arabian Airlines, which operated 53.8% of capacity in the last 12 months.
- By comparison, airline capacity is more evenly distributed on the Da Nang – Seoul Incheon (DAD-ICN) route, where Vietjet is the largest carrier operating 28% of capacity.
- Five of the Top 10 most competitive routes operate with eight carriers and two of these routes starts or ends at Seoul Incheon airport; BKK-ICN and ICN-NRT.
- The highest daily frequency is on Cairo-Jeddah (CAI-JED) where the nine carriers operate 36 daily services, with Cairo - Riyadh (CAI-RUH) a little further behind with 23 daily flights. On the other routes the daily frequency averages 8 flights.

#1 CAI-JED

Seats 3,233,411

#2 DAD-ICN

Seats 352,985

#3 CAI-RUH

Seats 1,910,643

Most Competitive Routes

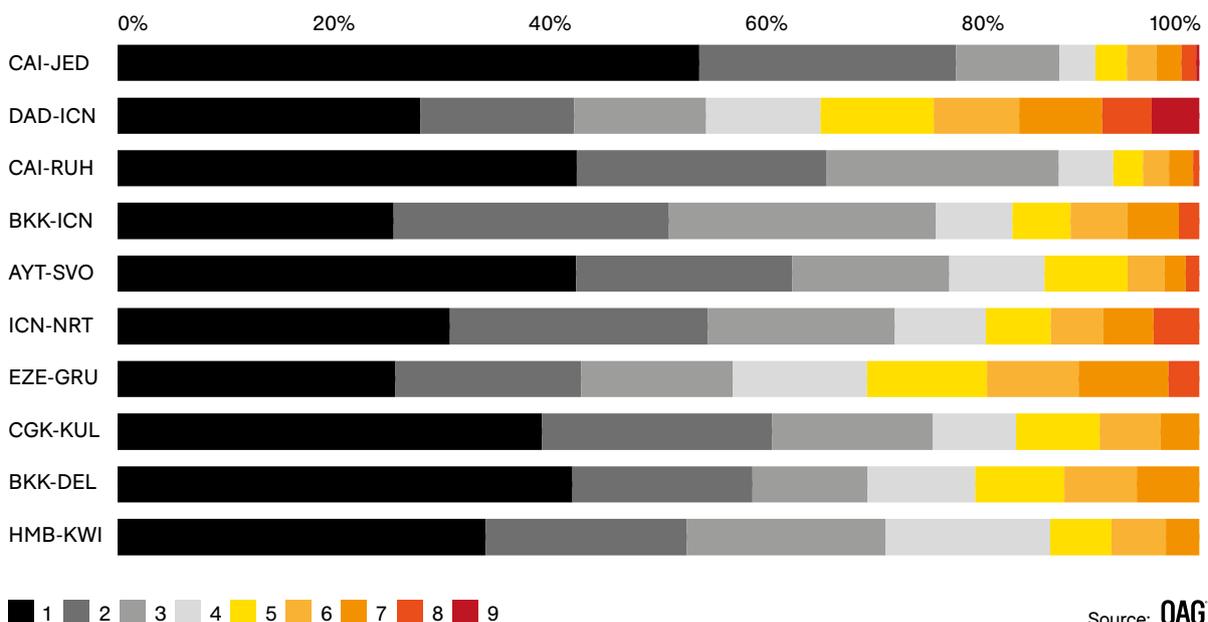
Top 10 Most Competitive Routes

Route	Departing Airport	Arriving Airport	Seats	Flights	Carriers
CAI-JED	Cairo International	Jeddah	3,233,411	13,114	9
DAD-ICN	Da Nang	Seoul Incheon International Airport	352,985	1,733	9
CAI-RUH	Cairo International	Riyadh King Khalid Intl	1,910,643	8,518	8
BKK-ICN	Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Apt	Seoul Incheon International Airport	1,021,356	3,464	8
AYT-SVO	Antalya	Moscow Sheremetyevo International Apt	994,202	3,192	8
ICN-NRT	Seoul Incheon International Airport	Tokyo Narita Intl	694,219	2,986	8
EZE-GRU	Buenos Aires Ministro Pistarini	Sao Paulo Guarulhos Intl Apt	670,629	2,537	8
CGK-KUL	Jakarta Soekarno-Hatta Apt	Kuala Lumpur International Airport	816,810	4,401	7
BKK-DEL	Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Apt	Delhi	658,263	2,695	7
HMB-KWI	Sohag	Kuwait	422,921	2,461	7

Source: OAG

Top 10 Most Competitive Routes By Share of Capacity by Carrier

In the chart carriers are listed from left to right (largest to smallest) in order of capacity share on the route.



Source: OAG

LARGEST UNSERVED ROUTES

Airline routes with the largest volume of people travelling indirectly between two points.

- Based on [passenger booking data](#) for the period August 2021 - July 2022, eight of the Top 10 largest unserved routes start or end in North America. New York features in three of the routes with Quito - New York (UIO-JFK) the largest market, with more than enough passengers to potentially sustain a direct service.
- The other New York routes include India's largest city, Mumbai (BOM-JFK) with nearly 82,000 passengers in a 12-month period currently travelling indirectly between these two cities, and the other is a routing between Ecuador's second biggest city, Guayaquil and Newark (EWR-GYE), with nearly 74,000 passengers travelling indirectly in a 12-month period.
- Other US destinations feature too in this list - Los Angeles - Yerevan (LAX-EVN) is the 4th largest unserved route, undoubtedly serving the significant expatriate Armenian community in Los Angeles.
- Athens is another key unserved market for the US, where in a 12-month period over 80,000 passengers travelled between the Greek capital and Los Angeles, while there are another 75,000 passengers travel indirectly between Rome and San Francisco (FCO-SFO).
- Other routes of interest include:
 - London - Kathmandu (LHR-KTM), with nearly 90,000 people currently travelling between the UK and Nepal capital cities
 - Toronto - Tehran (YYZ-IKA) with 82,000 passengers
 - Taipei - Jeju (TPE-CJU), the shortest route, where 83,000 people travelled indirectly in the last 12-months.

#1 UIO-JFK
Passengers 90,693

#2 SGN-LAX
Passengers 90,031

#3 LHR-KTM
Passengers 89,222

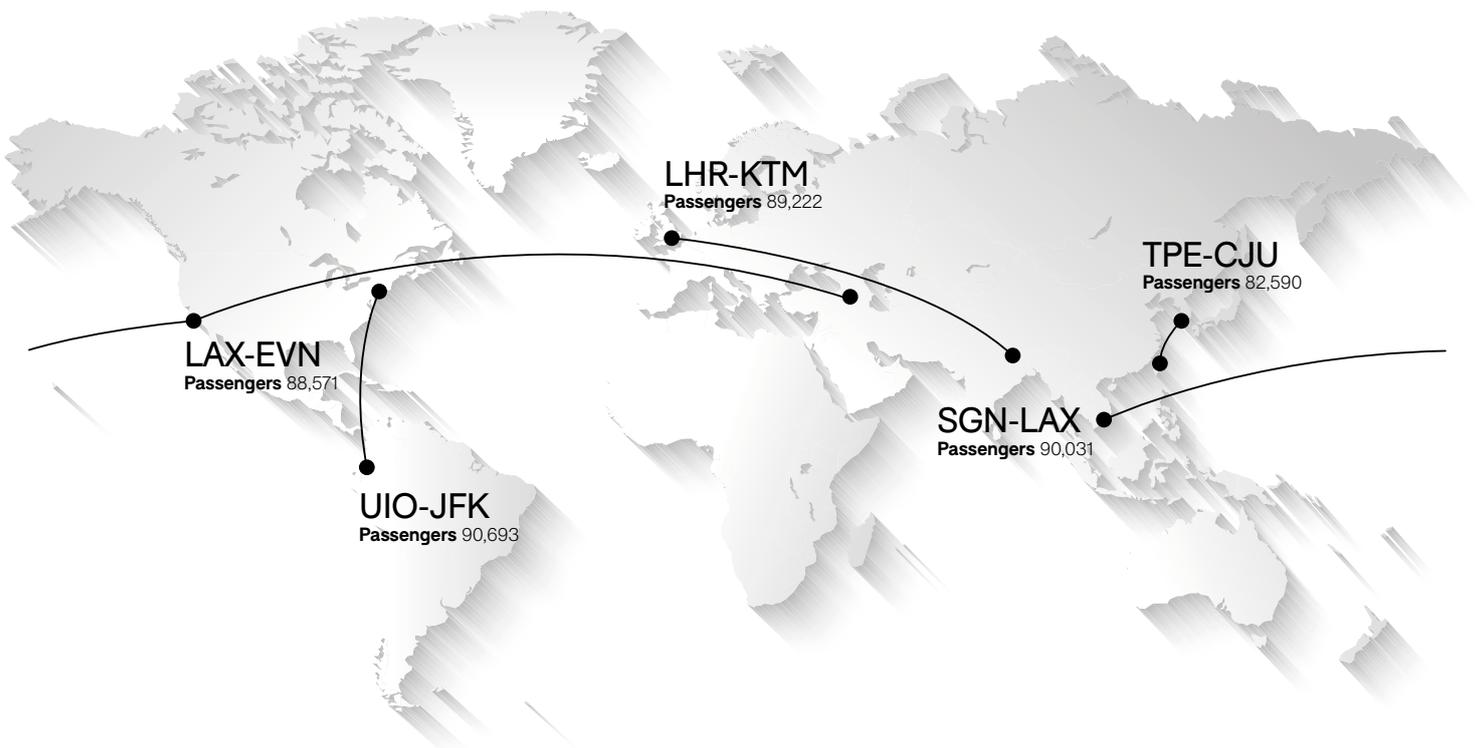
Largest Unserved Routes

By routes with the largest volume of people travelling indirectly between two points.

Top 10 Largest Unserved Routes

Route	Dep Airport Name	Arr Airport Name	Passengers
UIO-JFK	Quito	New York J F Kennedy International Apt	90,693
SGN-LAX	Ho Chi Minh City	Los Angeles International Apt	90,031
LHR-KTM	London Heathrow Apt	Kathmandu	89,222
LAX-EVN	Los Angeles International Apt	Yerevan	88,571
TPE-CJU	Taipei Taiwan Taoyuan International Apt	Jeju International	82,590
YYZ-IKA	Toronto Lester B Pearson Intl	Tehran Imam Khomeini International Apt	81,925
BOM-JFK	Mumbai	New York J F Kennedy International Apt	81,716
ATH-LAX	Athens (GR)	Los Angeles International Apt	81,378
FCO-SFO	Rome Fiumicino Apt	San Francisco	75,219
EWR-GYE	Newark Liberty International Apt	Guayaquil	73,647

Source: OAG



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