



Antwerp Airport ready to welcome more passengers from The Netherlands.

Since the plans for the reintroduction of a ticket tax have been announced by the new Dutch government, Antwerp Airport is preparing an attractive alternative for its northern neighbors.

Dutch are avid aviation users. In the second quarter of 2017 the number of passengers in the Netherlands increased by 11% compared to the same period last year according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. For several years, Dutch passengers have also increased at Belgian airports. Antwerp Flanders International Airport now presents figures recently obtained from a Master's thesis at the University of Antwerp*.

Nearly 10% of the total number of passengers at Antwerp Airport is currently from the Netherlands. 71% of this group originates from the south of the Netherlands: the provinces of North Brabant, Zeeland and Limburg. It is striking that 29% of Dutch passengers come from regions that are significantly further located, such as the Randstad and even Friesland.

Why Dutch choose Antwerp

Not entirely unexpected, the most important driving force for Dutch is the price for their flight. 44% of Dutch travelers in Antwerp indicate that the price was the deciding factor for choosing the airport. Important is also the low cost for parking. (Antwerp and Ostend are in the top ten of cheapest parking rates according to recent research from www.vliegveldinfo.nl).

30% of Dutch passengers who choose Antwerp say that accessibility is the most important factor. The wide range of different airports at relatively short distances ensures that passengers in the Benelux and West Germany have a lot of choice.

Antwerp above Eindhoven

When asking which airports qualify when making a choice, Antwerp scores very well. Remarkably, the respondents prefer Antwerp to Eindhoven. 30% of respondents spontaneously choose for Antwerp. The remaining 70%, are subsequently Eindhoven, Amsterdam and Zaventem followed by other airports in the region.

Marcel Buelens, CEO of Antwerp and Ostend Airports said: "As airline prices will increase in The Netherlands, the offer from Flemish airports will become even more interesting. Our rates are low, the accessibility is perfect and the "airport experience" is pleasant thanks to our staff, our recent facelift and expansion of facilities. This is ideal for attracting even greater numbers of passengers, both inside and outside the national borders. The best airport in the south of the Netherlands lies in Antwerp ..!"

* Master Thesis' Choice for Antwerp Airport amongst Dutch Travelers' - Tes Lacour - University of Antwerp Faculty of Applied Economics. Research carried out at Antwerp Airport.

About Antwerp Flanders International Airport

Antwerp International Airport is part of the Egis Group. 11 European routes are currently operated by 3 airlines. Besides scheduled flights, the airport caters for private- charter- and training flights. The regional airport is well known for its speedy check-in, short walking distances and affordable parking.

During 2016 the airport welcomed 276.311 passengers, an increase of 24,9% compared to 2015. The number of flight movements decreased by 8,6% to 41.403 in 2016. www.antwerpairport.aero

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