

During the last 14 months Vietnam Airlines has worked intensively to fulfill the alliances' membership requirements, ranging from customer service elements such as the recognition of frequent flyer programs, lounge access and priority baggage handling, to establishing codeshare agreements with SkyTeam members. After Vietnam Airlines successfully passed the required audit in May, the SkyTeam Governing Board officially approved the membership.

www.vietnamairlines.com
www.skyteam.com

Emirates Orders 32 Airbus A380 Super Jumbos

Emirates has placed an order with Airbus for an additional 32 A380 aircraft, taking the total firm order for the iconic flagship of the 21st century to 90 super-jumbos. The order for the additional aircraft has a list price of \$US 11.5 billion (AED 42.2). The agreement was signed during a ceremony at the Berlin Air Show by His Highness (H.H.) Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group and Tom Enders, Airbus President & CEO which was witnessed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other dignitaries.

"This latest order, adding to 58 A380s previously ordered, affirms Emirates' strategy to become a world leading carrier and to further establish Dubai as a central gateway to worldwide air travel. The A380 is our flagship in terms of passenger comfort, innovation, operating and environmental efficiency & revenue generation," said H.H. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al- Maktoum. "Our latest commitment signals Emirates' confidence in the growth to come in a thriving aviation sector as we build our fleet for tomorrow," he added.

"Emirates supported the development of the A380 from the earliest days, a project employing tens of thousands of Europe's best people and today's increased order, is the best endorsement I can imagine. On behalf of all of us at Airbus, we thank Emirates for their support. The A380 is indeed a remarkable eco-efficient aircraft, a profit generator for airlines and a great flying experience for passengers," said Tom Enders.

www.emirates.com

Porter Airlines To Operate Full Schedule During G20 Summit

Porter Airlines confirmed that it will operate a full flight schedule during the G20 Summit meetings scheduled on June 26-27, in Toronto. At the same time, it is possible that some minor delays may be experienced due to special security measures being implemented downtown.

"Our main objective is to give people as much information as possible about Porter's plan for operating during the G20, so that they can make informed travel decisions," said Robert Deluce, president and CEO of Porter Airlines. "Everyone recognizes this is an extraordinary event and new information may cause some plans to be adjusted. We'll do our best to make sure our passengers have the best information as soon as possible.

"Porter is an important part of the transportation network moving thousands of people for the summit in a short period of time. It's a responsibility that we take seriously and intend to carry out in a safe and secure manner."

Peak summit activity between Friday, June 25, and Sunday, June 27 and the time leading up to it from Monday June 21 to Thursday June 24, may affect aspects of travel for passengers arriving to or departing from Toronto.

Specifics on associated transportation are as follows:

- Ground transportation: On the ground, passengers should allow more time than usual for getting to and departing from Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. Some delays and detours are to be expected when navigating the city. Movement will be highly restricted within designated downtown areas that are typically accessible, particularly beginning Friday, June 25.

- Shuttle bus: Road closures will prevent Porter's shuttle bus from operating on certain days. A proactive decision has been made to suspend this complimentary service as part of security and safety plans starting Monday, June 21, through Sunday, June 27. This allows alternative plans to be made in advance. Regular shuttle service resumes Monday, June 28.

- Public transit: Union Station and public transit are to continue operating. A streetcar stop is conveniently-located one short block from the airport at Bathurst St. and Queen's Quay.

- Ferry: Airport ferry service will operate on its normal schedule.

www.flyporter.com

Finnair Has New Baggage Handling Centre

The baggage of all Finnair scheduled flights is now being handled in a new baggage handling centre, with the opening of check-in area 240 at Helsinki-Vantaa Airport. Baggage handling is now faster and more reliable due to modern technology and larger premises. "The new premises mean that we are able to serve customers better and more reliably than before, because baggage handling capacity is significantly greater. We can therefore offer customers a smoother overall travel experience," says Tero Lampén, Product Development Manager of Finnair subsidiary Northport.

The Helsinki-Vantaa premises can now handle 13.5 million items of baggage per year, which is 43 per cent more than the old premises. The entire baggage handling system is over 10 kilometres long and has a peak capacity of 7,000 items of baggage per hour.

In total, the refurbishment of the old parts of the terminal will take nearly two years. More new check-in desks will be taken into use at the end of this year. When the work is completed at the beginning of 2012, the airport will have a completely new look.