



News Release

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CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS LANDS AT O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Airline begins nonstop flight passenger service between Chicago and Hong Kong

CHICAGO – Cathay Pacific Airways today began new nonstop flight passenger service between Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) and Hong Kong International Airport (HKG).

Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino joined Scott Mowrer, Cathay Pacific Airways Senior Vice President, Americas, to welcome the airline's inaugural flight to Chicago O'Hare with a celebration at International Terminal 5, Gate M11. The event included a ceremonial lion dance, and a water cannon salute by the Chicago Fire Department.

"Chicago's unmatched transportation links are central to our status as a world-class city," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "This service will not only provide Chicago and Hong Kong with additional air travel connections, but will generate millions of dollars in economic growth and create new jobs for Chicagoans."

The daily, nonstop service will operate from International Terminal 5 at O'Hare on a Boeing 777-300ER aircraft.

"We are pleased to welcome daily, nonstop service between Chicago and Hong Kong by Cathay Pacific Airways," said Commissioner Andolino. "We believe passengers traveling from Hong Kong will find that O'Hare International Airport offers an outstanding level of connectivity to destinations all across the U.S."

"It's great to be bringing Cathay Pacific's award-winning passenger service to Chicago," said Mowrer "While this is our first passenger flight to the city, we know the way back to Hong Kong better than any other airline. Once there, there's a whole lot of world we can fly you to, including mainland China, where Chicago has so many established and growing ties."

Cathay Pacific offers first-class, business and economy seating and many amenities on all passenger flights. The airline is known for its strong commitment to environmental issues.

"Cathay's focus on sustainability – such as the airline's new fuel-efficient fleet, and energy and water conservation programs – is a great fit with Chicago's sustainability initiatives and commitment to the environment," Andolino added.

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In addition to Cathay's new service to Hong Kong, O'Hare International Terminal 5 passengers can experience that city through photos taken by National Geographic photographer, Catherine Karnow, courtesy of National Geographic and Cathay Pacific. Travelers will be able to view 40 of Karnow's photos on display between Gates M12 to M19 through early 2012.

Chicago is Cathay Pacific's sixth North American city with passenger service to Hong Kong. The other cities served by Cathay include Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, Vancouver and Toronto.

The addition of Cathay Pacific passenger service is estimated to bring nearly \$200 million in economic activity to the Chicago region.

Cathay Pacific also operates cargo service from O'Hare International Airport. Chicago is one of Cathay's 11 North American cargo destinations. Currently, there are eight direct cargo flights a week on B747-4F aircraft. Each cargo freighter landing at O'Hare International Airport represents approximately \$3 million in business to the local economy.

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The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit [www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com) to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit [www.oharemodernization.org](http://www.oharemodernization.org) to learn more about the OMP.

Since 2009, Chicago's airports have welcomed many new domestic and international passenger airlines. Those include low-cost carriers Iceland Express, Virgin America, Volaris and VivaAerobus, network passenger carriers Etihad Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways and Copa Airlines (December 2011); and small community air service provider Air Choice One. New international cargo carriers include AirBridgeCargo Airlines, Qatar Airways Cargo and Yangtze River Express Airlines.

### **ABOUT CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS**

Cathay Pacific Airways currently offers nonstop passenger service to Hong Kong from Chicago, Los Angeles, New York JFK, San Francisco, Toronto and Vancouver in North America. The airline is a three-time winner of the prestigious Airline of the Year award from SkyTrax. More information, including current fares and availability, may be found by visiting [www.cathaypacific.com/us](http://www.cathaypacific.com/us).

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Editor's Note – Two high resolution photos are attached below.

Photo 1 –



Photo 1 caption - Cathay Pacific Airways' began new nonstop flight passenger service between Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) and Hong Kong International Airport (HKG). The first flight arrived on Sept. 1, 2011 and was celebrated with an event that included a water cannon salute by the Chicago Fire Department. Cathay Pacific's daily, nonstop service will operate from International Terminal 5 at O'Hare on a Boeing 777-300ER aircraft.

Photo courtesy Chicago Department of Aviation/kp

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Photo 2 –



Photo 2 caption – Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino (right) joined Scott Mowrer, Cathay Pacific Airways Senior Vice President, Americas, to welcome the airline's inaugural flight to Chicago O'Hare on Sept. 1, 2011, with a celebration at International Terminal 5, Gate M11. The event included a ceremonial lion dance and a water cannon salute by the Chicago Fire Department.

Photo courtesy Chicago Department of Aviation/kp

