



Frankfurt Impressions Newsletter 6 – June 2014



The Frankfurt Airport

Aviation in Frankfurt am Main started during the early 20th century with the Zeppelin landing at the Flughafen Rebstock on July 31st 1909.

Between 1926 and 1932 there were already 40 planes of the type Junker with closed cabins part of the "fleet" of Deutsche Luft Hansa, which was founded on January 6, 1926. By the end of 1926 Frankfurt counted as central airport 3.789 starts and landings, 29 tons of mail and 79 tons freight and luggage. In the mid 1930's

Flugplatz Rebstock was too small and as there was no room to extend, a new place for an airport was looked for.

In the year 1933 the "Deutsche Luft Hansa AG" was changed to "Deutsche Lufthansa AG" and 1934 woodland in the Stadtwald was cleared for a new airport. Two Zeppelin halls were erected and demolished 1939, as the airport was requisitioned by the Reichsluftwaffe.

1945 the airport could not be used anymore because of the bombardment

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during the 2. World War. 1948 the Americans – as occupying power – decided to rebuild runways, terminals and administrative buildings with increasing air traffic in the future in mind. The first airline after the war was American Overseas Airlines (AOA) which operated from Frankfurt. The Frankfurt Airport Rhein-Main was one of the most important start and landing places during the time of the “Berliner Luftbrücke”.

In the year 1951 the American Airforce moved to their own Air Base south of the area. From then on Frankfurt Airport grew steadily.

In the 1960’s the open platform for visitors to watch planes coming and going reopened, which was enlarged and modernized with an airplane-old timer-show and a little visitors train. During this time 1.2 million visitors were

counted yearly. New terminals were built and opened, terminal I 1972 and terminal II 1994. In the meantime

Frankfurt Airport has become number 2 in continental Europe. Its terminals have chapels and a mosque, shopping miles, restaurants, bank counters and other amenities for travelers and visitors.

Today 27 airlines form the Star Alliance. Together they have more than 4.000 air planes. In the summer season 2011 the airport offered 5.000 weekly starts. From Frankfurt Airport 300 different places in 110 countries could be flown to.

The airport has an ICE railway-station and can also be reached by S-Bahn from the city center and the region around.

Frankfurt Airport is really a “Door to the World”.

Ursula Marklove

Dates and facts taken from “Der Frankfurter Flughafen” by Michael K. Wustrack and Frankfurt Airport, Societäts Verlag



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Situated in the center of Europe, the Frankfurt International Airport lies at the heart of the economically powerful



Rhine-Main region. It houses more than 500 companies and organizations, providing jobs for about 80 000 people, from 70 different nations. It is Germany's largest work complex at a single site. The airport is directly linked to the most important autobahn highways. It even has its own train station and is served by a steady stream of local, regional and long-distance trains. The city center is only a 12-minute train journey away.

The airport exposes man and nature to great loads in a densely populated area and is even under the pressure of competition with other major international airports in Europe.

Frankfurt is the 3rd largest airport in Europe (after London and Paris) and the 12th largest in the world. In 2013, the passenger volume was 58 million passengers. About 55 % of passengers arriving are connecting to

another flight. Short transfer times require enormous technical and logistic efforts like fast baggage transport via the computer controlled baggage conveyer system (with a total length of 81 km) and the driverless Sky Line people mover, for transporting

passengers between terminal one and terminal two. Frankfurt's baggage conveyer system is in terms of its capacity, size, design, performance and quality known worldwide as unique. It has a capacity of about 20 500 pieces of luggage per hour. The conveyer speed is 2.50 meters per second. In the tunnel between Terminal 1 and 2, it reaches even 5 meters per second. The reliability rate is 99.62%.

Flights depart to over 300 destinations in 105 countries, served by 108 airlines. An average of 160 000 passengers flow through Frankfurt Airport every day, on peak days even up to 200 000 passengers. The punctuality rate of flights was 82% in 2013.

In 2013, there were 470 000 aircraft movements, i.e. takeoffs and landings. On a peak in September, it was 1500 per day. There are 4 start- and landing runways, three of them 4000m long and 45-60m wide, one is 2800m long. With these figures in mind, one can imagine the stress that many regions around the airport have to endure.

Through about 60 km of under-ground piping system, the fuel flows from the

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tank storage at the airport to the individual aircraft parking positions. A Boeing 747-400 can fill up 225,000 liters. The A380 even holds 320,000 liters. There are 208 aircraft parking lots.

The airport is the home base of Deutsche Lufthansa and its Lufthansa cargo subsidiary. Lufthansa is a member of the



Star Alliance group that consist of 26 member airlines.

There are 26 lounges for VIP's, first class passengers, frequent travellers, children travelling alone, handicapped people and even an animal lounge. In 2013 Lufthansa's animal lounge had about 2 000 horses, 15 000 pets and 80 000 ornamental fish as guests. For their well-being, 25 veterinarians and 25 Lufthansa employees are in use.

Frankfurt airport is Europe's second biggest cargo airport (after Paris) and 7th in the world. The volume of air cargo is 2.2 million tons per year. Airfreight covers virtually everything that can be flown: Bananas, T-shirts, cars, furniture, mail, newspapers and

live airfreight from beehives to rhinoceroses, chicks to elephants or dolphins. About 60% of air cargo is transported by cargo aircraft, 40% as additional cargo on passenger aircraft.

The airport offers a lot more. Here is a small selection: there are 25 duty-free-shops, 7 airport hotels, 208 conference rooms, 78 dining facilities, a supermarket, a Casino, 2 doctors, 8 nurses, an operating room, 2 dentist, 2 pharmacies, an optician, 8 children's playgrounds, a visitors terrace (entry € 5), tours of the airport apron (€ 8), lost and found office,

14 700 public parking lots, a dog pension, 58 travel agencies, porter and escort services, a lawyer, a hairdresser, a cleaner, baby rooms, public showers/baths, weddings can be arranged, a Christian chapel, Jewish and Muslim prayer rooms, an aviation archive in the cellar exhibiting thousands of airline artefacts from a Swissair sickness bag to a pilot badge from Hollywood, and believe it or not – throughout the airport there are 1749 clocks.

Since the operation of the new 4th runway in 2011, the aircraft noise for the whole Rhine-Main region has greatly increased. In spite of several measures like circumnavigating densely populated residential areas, steeper flight approaches, runways or departure routes alternately being used, noise control measures at the most affected residences, more and more regions are being affected.

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Meanwhile few areas of the city of Frankfurt and surrounding communities



are without aircraft noise. Since November 2011, there are so-called Monday demonstrations every week at the airport against the additional burden of aircraft noise caused by the opening of the 4th runway. This is truly a major

disadvantage of living in the vicinity of a large airport and a result of incessant economic growth and globalization.

There are already plans to build a 3rd Terminal that will allow an additional capacity of 25 million passengers per year. If the inhabitants of the region will be able to tolerate more and more restrictions on their quality of life is questionable. Here the environment, the quality of life and economic interests definitely come to blows

I myself worked many years for British Airways at the old Frankfurt airport in the 1960th and the 1970th. Incredible how much it has changed since then.

Edeltraud Thobe

A visit to the Gothic House at Bad Homburg – the only museum of headware in Germany (a city about 20 km from Frankfurt)



The Gothic House was built in the Gothic Revival style as a hunting

lodge between 1823 and 1828 during the reign of Landgrave Friedrich VI Joseph and his wife, Elizabeth, a member of the English Royal Family. Its unusual architecture combines Tudor Gothic and neo-Classical styles. It was never actually used as such, however, since the Landgraves lost interest in the building following a serious accident during construction. The hunting lodge is located at the end of

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Tannenwaldallee, which establishes a direct connection between the Bad Homburg Castle and the Gothic House and was part of the Landgrave's garden. Now the building is home to museums, the town archives of Bad Homburg, a hat museum and a café. It is a wonderful symbiosis of history and modern cultural life. The hat museum is the only one of its kind in Germany and traces the cultural history of headwear! About 300 exhibits illustrate the cultural history of the headgears. The stylish development, the craft and industrial production just as the respective social meaning and function of the hats are shown. The spectrum of the headgears reaches from military hats and office hats, fashion hats of the ladies, about the cylinders for men up to national costume bonnets. To the climaxes of the special museum counts, admittedly, of the

"Homburg care" which was made in the 1880s for the first time after

the taste of the prince of Wales in the Homburger hat factory of Möckel.



Hats of this form were carried from generations by men, and the care became world-famous.

The museum owns the original Homburg of Federal Chancellor Dr. Konrad Adenauer.

The visitors can put on hats which had been styled only for this purpose.

Wera Rohowski

Bad Nauheim

The city of Bad Nauheim, 35 km distance from Frankfurt, can easily be reached by train and there you can spend a really exciting time.



Jugendstil jewel and the large hot spring fountains in the center of the courtyard are the symbol of Bad Nauheim.

In Bad Nauheim you find the largest coherent Jugendstil ensemble in Europe. The "Sprudelhof" with bathhouses is a real

One hundred years ago the empresses of Russia and Germany came for thermal baths and health treatments. Nowadays

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Bad Nauheim has developed into a well-known medical location.

Elvis Presley was stationed in Bad Nauheim during his military service from



1958 to 1960 and still fans from all over the world celebrate here the "kings" birthday.

The oldest rose-village in Germany, Steinfurth, is part of Bad Nauheim. The roses grown here are sent all over the world since the middle of the 19th century. In summer



roses of all colours are in bloom throughout the town.

Parks, mineral water springs, the historical market place, an ice rink, a Roman signal tower – all can be found in Bad Nauheim. And for relaxing after walking and sight seeing you find a lot of lovely cafés romantic or modern.

Antje Kroh

The old Jewish Cemetery in Frankfurt



established directly near the cemetery.

The gravestones are sandstone slabs. Hebrew inscriptions are carved into them, mostly describing briefly the life of the deceased. In addition, the gravestones generally show the house sign of the dwelling of the deceased. In 1828 the cemetery was closed because a new Jewish Cemetery was opened. The old cemetery on the Battonnstraße was preserved largely unchanged until the

The old Jewish cemetery in Frankfurt has been retained in the centre of the city until

today. The cemetery is the oldest witness to Jewish life in Frankfurt. The oldest gravestone goes back to the year 1272.

The Jewish Ghetto, the Judengasse was

Nazi era. Under the Nazis, two thirds of the over 6,000 gravestones were destroyed.

But many gravestones are still there and the old Jewish cemetery is one of Frankfurt's most impressive historical sites.

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Neuer Börneplatz Memorial Site



Behind the old Jewish Cemetery Frankfurt's main synagogue was located

at the Börneplatz. The synagogue was burned to the ground in November 1938 on what is commonly known as "Reichkristallnacht", or "The Night of Broken Glass".

Today there is a Memorial Site at the New Börneplatz, a very impressive place of remembrance of Jewish persecution in Frankfurt.

The memorial's most imposing feature are the over 11,000 stone blocks, integrated into the cemetery wall and depicting the names of all the deported and murdered Jews of Frankfurt.

Melanie Hartlaub