



Airport and Airline Industry in Tourism

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Abstract

This article discusses all the necessary information about Airport and Airlines, updated statistics, functions of airport and airlines, types of airlines, airport and airline services.

Keywords: Airport, Airline, Cargo, ULD, VFR, IFR, ATC, Aircraft, Airstrip, Airfield, FAA, LCCs, FSCs.

Introduction

What is the Airport- Airport is a place where flights can land and take off, with facilities for loading and unloading of passengers and cargo. One runway or helipad for helicopters is required for an airport. However, there are a wide range of various other facilities and services too. It provides all infrastructure needed to enable passengers and freight to transfer from the surface to air modes of transport and to allow aircraft to take off and land (Graham,2003). Terminal buildings are essential components of Airport. Besides, that, in airport there are a number of different facilities and infrastructure, including fixed base operator services, air traffic control (ATC)¹, passenger facilities for example, restaurants and lounges, and emergency services. The terms of airfield, airstrip, and airdrome may also be used to refer to airports of varying sizes. In many cases, the term aerodrome is used for referring to airport. According to ICAO², an aerodrome is a place on land or water (including any buildings and equipment) allocated wholly or in part for the arrival, departure and surface movement of aircraft. Airports are one of the most highly developed and complex environments that tourist will experience as over 40%of tourists trip by air.

Functions and Roles of an Airport- An Airport has much more significance regarding Tourism industry. A tourist who came from abroad may enjoys a number of services from an airport. Some of the major services are as follows;

- A port of entry for a tourist visiting a country
- A place for getting a visa wherever visa on arrival (VOA)³ services are available
- Center for refreshment options

¹ ATC-Air Traffic Control

² ICAO-International Civil Aviation Organization

³ VOA-Visa on arrival



- Place for booking tourist services for instance, car, accommodation rental
- Concierge services and tourism information services
- Shopping Location
- Safe transport of luggage
- Place for destination reception, “meet and greet” and tour briefing while arriving
- Currency conversation and limited banking services
- A place for rejoining friends and making new friends

There are usually two very different perspectives that can be identified when describing the role of an airport. The first is from a traditional aviation perspective, which is focused solely on the operation and function of the airport with the intent of moving aircraft into and out of the airport. The second is a much broader perspective in which the airport fills many roles beyond the traditional aviation function and is also an integrated member of the local community. This secondary function, which is often an ancillary thought to both airport managers and owners as well as the local community as a whole, needs to become a more commonplace understanding to develop community support. Both of these perspectives are explored in more detail with a purposeful emphasis on the community aspects in this toolkit.⁴

Types of Airports- Different types of airports exist in the world but I mention 5 of them. They are Commercial service airport, Non primary commercial service airports, Cargo service airports, Reliever airports, General aviation airports.

Commercial Service Airport- State airports where at least 2,500 passengers land each calendar year and serve passengers on a scheduled basis. This definition also includes airports that accept passengers continuing their flight on an international flight for non-traffic purposes such as refueling or aircraft maintenance rather than passenger transportation.

Non primary commercial service airports- These are commercial airports that serve over 10,000 passengers annually.

Cargo Service Airport- These are airports that, in addition to any other air traffic that may be available, are served by aircraft that carry only cargo with a total annual ground weight of more than 100 million pounds. An airport can be both a commercial service and a cargo airport.

Reliever Airports- These are airports designated by the Federal Aviation Administration. (FAA)⁵ to reduce congestion at commercial airports and provide improved general aviation access to the general population. They may be public or private property.

General aviation airports- These are public airports that are not scheduled or have fewer than 2,500 passenger landings per year. In this category. National airports are general aviation airports that support the national and state system by providing communities with access to national and international markets across multiple states and throughout the United States. Regional airports support the regional economy by connecting communities to state and interstate markets. Local airports complement communities by providing access primarily to domestic and

⁴<https://crp.trb.org/acrpwebresource1/role-of-the-airport/>

⁵ FAA-Federal Aviation Administration



some interstate markets Home airports link the community to the national airport system and support general aviation activities (e.g. emergency services) Unclassified airports also provide access to the aviation system⁶.

Airline Industry is an industry constitutes a number of competing firms having similar products. Airline is industry that provides service for Tourists who intend to travel or send consignments efficiently from one place to another using air transport.

Types of Airlines- In this following types of airlines I will discuss 7 of them. They are Major Airlines, Regional Airlines, Commuter Airlines, National Airlines, Flag Carrier, Full service carriers (FSCs)⁷, Low-cost carriers (LCCs)⁸.

Major airlines- are also called trunk airlines and concentrate on long-haul routes. They operate service between major cities inside and outside the country. Usually these airlines use larger planes with seat capacities more than 130.

Regional Airlines-These are also certified airlines which provide regular services for scheduled passengers or cargo. They usually provide service between smaller cities and also connect these communities with major airports. Regional carriers may use small aircraft for operating short-haul routes. They are also called commuter airlines in some regions.

Commuter Airlines- These can be considered smaller versions of regional airlines, which typically fly routes of 400 miles or less. These constitute the smaller airline services, acting as feeders for the major airlines. They operate from smaller airports to major cities (and vice versa), between smaller cities and hubs, and from outlying communities to the associated hub airports to connect with other scheduled airlines.

National airlines- National airlines usually operate services within the boundaries of a country, though they may fly on international routes as well. These include airlines between major and regional carriers. They provide air connectivity between areas of lesser density and also between smaller population centers and major airports.

Flag carrier- These are the airlines owned by the government. They operate services mainly on international routes. They may also operate services within the boundaries of a country.

Full-Service carrier- FSCs are also called full-service airlines (FSAs) as well as legacy airlines. They offer a full basket of services to passengers. Services include meals, beverages, lounges, entertainment, etc. They employ more people and cover larger geographical areas due to their hub and spoke agreements with smaller airlines. Different types of aircraft are also used.

Low-Cost carriers- This type was an addition to the airline sector that evolved significantly towards the end of the twentieth century. They are also called 'no frills airlines, and have low fares. They operate point-to-point services, and usually on short-haul routes. They don't offer some of the inflight services, such as food and beverages (at least not as part of the ticket price). Usually they use a single type of aircraft and employ fewer people compared to FSCs. Usually

⁶ https://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/categories

⁷ FSCs-Full Service Carriers

⁸ LCCs- Low-Cost Carriers



LCCs are single class carriers with standardized treatment for all passengers. No additional features are offered, such as a frequent flyer, interlining facilities and lounges.

Conclusion- Airport and aviation management are inextricably linked. The inextricable connection between these two is that their main tasks are to transport travelers from one destination to another and deliver various cargo products. Both of them make a great contribution to the development of the tourism industry. Airport is considered the first threshold for tourists in tourism.

Resources

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