

Anchorage's First Boeing 747-8 Freighter Arrives December 15

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(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – The first Boeing 747-8 Freighter ever to land in Anchorage will arrive at Ted Stevens Anchorage International on December 15 in the evening on route to Los Angeles. The Freighter will return to Anchorage on its way back to Hong Kong Friday afternoon December 16.

Built in Everett, Washington and delivered to Cathay Pacific Airways on October 31, Boeing's new 747-8 Freighter will only have been in service with Cathay Pacific for a short time before arriving in Anchorage, Alaska.

The 747-8 Freighter is known as “the world's most efficient freighter,” because of the advanced technology in the wing engineering and engines provide environmental benefits compared to older aircraft. The 747-8 Freighter features double-digit improvements in fuel burn and lower emissions and is 30% quieter than the 747-400 Freighter. Furthermore, the aircraft can hold 16% more revenue-generating cargo volume, which allows it to hold seven additional pallets of cargo.

It's no surprise that the new airplane should make its way to Anchorage early in its service. Equidistant from Tokyo and New York, Anchorage is within 9 ½ hours of the industrialized world, making the airport a critical international cargo hub. In fact, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is the 5th largest airport in the world in terms of cargo throughput, following Hong Kong (#1), Memphis (#2), Shanghai (#3), and Incheon (#4).

“Our geographical location is an advantage, and we're proud of our role as an international cargo hub,” stated John Parrott, Airport Manager. “We work hard to ensure that our carriers' needs are met, by providing the services and infrastructure that they require to operate successfully. The arrival of the newest and most advanced air freighter aircraft in Anchorage shows that our geographical advantage will continue to matter in the future,” stated John Parrott, Airport Manager.

“Cathay Pacific is the first Asia Pacific airline to take delivery of the Boeing 747-8F which will become the backbone of our long-haul freighter service flying between Hong Kong and multiple cities in North America, via Anchorage,” said Fred Ruggiero, Cathay Pacific's Vice President Cargo Americas. “With its first-class operating economics, it will help us provide even better value and service to our customers,” he added.

The Alaska International Airport System (AIAS) - comprised of Ted Stevens Anchorage and Fairbanks International Airports - is home to over 30 international and domestic airlines providing passenger and cargo service throughout Alaska, the United States, Europe, and Asia. AIAS is an extraordinary economic engine; serving nearly 6 million passengers per year and accounting for 1 in 8 jobs in Anchorage and 1 in 20 jobs in Fairbanks.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) oversees 254 airports, 11 ferries serving 33 communities, 5,700 miles of highway and 660 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of ADOT&PF is to “*Get Alaska Moving* through service and infrastructure.”

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*This event takes place in a secure area. Media wishing to attend in person, please contact Margaret Tyler as soon as possible so that visitor badges can be secured.

