

Media release

Geneva Airport, 18 September 2019

Events

SWISS brings the Olympic Flame to Switzerland for the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne

The city of Lausanne, Switzerland will host the Winter Youth Olympic Games in January 2020. SWISS had the privilege of transporting the Olympic Flame from Athens to Geneva .

Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) carried the Olympic Flame for Lausanne 2020 on its flight from Athens to Geneva, following the Flame's lighting ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in Athens yesterday (17 September). The Olympic Flame has thus returned to Switzerland for the first time since the Winter Olympics were held in St. Moritz in 1948.

The Olympic Flame was accompanied on SWISS flight LX 1823 from Athens to Geneva today by Virginie Faivre, the President of the Lausanne 2020 Organizing Committee, and members of the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games delegation. Also on board was Lorenzo Stoll, SWISS's Head of Western Switzerland. "As The Airline of Switzerland," he said, "we are proud to support this exceptional event, and to serve as the first carrier of the Olympic Flame on its journey from Greece to Lausanne."

The Olympic Flame's arrival on Swiss soil was formally marked with an airside ceremony which was attended by representatives from the Republic and Canton of Geneva and from the Canton of Vaud. From 21 September onwards, the Flame will be taken on a three and a half month Torch Relay through all of Switzerland's 26 cantons before arriving in Lausanne for the Games' opening ceremony on the evening of 9 January 2020.

Extensive organization

The Flame's air journey from Greece to Switzerland required extensive organization, because the Flame must traditionally remain lit at all times. The flame itself was enclosed in a lantern, but various authorizations were still required, and good coordination was vital. SWISS's Dangerous Goods unit gathered all the necessary information, such as the type of liquid used to keep the flame lit aloft and the type of gas which was being transported in the aircraft's hold to keep it alight within the torch upon its arrival in Switzerland. The entire operation was also approved by the Swiss Federal Office of Civil



Aviation. Swiss WorldCargo was then enlisted to ensure the loading of all the items required; and the crew of the flight were also fully briefed about their unusual cargo.

Spreading the Olympic message

The Youth Olympic Games enable young people aged 15 to 18 to compete internationally at the highest level in a range of Olympic disciplines, combining performance, culture and education in a genuine sporting festival. SWISS is proud to be the official carrier of the Olympic Flame and to support this event, which encourages its participants to adopt and live by sport's positive values – self-esteem, respect for others, care for the environment, friendship among peoples and cultures, performance and commitment – and to serve as ambassadors thereof all over the world.

Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) is The Airline of Switzerland, serving over 100 destinations in 44 countries worldwide from Zurich, Geneva and Lugano and carrying some 18 million passengers a year with its fleet of around 90 aircraft. The company's Swiss WorldCargo division provides a comprehensive range of airport-to-airport airfreight services for high-value and care-intensive consignments to around 175 destinations in more than 80 countries.

As The Airline of Switzerland, SWISS embodies its home country's traditional values, and is committed to delivering the highest product and service quality. With its workforce of some 9,000 personnel, SWISS generated total revenues of over CHF 5 billion in 2018. SWISS is part of the Lufthansa Group, and is also a member of Star Alliance, the world's biggest airline network.

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