

TRAVELBIZ NEWS

FLIGHT DISRUPTION ON VOLCANIC ACTIVITIES

THE HAGUE, May 17 (AFP)

The Iceland volcano, Eyjafjallajokull, has been spewing ash for over a month now, and it's unsure when the volcanic activity will cease. The ash causes massive airline disruptions from time to time, including a few days where over 100,000 flights into and out of Europe were cancelled altogether.

Now, the ash threatens UK, Dutch, and Irish air space. Travel into and out of Amsterdam is impossible, which affects not only European travel but also travel from the US to Europe as well.

Ash clouds from the Icelandic volcano have forced the closure of Schiphol Amsterdam and Rotterdam airports from 6:00 am (0400 GMT) to 2:00 pm Monday, the Dutch aviation officials have announced.

The Netherlands joined airports in Britain and Ireland, which have also been forced to close down because of the latest clouds of ash, provoked by a surge in activity from the volcano.

Meanwhile, CNN from London: Heathrow and Gatwick airports in London, England, reopened Monday morning after being closed overnight because of an ash cloud from a volcano in Iceland, but travel remained severely disrupted after the six-hour closure, both airports said.

Gatwick is not accepting incoming flights until 1:00 pm local time (8:00 am ET), the airport's website said.

Heathrow -- one of the world's busiest airports -- says "delays and cancellations are likely due to restrictions" put in place by air traffic controllers overnight, and urged travelers to check with their airlines before coming to the airport.

Britain's Civil Aviation Authority has left in place no-fly zones over all of Northern Ireland, airports in Scotland including Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness, and Cardiff in Wales, among others.

MAS flights from Kuala Lumpur to London and Amsterdam and vice versa will be rescheduled due to the closure of airports affected by fresh Icelandic volcano eruptions. Passengers who have booked MH flights to London and Amsterdam and vice versa may defer their travel up to 15 June 2010. There will be no extra charge if these changes are made by 21 May 2010. Terms and conditions apply.

Amsterdam's Schipol Airport announced it would be closed Monday from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm (midnight Sunday to 8:00 am ET), according to an airport spokeswoman, who said officials were waiting on guidance from air authorities to decide when flights will resume.

Birmingham, Norwich Manchester and Liverpool airports were closed on Sunday evening, controllers announced.

In addition, Dublin's airport closed overnight, the Irish Aviation Authority said Sunday, and will remain closed until at least 9:00 am (4:00 am) Monday. International flights through Irish airspace will not be affected, it said.

Waterford airport was set to close at 11 pm (6:00 pm) and four other Irish airports remain closed. Shannon, Cork and Kerry airports are open.

Flights were also stopped at all airports in Northern Ireland, as well as the British airports at Ronaldsway, Prestwick, Carlisle, Doncaster, Humberside, Leeds Bradford and East Midlands.

Some Scottish island airports also shut down, including Campbeltown, Islay and Barra, the air traffic control agency NATS announced. And if the volcano continues to erupt at current levels and weather conditions prevail, air travel in Britain could be disrupted between Sunday and Tuesday.

We hereby advised to seek latest information on your departures particularly to Europe and information on subsequent volcanic activities that may affect your air travel.

Source : thefinancialexpress-bd.com

As the situation remains volatile, customers are advised to seek latest information on all departures particularly to Europe and information on subsequent volcanic activities that may affect your air travel. Please refer to relevant airlines website, call centers or call us for your disrupted travel, if any.

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