

MEDIA RELEASE



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PAL to launch new Sapporo-Manila Direct Flights

Philippine Airlines, the newly certified 4-Star airline of the Philippines, will begin operating the first-ever nonstop flight between **Sapporo and Manila** starting September 10, 2018.

The pioneer route is PAL's response to a growing clamor for direct flights from Hokkaido to the Philippines' dynamic capital city, the gateway to spectacular beaches, cultural attractions and holiday adventures throughout the 7,100 islands of the Philippines.

From Manila's hub airport, PAL offers convenient connecting flights to a whole range of tropical destinations including Cebu, the heart of the Visayas region and home to white-sand beaches and a wealth of historical sights; and likewise the paradise islands of Palawan and Bohol.

As the only nonstop air link between the Philippines and Sapporo, the new PAL route will also help draw more travelers from the Philippines and other parts of Asia to visit Sapporo and enjoy the wide range of natural and cultural attractions in the Hokkaido region.

Indeed, for foreign visitors, PAL's marketing campaign is promoting Sapporo as an unforgettable tourism experience that holds unique charms for each of the four seasons of winter, spring, summer and autumn. The airline's campaign is intended to contribute to the public appeal of Sapporo as a destination for all seasons, boosting tourism revenues for Hokkaido.

The six-hour non-stop PAL service will operate thrice weekly every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, departing from the New Chitose Airport at 1:05 pm and arriving at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport at 5:40 pm.

The airline will use a brand new Airbus A321neo aircraft for the service, featuring full-flat Business Class seats and a spacious Economy Class cabin with individual TV/video screens in every seat, offering 300 hours of movies, TV and audio entertainment.

Sapporo will be the sixth Japanese destination served by PAL, which offers a total of 89 weekly flights to the Philippines from various Japanese cities.

PAL currently flies to Manila from Fukuoka, Nagoya (Chubu), Osaka (Kansai), and Tokyo (both Narita and Haneda airports); as well as to Cebu in the Central Philippines from Nagoya,

Osaka Kansai and Tokyo Narita. There are also daily PAL flights between Osaka Kansai and Taipei.

PAL President and COO Dr. Jaime J. Bautista said, *“We are excited to welcome our Japanese friends to fly from Sapporo to Manila. We are glad to offer an ultra-comfortable travel experience on our new Airbus A321neo airplane, as well WIFI connectivity and extensive inflight entertainment options. As the only full-service airline of the Philippines, we want to be the airline of choice for business travelers, and the best introduction to the wonders of our country.”*

PAL Marketing Vice President Ria C. Domingo said, *“Our goal is to bring the best of the Philippines to the world. As such, our inflight offerings and heartfelt service, aside from our ultra-modern fleet, are our focal points. Our thrust is not only to sustain our current global airline standing but to surpass it.”*

The 168-seater Airbus A321neo has 12 seats in business class and 156 seats in economy class. The business class cabin boasts generous seat pitch (legroom) of 60 inches and seats that are up to 23 inches wide and recline to become full flat beds, measuring 78 inches in length. The economy cabins offer ample stretching room with a seat pitch of 32 inches.

The A321neos generate reduced noise in and out of the cabin, contributing to the aircraft's eco-friendliness and sustainability. The aircraft interiors showcase an innovative cabin layout and seat design that enable more efficient use of cabin space, thus ensuring greater passenger comfort for longer-stage flights.

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