## Turkish Airlines launch new schedule from Edinburgh

Turkish Airlines celebrated the launch of its new schedule from Edinburgh Airport today. It is increasing its current programme from five to seven weekly flights to Istanbul and beyond to the 224 global destinations in the airline's evergrowing network.

Turkish Airlines' General Manager for Edinburgh, Mr Serhat Sari and Mr Gordon Dewar, CEO of Edinburgh Airport, hosted a reception for guests as passengers prepared to board their flight to Istanbul on Turkish Airlines' special celebratory aircraft.

This development means that the number of flights a week to Istanbul with Turkish Airlines has almost doubled since starting operations from Edinburgh in July 2012. This is due to the high demand from Scotland to Istanbul as well as the two hundred plus global destinations available from Turkish Airlines Istanbul hub, throughout Europe, the Far East, the Middle East and Africa.

Turkish Airlines' General Manager for Edinburgh, Mr Serhat Sari said: "Turkish Airlines is Europe's fastest growing airline and we are delighted to be expanding our service from Edinburgh Airport. Scotland is an important destination and by operating seven flights a week business and tourism will both benefit from this service."

Chief Executive of Edinburgh Airport, Gordon Dewar, said; "We are delighted that Turkish Airlines is now operating daily flights to Istanbul from Edinburgh. For this announcement to be made within a year of the Airline's inaugural flight in July is a rare and unprecedented event and an amazing achievement for Edinburgh. This decision is testament to the hard work of our staff and partners over the last 12 months.

"With numerous connections to other long-haul destinations becoming available as a result of this decision, we are looking forward to a bright future and cementing Edinburgh as the place where Scotland meets the world".

Turkish Airlines' Edinburgh to Istanbul service, which provides convenient connections to Asia, Africa and the Middle East, now offer free baggage allowance of 40kgs to passengers travelling in economy class from Edinburgh to the following destinations: China (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong), India (Delhi, Mumbai), Pakistan (Islamabad, Karachi), Thailand (Bangkok), Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City), Nigeria (Lagos), Ghana (Accra), Kenya (Nairobi, Mombasa).

Based on 2011 and 2012 results, Turkish Airlines has been chosen as the winner of "Best Airline Europe", "Best Premium Economy Seats" for its Comfort Class seats and "Best Airline Southern Europe". In addition to the service from Edinburgh, in the UK Turkish Airlines operates 31 flights per week from London Heathrow with double daily flights from Gatwick. Manchester has 10 flights per week, Birmingham has daily flights.

For more information about Turkish Airlines and to book flights, please visit <a href="http://www.turkishairlines.com">http://www.turkishairlines.com</a>

Submitted by <u>Turkish Airlines</u>