



Media Contact:

Karen Gutiérrez

Email: kgutierrez@cvgairport.com

Phone: 859-767-NEWS (6397)

Cell: 859-240-2156

Southwest and CVG celebrate inaugural nonstop flight to Austin, Texas

Airline's ninth anniversary at CVG coincides with launch of new service

B-roll and photos

Highlights:

- Southwest Airlines flew its inaugural nonstop flight from CVG to Austin (AUS) on June 4
- Passengers were treated to cookies, a custom theme song about the flight and a prize drawing for free parking at CVG
- New flight operates daily
- Southwest flew into CVG for the first time on June 4, 2017, on a flight from Chicago Midway (MDW)
- [B-roll and photos from today's event](#)

Erlanger, Ky. (June 4, 2026) – CVG Airport on Thursday celebrated two milestones with Southwest Airlines: The launch of its first nonstop flight to Austin (AUS) and its ninth anniversary as a carrier at CVG.

Passengers on the inaugural Austin flight enjoyed Southwest-branded cookies, a custom theme song and a prize drawing for seven days of free parking at CVG.

"We're so excited to introduce our customer base in Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati to the great state of Texas and all the connections they can make through Austin to places out west," said Noel Curry, CVG station manager for Southwest.

He wore a cowboy hat and shirt for the flight, which he himself was taking. Traveling with him was a Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati themed gift for his counterpart in Austin: New Riff bourbon, Reds gear and CVG Airport socks.

Gate agents wore similar Texas-themed ensembles, and a song written by a Southwest employee about the Austin-Cincinnati connection played over the loudspeaker while passengers waited to board.

Many were gleeful about the new nonstop route. "I am so excited about this direct flight. I have family in Austin, and I'm going to my niece's wedding," said Carol Norris of Troy, Oh., who was wearing a cowboy hat and Texas t-shirt. "We are so fired up. We picked the right day!"

CVG held a random prize drawing before boarding, with the winning passenger receiving seven days of free parking at CVG.

With the addition of service to Austin, Southwest has grown its 2026 summer schedule at CVG by more than 40 percent over the previous summer in terms of flight volume and seat capacity. Southwest now provides year-round service from CVG to Austin, Nashville, Baltimore, Denver, Orlando, and Chicago (Midway), in addition to seasonal service to Phoenix, with the frequency of flights increasing from 2025 to 2026.

"We're always working to identify opportunities that give our customers even more choices when they travel," said Daniel Jones, vice president network planning at Southwest. "Our new route between Cincinnati and Austin connects two growing cities with even more potential."



"Southwest continues to demonstrate its commitment to CVG and our region with this new Austin route," said Larry Krauter, chief executive officer, CVG. "Its expanded presence here, now offering seven destinations with increasing frequency, reflects the demand and vitality of our market. Austin is a great addition as the two cities share much in common as growing tech hubs and vibrant cultural centers."

ABOUT CVG AIRPORT

CVG welcomed 9 million travelers in 2025. The airport offers more than 55 nonstop destinations with 14 airlines/tour operators. It is proud to serve two nonstop transatlantic flights, including London-LHR via British Airways, and Paris-CDG through Delta Air Lines. CVG is home to two global air hubs that continue to drive growth: Amazon Air's Hub and DHL Express' Global Superhub for the Americas. With an annual impact of \$10.5 billion on the local economy, the airport drives regional growth and remains a leader in aviation innovation. Learn more at CVGairport.com

ABOUT SOUTHWEST

[Southwest Airlines Co.](https://SouthwestAirlines.com) operates one of the world's most admired and awarded airlines, offering its one-of-a-kind value and Hospitality at 119 airports across 12 countries. Southwest took flight in 1971 to democratize the sky through friendly, reliable, and low-cost air travel and now carries more air travelers flying nonstop within the United States than any other airline(fn. 1). By empowering its more than 73,000(fn. 2) People to deliver unparalleled Hospitality, the maverick airline cherishes a passionate loyalty among more than 134 million Customers carried in 2025. Southwest leverages a unique legacy and mission to serve communities around the world including harnessing the power of its People and Purpose to put communities at the Heart of its success. Learn more by visiting Southwest.com/citizenship.

1. Based on U.S. Dept. of Transportation quarterly Airline Origin & Destination Survey as of Q4 2025
2. Fulltime-equivalent active Employees as of March 31, 2026