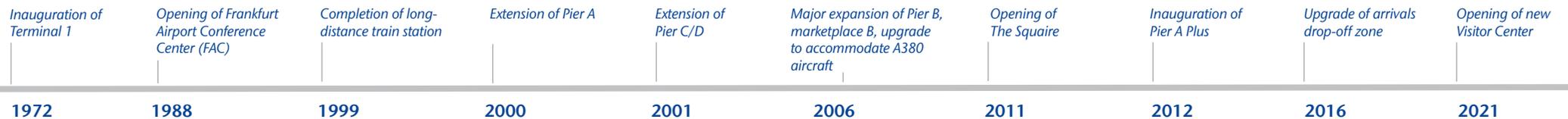
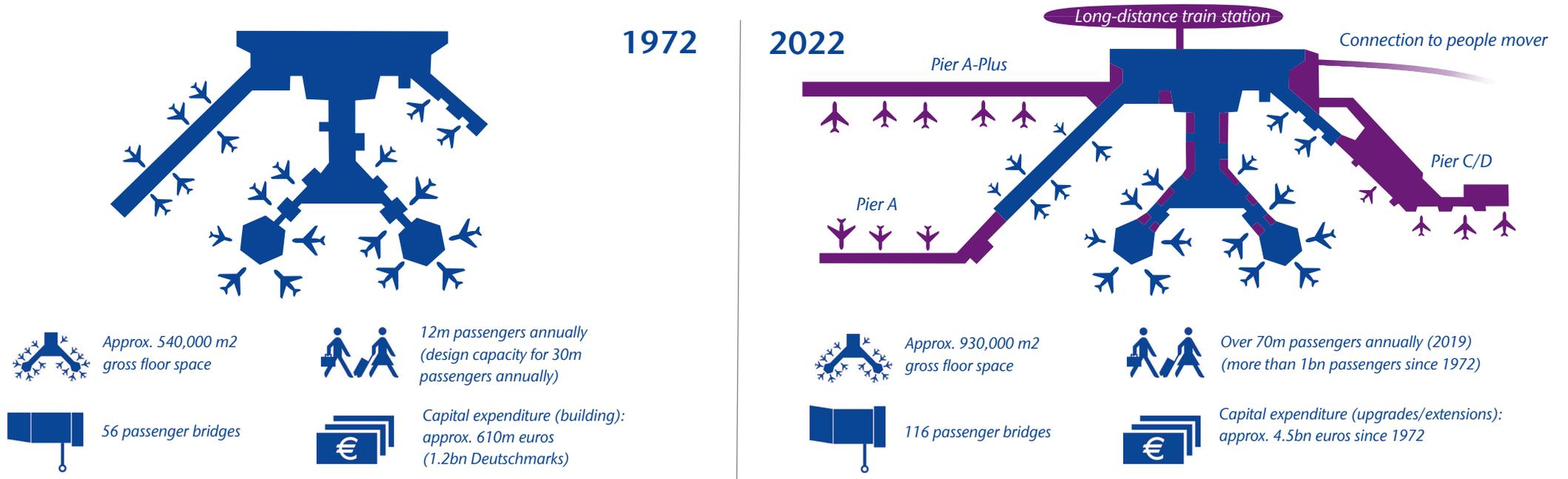


50 Years of Terminal 1 at Frankfurt Airport

A success story since 1972

The opening of Terminal 1 on March 14, 1972, heralded a new era: larger aircraft, rising passenger numbers, and a guaranteed transfer time of just 45 minutes – made possible by a pioneering automated baggage handling system. Moreover, for the first time, an underground train station connected Frankfurt Airport to Germany’s railroad network.

As traveler numbers grew, so did the terminal. The annual passenger volume rose from 12 million in 1972 to more than 70 million in 2019. This went hand in hand with the construction of a station for long-distance trains, extensions to the piers, and the addition of an entirely new pier. Since the terminal’s inauguration, Fraport has invested over 4.5 billion euros in upgrades and extensions.



The development of...



...baggage handling



When it first entered operation, the baggage handling system was one of the most advanced and largest in the world, and it remains so to this day. During its 50-year history, its total length has increased from some 35 kilometers in 1972 to around 81 kilometers in 2022. It conveys baggage with almost 100 percent accuracy—outperforming many others. In 2019, the system handled 29 million outbound items.

...shopping and entertainment



Even in the 1970s, Frankfurt Airport (FRA) was a popular shopping destination, attracting customers from near and far. Many passengers from abroad renamed their stop-overs “shop-overs”. In 2022, the airport accommodated more than 300 stores and restaurants. There are a mix of leading international brands and creative local independents, combining to create a uniquely attractive consumer experience. Family-owned business Heinemann is just one success story. The company’s duty-free and travel value shops have been present at the airport since the outset. In 2017, Heinemann and Fraport partnered to found a joint venture, Frankfurt Airport Retail, for the successful operation of all duty free and travel shops, plus many fashionable upmarket brand stores.

...religious communities



The first chapel was consecrated two days after the terminal opened. Today, passengers, employees and others have many opportunities to practice their faith. Amenities include the Quiet Room, the ecumenical chapel, and Muslim and Jewish prayer rooms. People are also able to celebrate religious festivals together. Back in the 1970s, a sole Protestant priest and a sole Roman-Catholic priest tended to the needs of travelers. Today, there is an entire support network. Those requiring help can call on the advice and assistance of ministers of both denominations, or of the employees of the Social and Refugee Service. Frankfurt Airport’s religious community is as diverse and vibrant as the people who work or pass through here.

...the integration of road, rail and air transport



The opening of the airport train station marked the beginning of intermodal transportation at FRA. In 1972, 100 trains served the airport daily. The station for long-distance trains was completed in 1999, providing access to Europe’s high-speed rail network. Today, more than 500 trains take passengers to and from the two airport stations every day. FRA therefore enjoys the best rail connections of any airport in Germany. Flights to Cologne were completely replaced by train services over a decade ago.

...entertainment and visitor experiences



The opening of the Visitors’ Terrace in 1972 was a milestone, allowing aircraft and apron activities to be experienced up-close. FRA became a popular destination for day trips. The viewing platform was closed due to the tightening of security following 2001. Today, it is possible to observe airfield operations from the Visitors’ Terrace in Terminal 2 and within the scope of airport tours. The Visitor Center, opened in 2021, is an innovative interactive and multimedia exhibition.