

# Turkish Passenger Plane Enters Ukrainian Airspace to Avoid Storm, Navigates Through War Zone

Posted on August 17, 2023 by Jim Wilson



In an unusual turn of events, a Turkish passenger plane operated by BBN Airlines traversed Ukrainian airspace on July 25th. This airspace is typically closed due to the ongoing conflict in the region. The Airbus A320-200 was en route from Oslo, Norway to Antalya, Turkey when it flew through southwestern Ukraine, specifically the Zakarpattia and Chernivtsi regions.

Since February 2022, Ukraine has restricted civilian aircraft from entering its airspace due to the Russian invasion. This prohibition was put in place to ensure safety during the conflict. The Turkish airline, BBN, explained that the pilots altered their course to avoid a storm, leading to the unplanned flight path over Ukraine.

Although the specific region the plane flew over had not seen intense fighting, it remains a precarious decision to fly through restricted airspace. This airspace is known to be a potential risk area, having previously been targeted by Russian missiles. Additionally, Ukraine's air defense systems could potentially perceive an unexpected aircraft overhead as a threat.

BBN Airlines is a recently established carrier that began operations in 2023, primarily operating charter flights. The spokesperson for BBN acknowledged the concerns raised by this incident and pledged to take measures to prevent similar occurrences in the future. However, there was no elaboration on whether the deviation was accidental or if any consequences followed this decision.

The charter flight was organized by Freebird Airlines, though they have not provided an immediate response to inquiries about the incident. Flight route screenshots show the plane diverting from its path, crossing into western Ukraine before progressing into Romania's airspace.

While the exact number of passengers on board is unclear, the Airbus A320 can typically accommodate around 180 individuals. The Ukrainian Ministry of Transport has not yet responded to requests for comment on this situation.

Sources: AirGuide Business [airguide.info](https://airguide.info), [msn.com](https://www.msn.com), [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com)

