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SHG Press Office

Agreement Signed for Scheduled Commercial Air Services

St Helena Government and SA Airlink ('Airlink') have signed an agreement for Airlink to provide scheduled commercial air services to St Helena Island. Airlink will also operate a monthly charter service between St Helena and Ascension Island. This follows a period of contractual negotiations with Airlink. Over the coming weeks, Airlink will be finalising regulatory approvals with the South African Civil Aviation Authority. This will include a proving flight to the Island.

Following the necessary approvals and proving flight, SHG will be able to announce the commencement date for a service between St Helena Airport and OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa. It is expected that the monthly service between St Helena and Ascension Island will start soon after and operate on the second Saturday of each month. OR Tambo is an international hub and offers connectivity to over 80 airports around the world including to the UK and Europe.

The initial weekly service on a Saturday will be operated using an Embraer E190-100IGW aircraft in a two class configuration (Business Class and Economy) with the flight time from Johannesburg to St Helena being approximately 6hrs 15 mins including a half hour stop in Windhoek.

The agreement with Airlink is for an initial term of three years from the date of the first flight. Information on the commencement date, ticket sales and details on the cost of fares and sales distribution, including for Ascension Island, will be issued in due course. The fares offered are anticipated to be the same or similar between Johannesburg and St Helena and Cape Town and St Helena. A Question & Answer document on scheduled commercial air services can be found on the SHG Website at: <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Air-Services-to-St-Helena-QandAs-21-July-2017.pdf>

Airlink is a privately owned airline registered in South Africa. It is a franchisee to South African Airways. Airlink is a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and as such is IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) accredited. Airlink is a well-established South Africa domiciled airline operating on a comprehensive scheduled network with domestic and regional passenger and cargo services offering more than fifty thousand flights annually.

Latest Calibration Flight



A Beech Super King Air 200 aircraft, operated by TAB Charters, arrived at St Helena Airport on Tuesday, 4 July 2017, at 2.05pm.

On Wednesday, 5 July 2017, the calibration team conducted routine calibration flights of the Navigational equipment at the Airport. All operational equipment has been certified for another six months. The flight departed on Friday, 7 July 2017, at 8.25am for Walvis Bay (Namibia) then onto Lanseria (Jo'Burg). The calibration team will return in January 2018 for the next six-monthly check.

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Using a Drone on St Helena

Last month, changes were made to when and where a drone can be flown on St Helena. Drones (also known as Small Unmanned Aircraft) offer a new way of showcasing the beauty of the Island as well as allowing for innovative and exciting commercial opportunities.

However, drone owners need to be aware of the need to maintain safety whilst conducting flights, especially when flying within the restricted airspace over St Helena. For example, recent drone activity around London Gatwick Airport resulted in temporary closure of the airspace, resulting in delays and diversions to other airfields, and causing significant inconvenience to affected passengers and crew.

The safety of St Helenian airspace needs to be maintained whilst at the same time, allow drone flights to take place whenever possible. As such, the changes introduced last month divide the airspace over St Helena into three zones - a green zone 'Safe Zone', an amber zone 'Restricted Zone' and a red zone 'No fly Zone'.

Other than the pre-existing restriction of flying over Jamestown, the green zone allows drone flights to be conducted without further restriction. The amber zone also allows flights to be conducted but only when the airspace is clear of flights and once permission has been given by the Airport. The red zone does not permit drone flights to be conducted at any time.

Regardless of whether flights take place in the green or amber zones, they must adhere to the safe flying rules at all times. As a reminder, if drone owners wish to use their drone on a commercial basis, prior permission from Air Safety Support International (ASSI) is required to conduct 'aerial work'.

An information sheet describing the three zones and safe flying rules has been produced by the Airport Operator. If you wish to obtain a copy, make a request to fly in the amber zone or have any other queries, please contact the Head of Operations at the Airport, Gwyneth Howell, on tel: 25175 or via e-mail: hoo@airportsthelena.com

For more information about using a drone for commercial purposes, please contact ASSI in Crawley (UK) on tel: + 44 (0)1293 214040 or via e-mail: enquiries@airsafety.aero



Restricted Area at Rupert's

Construction works for the Fuel Gantry Support in Rupert's are ongoing.

Casting of the support base is in progress, which involved excavation works and the exposure of the sheet pile along the existing sea wall to create a suitable working area.

Following the completion of the base, the support columns for the gantry will be erected. On completion of construction works the area will be reinstated.

In the interest of Health & Safety no public access is permitted past the demarcated area during the construction period. Your co-operation in this matter is very much appreciated.

