

Montego Bay welcomes new Southwest Airlines flight from Kansas City

Montego Bay - October 9, 2023 - MBJ Airports Limited (MBJ) welcomed the inaugural flight of Southwest Airlines from Kansas City, Missouri, USA to Montego Bay Saturday, October 7, 2023.

The new flight from Kansas City arrived at Sangster International Airport at 4:35 PM. The six crew members and 114 passengers disembarking the inaugural flight were greeted with welcome entertainment courtesy of a local Mento Band.

Officials on hand to meet the flight included Tourism Honourable Minister Edmund Bartlett, Deputy Mayor of Montego Bay Councillor Richard Vernon, CEO MBJ Airports Limited Shane Munroe and Regional Director Jamaica Tourist Board Odette Dyer

In a special message Minister of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport, Honourable Daryl Vaz, MP, wrote, "I extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to the passengers on this Southwest Airlines Inaugural flight from Kansas City to Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay. This flight marks a significant step forward in bolstering air connectivity, convenience, and opportunities for visitors, near and far, to travel to Jamaica. The introduction of this flight is poised to strengthen our tourism bonds, stimulate economic growth, and enhance the aviation sector in this ever-evolving global landscape. The Ministry looks forward to witnessing the positive impact Southwest Airlines will undoubtedly have on our nation's aviation industry."

The flight will operate weekly on Saturdays throughout the winter season, providing travellers with a convenient and reliable connection between the heart of the United States and the pristine shores of Montego Bay.

Shane Munroe, CEO of MBJ Airports Limited, expressed his enthusiasm about this development, stating, "Montego Bay Airports Limited is thrilled to extend our network with Southwest Airlines and enhanced connectivity between Kansas City and the Caribbean with the start of this new flight to Montego Bay in October."

Munroe also stated that this new flight addition by Southwest Airlines represents strategic developments that expand travel options for passengers heading to Jamaica.

Audley Deidrick, CEO and President of Airports Authority of Jamaica says, "This exciting partnership between Montego Bay Airports Limited and Southwest Airlines marks a significant milestone in air travel between Kansas City and Montego Bay. We look forward to welcoming travellers and fostering greater accessibility to this beautiful destination."



The crew with Jamaican flag and coloured headgear with Min. of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Regional Director Jamaica Tourist Board, Mrs. Odette Dyer, Deputy Mayor of Montego Bay, Councillor Richard Vernon and CEO of MBJ Airports Limited Mr. Shane Munroe

- END -

Southwest Airlines is a prominent United States based airline and is the largest global operator of low-cost flights. Its headquarters is located at Dallas, Texas. The airline offers scheduled services to 121 destinations within the United States and an additional ten countries worldwide.

About Sangster International Airport:

Sangster International Airport (IATA: MBJ, ICAO: MKJS) is an international airport located 3 mi (4.8 km) east of Montego Bay, Jamaica. The airport is capable of handling nine million passengers per year. It serves as the most popular airport for tourists visiting the north coast of Jamaica. The airport is named after former Jamaican Prime Minister Sir Donald Sangster.

About MBJ Airports Limited:

MBJ Airports Limited, the operator of Sangster International Airport, connects Jamaica to more than 60 international destinations. A record 4.7m passengers used the airport in 2019. MBJ operates SIA under a 30-year concession awarded in 2003 and the airport provides employment to more than 7,500 persons. SIA has been named the Caribbean's Leading Airport by World Travel Awards for 14 years.