



**St Helena
Government**



**ST HELENA
AIRPORT**

ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS TO ST HELENA AND ASCENSION

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Why are additional flights needed?

St Helena Government (SHG) and Airlink have observed a significant number of advance bookings for the Christmas/summer period on St Helena. Some flights in December 2018 and January 2019 are already near to fully booked.

We have therefore planned additional flights during the peak travel period (December – April) to cater for the anticipated demand to travel to the Island. This will benefit Saints, visiting friends and relatives who traditionally return to St Helena for Christmas. It will also benefit the tourism and business markets, with an expectation that we will see increased visitor numbers during the summer period.

The additional midweek flight will allow passengers the options of three, four, seven or ten night stays (or indeed longer) on St Helena.

What will happen to the normal Saturday flights?

The current schedule will operate exactly as is.

There will be a weekly flight operated on a Saturday from OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, with a technical stop en-route in Namibia and then on to St Helena Airport. The flight will then return non-stop from St Helena to Johannesburg, South Africa.

The normal service to Ascension will continue to operate on the second weekend of every month.

The additional flights will operate alongside the current schedule.

How many additional flights are planned?

A total of 19 additional flights to St Helena are planned during the period December 2018 - April 2019.

An additional flight is planned to Ascension Island in December 2018 and again in January 2019 to meet anticipated demand during the peak period.

When are the additional flights planned?

We are planning an additional flight per week to St Helena over the five month period from December 2018 - April 2019.

This does not include the weeks beginning 24 December 2018 and 31 December 2018. We have deliberately not scheduled a mid-week flight to coincide with the public holidays around Christmas and the New Year as traditionally few people travel on these days.

Over and above this, an additional flight is planned to Ascension Island in December 2018 and again in January 2019 to meet anticipated demand during the peak period.

Practical planning is underway and the final schedule will be published shortly.

Could the additional flights operate from Cape Town instead of Johannesburg?

The flights to St Helena will continue to originate from Johannesburg for the foreseeable future. This is kept under regular review by SHG and Airlink.

Discussions are continuing in relation to Air Traffic Freedom Rights that would enable passenger transfers at Windhoek to connect to flights to Cape Town. Both Airlink and SHG remain committed to the reinstatement of this service.

In the meantime, passengers wishing to travel to/from Cape Town can do so via Johannesburg. Please contact your travel agent. Passengers arriving or departing Johannesburg requiring extra time to board, who cannot walk long distances, or are in need of assistance can make suitable arrangements through Airlink on <tel:+27114517350>. OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg is a very large sprawling airport and help can be arranged to assist passengers transiting the airport. The same arrangements can be made for St Helena Airport if required.

How do I book a seat?

Airlink is currently making the final practical arrangements for the additional flights. Flights will then be loaded into booking systems. Tickets will go on sale shortly.

Tickets will be available online via the Airlink website at: <https://flyairlink.com/> and through all normal IATA global distribution systems. Passengers are advised to contact their IATA travel agent.

For those passengers resident on St Helena, ticket bookings can be made via Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc's Shipping & Travel Agency at the Malabar in

Jamestown. Passengers can visit the Shipping & Travel Agency in person or can contact shipping-travelmanager@solomons.co.sh or telephone: 22523.

Passengers wishing to travel to/from Ascension Island should make their booking via the Ascension Island Travel Agency via email: flight.bookings@ascension.gov.ac or tel: +247 66500.

How much will a seat cost?

The same pricing policy that applies to the current schedule will be applied to the additional midweek flights.

Will we go back to just one flight per week after this?

At present, the additional midweek flights are due to end in May 2019 to reflect the anticipated lower demand for flights during the off-peak season.

Whilst the expectation is that the additional 19 flights will be in place for 2019/20 and beyond, the need for further amendments to the scheduled service will be kept under regular review.

#StHelena #StHelenaAirport #Airlink #AdditionalFlights #Ascension

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SHG

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