



Princess Juliana International Airport

THE SXM AIRPORT HORIZON

NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2018



IMAGE ONE: Acting TEATT Minister, Dr. Cornelius de Weever (r.) poses with his St. Maarten delegation
IMAGE TWO: Accessing Spirit Airlines on the Common Use Sita equipment at SXM Airport.



SPIRIT AIRLINES RESUMES FLIGHTS IN MAY

Prior to Hurricane Irma last year, Spirit Airlines provided weekly flights from Fort Lauderdale with a 228-seat aircraft. As of May 5, Spirit Airlines will start air service using an Airbus 319 that can carry 145 passengers. It will reintroduce a larger aircraft such as the A321 with 228 seats at a later time, according to a press release from acting Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transportation and Telecommunications (TEATT) Dr. Cornelius De Weever.

De Weever recently led a delegation that met

with Spirit Airlines officials regarding airlift into the country post-Irma and an update on destination hospitality service and infrastructure developments. The objective of the meeting was to maintain a constant dialogue with airline partners and provide them with the information they need to make decisions on restoring their past level of air service as soon as possible.

“Spirit has been providing air service to the country for almost a decade at competitive prices. It is very important in this post-Irma era to

maintain contact and provide current destination updates to our travel industry partners.” “The delegation included representatives from key entities within our economy, such as the Airport and the St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association,” stated the minister.

The delegation met with Vice President Network Planning Mark Kopczak, Senior Director Distribution and Sales Richard Lowry, Regional Director Michael J. Purchon and Manager Airport Affairs Tim R. Archer.

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ALSO RESUMING SERVICE: United Airlines - April 14, 2018 with service from Newark
WestJet - April 29, 2018 with service from Toronto

SXM MAKES TOP TEN WORLD’S MOST BEAUTIFUL LANDINGS

The Princess Juliana International Airport once again made the Top Ten in Private Fly’s Most Scenic Airport Landings in the World. Polled at number 9, one spot ahead of Miami International Airport, SXM has consistently been named among the world’s Most Spectacular Airport Approaches. It will be recalled that SXM Airport was named number one in 2013 in the annual survey in which the private jet booking platform PrivateFly, asked the international travel community to name their top landing.



The airport’s Management Team was elated to receive such good news. “At a time like this, when we are putting all our efforts at the recovery and rebuilding of our facilities, being recognized even in the aftermath of an unprecedented disaster like Hurricane Irma, is a boost to our spirits,” said Chief Operations Officer (COO) Michel Hyman.



Participants at the briefing session with hub partners Dominica and BVI on the recovery and reconstruction process at SXM Airport

SXM AIRPORT BRIEFS BVI AND DOMINICA ABOUT RECOVERY & REBUILDING PROCESS

The Princess Juliana International Airport, SXM, continued its consultations with its hub partners, this time with Dominica and the British Virgin Islands, BVI.

At a recent meeting held on St. Maarten with representatives of both destinations, Michel Hyman, Chief Operations Officer (COO) of SXM

Airport, gave an update on the developments at the airport post-Irma, including the recovery and reconstruction efforts that are being undertaken. Hyman, who led a delegation of SXM officials, also discussed what is being done to restore air services to their pre-hurricane Irma levels, which will also benefit Dominica and the BVI. He disclosed that air service to SXM Airport is now



SXM HOLDS MONTHLY F.O.D. CAMPAIGN Over 200lbs Of Debris Collected In March

Although the Foreign Object Debris (F.O.D.) campaign of the Princess Juliana International Airport, SXM, usually begins in June, at the start of the annual Atlantic Hurricane Season, this year, due to the large amount of debris Hurricane Irma left behind, the Managing Board and the Operations Department of the airport decided to begin the clean-up much earlier, in January and continue this on a monthly basis for the rest of the year.

"In June, we will celebrate F.O.D. month," Z'haria Richardson, one of the organizers of the

campaign, along with Michael Peters, said. "Basically, we reviewed the reports of all partners responsible for ensuring that we have a F.O.D. free environment and based on those reports, we decided to up the frequency of the campaign by doing a F.O.D. walk or F.O.D. clean up every month," Ms. Richardson explained.

"For this year's F.O.D. walk, which was held in March, we collected 203lbs of debris. But there's still a lot more work to be done. So, this month, we're going to still have a F.O.D. walk after the

over 70% of what it was prior to the storms of September 2017 as more airlines have resumed service to the destination while others have announced their intentions to do so within short. At the meeting also were WINAIR's Helena de Bekker and Claudius Buncamper who gave a presentation regarding the current state of affairs at the airline.

Others attending the meeting were Dominica's Director of Tourism and CEO Discover Dominica, Colin Piper and Liaison Officer in St. Maarten, Clayton Felix. Representing the BVI were Rhodni Skelton, Deputy Director of Tourism, Clive Smith and Diana Maduro of the BVI Airports Authority Management.



Let SXM Carnival Experience Move You

Continuing a long-standing tradition, SXM Airport, pledged its support of Carnival 2018 as a corporate partner with the St. Maarten Carnival Development Foundation, SCDF. Carnival, which officially starts on April 12 and ends May 2, 2018, is the island's biggest cultural event, attracting people from all over the world.

different locations have been reviewed to determine what needs to be done." Ms. Richardson disclosed.

The Operations Department singled out Arrindell Aviation by Signature (AAS), which provided the largest group of participants in the F.O.D. walk, for recognition.

Others that took part in the March F.O.D. walk were JetBlue, SOL, Winair, St. Barths Commuter and the airport team, made up of members of the Executive Lounge, the Marketing Department, Customer Service and the Facilities Maintenance Department.



PM Mrs. Leona Romeo-Marlin, (2ND FROM R) Acting TEATT Minister Dr. Cornelius de Weever (3RD FROM L) and Vice Chairperson, Collectivité of Saint-Martin, Valérie Damaseau toast with SXM Airport Officials

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TEMPORARY ARRIVAL PAVILION

Weeks after the temporary Departure Pavilion became operational, the Princess Juliana International Airport opened its temporary Arrival Pavilion in order to offer passengers a measure of comfort and ease of processing as they arrive at the destination.

In his remarks at the opening ceremony which was attended by interim Prime Minister Mrs. Leona Romeo-Marlin and President of Parliament, Mrs. Sarah Wescot-Williams, Chief Operations Officer, Michel Hyman stressed the temporary nature of the structures.

“In spite of this being a temporary solution, passengers can nevertheless expect more comfort and ease as they go through immigration and customs upon their arrival here,” he said. Hyman noted that the fully-carpeted and aircon-

ditioned Pavilion also features food and beverage, car rentals and VIP concessions. Car rentals have a designated area outside the Arrival Pavilion on the airside, for added convenience of the arriving passengers. The Pavilion also hosts the police Alpha Team.

“The opening of this new Arrival Pavilion will free up the FBO facilities that have been used until recently for arriving passengers also. The FBO facilities will from now on revert to the exclusive use of the corporate jet passengers as was the case prior to Hurricane Irma,” he said.

“I know that many would like to see the airport return quickly to its award-winning position as the leader in aviation in the region. The Supervisory Board of Directors, the Management Team and the staff of SXM Airport are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that we meet those expectations. Slowly, but surely, we will get there,” Hyman said.



Concession Highlight: TALOULA'S FLIGHTS

Taloula's Flights mixologist Kyle Wathey, awaits the next customer at the Temporary Departure Pavilion. The entire bar was constructed using drift wood that was found in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.



Hotel Update Post Hurricane Irma: SIMPSON BAY RESORT AND MARINA OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Simpson Bay Resort and Marina has been operational post Hurricane Irma. The hotel sustained moderate damages but were able to make speedy reparations. It was one of the first major hotels to reopen, making it a booking favorite. The resort is located at #37, Billy Folly Road, Sint Maarten.



Beach Update Post Hurricane Irma: MULLET BAY BEACH

One of the more popular beaches on the island, Mullet Bay beach has bounced back fast following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The beach is once more attracting a steady flow of visitors and residents who flock there to enjoy its crystalline waters and golden sands. It is located on the Southwest edge of the island and can be reached via the Rhine Road.

FINAL FAREWELL TO ROBERTO "T" HENNIS



SXM bid Roberto "T" Hennis a final farewell with a water cannon and horn salute by the airport's Rescue and Firefighters Department. Hennis, who was laid to rest recently, was a retired

electrician who worked in the Technical Division of SXM Airport from 1989 to 2018. The Division had also lost another member, Mr. Jeune Louites, in December 2017. May their souls rest in peace.

