



Princess Juliana International Airport

THE SXM AIRPORT HORIZON

NEWSLETTER | MAY 2018



IMAGE ONE: Minister TEATT, Cornelius De Weever (L.) Director of the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, May-Ling Chun, Spirit Airlines delegates, Manager of Airport Affairs, Tim Archer and Director of the Communications, Stephen Schuler

IMAGE TWO: Airport Rescue and Firefighting Team performs water canon salute



SPIRIT AIRLINES RESUMES SERVICE TO ST. MAARTEN

There was a sense of true team Spirit, as the water canon salute signified the official launch of the return of Spirit Airlines at the Princess Juliana International Airport - SXM on Saturday May 5, 2018. The flight departed from Fort Lauderdale at 10:46 a.m. and honored its approach at 1:53 p.m.

Following the disembarkation of the first flight, the plaque handing over ceremony was officiated by the Minister of TEATT, Cornelius De Weever and the newly appointed Director of the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, May-Ling Chun. Present to accept the plaque on behalf of the Spirit Airlines delegation was the Manager of Airport Affairs, Tim

Archer and Director of the Communications, Stephen Schuler. In efforts to further commemorate the event, cultural sounds of steel pan music welcomed the arriving passengers, while those at the Departure Pavilion received Spirit Airlines promotional items. Additionally, the aircraft was scheduled to make its departure from St. Maarten to Fort Lauderdale at 2:50 p.m., whereby it's arrival time was at 6:09 p.m. The Management of the Operations Department confirmed that both flights were fully booked to capacity.

Spirit Airlines is resuming once-weekly service to the destination for the first time since early September 2017. The resumed flight operation comes eight months after Hurricane Irma tore through the Caribbean island. Spirit Airlines is dedicated to servicing and growing in the Caribbean and has worked diligently in aiding in recovery efforts. In a commendable effort, the airline assisted in the removal of hundreds of visitors and residents from the island in dedicated humanitarian relief flights in the days and weeks following the hurricane. The very same relief flights also served to transport thousands of pounds of much needed general supplies. The Management of Spirit Airlines are elated that the conditions have now improved and Spirit is now able to resume regular commercial service to St. Maarten. According to the Acting CEO and CFO, Ravi Daryanani, the Managing Board of the Princess Juliana International Airport -SXM

intends to meet this week with the Spirit Airlines representatives, to personally continue to celebrate this important milestone.

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ALSO RESUMING SERVICE

PHOTO CREDIT: FRANKLYN WILSON



COPA AIRLINES

- June 2, 2018 with service from Panama City.
- Aircraft type: 737 - 800
- Seating capacity: 160
- Flight schedule: (June) Saturdays & Tuesdays
1 Sunday & Monday scheduled
Time in 11:30 - Time out: 12:29

NEW AIR SERVICE



AIR CENTURY

- June 4, 2018 with service from Santo Domingo.
- Aircraft type: Saab 340
- Seating capacity: 34
- Flight schedule: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Time in 16:00 - Time out: 17:00



Delegates from Aruba and Suriname arriving for the 12th Annual I.A.S.C. Conference

expert, Kenneth Taira gave a presentation on “Safety in Airport Design” while another FAA colleague, Mr. Mahendra Raghubeer followed with a presentation on “Safety in Airport Operations”.

The packed schedule includes a meet the press at the beginning, conference meetings, audits, and a closing party on Friday. The packed schedule has been organized to offer participants an opportunity to engage in interactive sessions, while they would also be able to see for themselves how the island, and particularly SXM Airport, continues to recover from the devastation of last September storms.

“Aviation safety is at the core of SXM Airport’s fundamental objectives. SXM Airport is constantly striving, in close collaboration with partnering airports and the entire air transport community, to further improve aviation’s successful safety performance while maintaining a high level of capacity and efficiency. We are indeed happy to be able to host the conference this year, in spite of all the challenges of rebuilding our airport and island after the unprecedented damages suffered at the hands of Irma and Maria last year,” said Hyman.

“We hope all participants will be able to experience first-hand the resilience that we are known for, and the friendliness that is our trademark,” he added.”

SXM AIRPORT TO HOST IS-LANDS’ AIRPORT SAFETY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

Experts from various airports that comprise the Islands’ Airport Safety Committee (IASC) will be discussing issues related to all aspects of operational safety at aerodromes from Monday, May 21st through Friday, May 25th, at a conference hosted by the Princess Juliana International Airport, SXM. The Honorable Interim Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunications, Dr. Cornelius De Weever, officially opened the conference which attracted delegations from Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba and Suriname.

According to the head of the SXM delegation, Stefania Kong - Gumbs of the Quality Assurance Department, the conference was supposed to have been held in September 2017 but due to hurricane Irma it had to be cancelled. SXM was given the opportunity to host this year’s event by the President of IASC, Mr. Dharindra Phalai and Mr. Michel Hyman, COO, accepted on behalf of the SXM Airport. At the opening session on Monday, Hyman, provided the conference with updates and information about developments at SXM Airport following the severe damages inflicted by Irma last year. FAA



Hotel Update Post Hurricane Irma: DIVI LITTLE BAY BEACH RESORT

Divi Little Bay Beach Resort on St. Maarten has reopened just eight months after Hurricane Irma blew through the island, with completely renovated rooms, updated restaurants and exciting new features.

“For the past eight months, the Little Bay team has poured their hearts and souls into the rebuilding the resort, and I know they are looking forward to welcoming back our loyal owners, members and guests,” said Marco Galaverna, Divi Resorts President & COO.

MAIN TERMINAL BUILDING ROOFING UPDATE



Image A - Sodium treatment placed on the lightly rusted spots. This is done when the spots have been brushed with a steel brush. This is 60% completed.

Image B - Panels placed over comfort plates. This is roughly 25 to 30% completed.

Image C - This is the pvc membrane which will be laid over the plates for the water proofing. Roughly 10% completed



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Cornelius De Weever, Acting TEATT Minister (4th from L) and May-Ling Chun, STB Director (5th from L) at dinner with members of the international press, Audrey St. Luce-Jack, SXM Airport Corporate Communications Officer (3rd from L) and Ichel Moesliken, Port St. Maarten

ST. MAARTEN TOURIST BUREAU HOSTS PRESS FROM NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM

The St. Maarten Tourist Bureau hosted a group press trip consisting of journalists from the Netherlands and Belgium representing the publications: 'De Telegraaf', 'Reishonger', 'We Are Travellers' as well as 'KNACK'.

These journalists are on St. Maarten to see the progress made, as well as to receive updates from various stakeholders including Princess Juliana

International Airport and Port of St. Maarten.

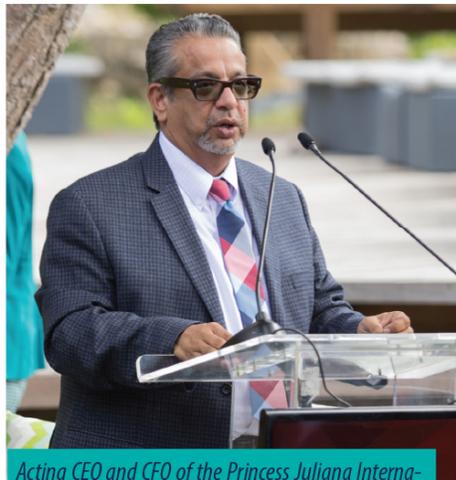
"Our Tourism product has drastically changed and we have the opportunity to rebuild St. Maarten phase by phase, better and stronger and public relations is a high priority in this entire process" says Interim Head of Tourism May-Ling Chun.

It is imperative that the consumer markets in the Netherlands and Belgium know that there is

STAKEHOLDERS PRESS CONFERENCE AND SIGNING OF M.O.U. AT LOTERIE FARM



(L - R) May-Ling Chun, STB Director, Cornelius De Weever, Acting TEATT Minister, Valerie Damaseau, First Vice-President of the Collectivité Territoriale, and Aida Weinum, Interim Director, St. Martin Tourist Office at the signing of the M.O.U.



Acting CEO and CFO of the Princess Juliana International Airport, Ravi Daryanani addresses the attendees at the press conference at Loterie Farm

The Princess Juliana International Airport - SXM spearheaded its stakeholders meeting since February 2018 with its tourism based counterparts. The monthly meetings include representatives from the Port of St. Maarten, St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, The Chamber of Commerce (French and Dutch), St Maarten Civil Aviation, St. Martin Tourist Office, L'Esperance Airport, St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association and more.

During the press conference on May 11, 2018, it was agreed that the Memorandum of Understanding, M.O.U. would also be signed, signaling the unity between both the French and Dutch counterparts.

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progress being made on the island after the devastation of Hurricane Irma, and most importantly that there are ample tourism activities and hotels that are open and ready to welcome tourists again.



WINAIR ANNOUNCES NEW SERVICES

Winair recently announced new services to connect Bonaire and Aruba with St. Maarten effective July 1, 2018. We will offer 4 flights per week Bonaire – Curacao – St. Maarten and vice versa, 3 flights a week Aruba – Curacao – St. Maarten and vice versa.

In addition, Winair will also increase the number of flights St. Maarten - Santo Domingo – St. Maarten from its present 5 flights a week to offer daily service effective July 01, 2018. Winair will increase its flight schedule from its current 2 flights to 3 flights per week for St. Maarten – Port Au Prince – St. Maarten.

With the addition of Bonaire and Aruba to the flight schedule of the national carrier of St. Maarten, Winair is very proud to now connect the entire Dutch Caribbean, ensuring truly seamless travel and fulfilling the expectations of the traveling public. The expansion of our existing schedule will serve the needs of our customers during the peak summer travel period. These services will be available to the public using a state of the art ATR 42 500/600 series with a capacity of 48 passengers.

"Thanks to the efforts of our employees and management Winair continues to reinvigorate and rebuild itself, provide much needed employment in St. Maarten in the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria." states Michael Cleaver, CEO & President of Winair.



SXM AIRPORT RE-LAUNCHES AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Princess Juliana International Airport, SXM, re-launched the Air Service Development Committee on Thursday May 17, 2018 at the Simpson Bay Resort. The purpose of the committee was to develop an action plan to help restore SXM and the hub partner air services to the baseline level of 2016 as soon as possible. The goal is to achieve the 2016 volume of the island passengers connectivity through SXM for the benefit of all.

Four objectives were identified and will be pursued including the preparation and execution of a joint marketing plan, review of how intra-regional travel costs might be reduced to stimulate travel, a plan for improved SXM passenger connectivity and consideration of adding a new hub partner member to the Air Service Development Committee.

In attendance were hub partner representatives of Dominica, Nevis, St. Barth's, French St. Martin, Anguilla and St. Maarten. The hub partner countries of BVI, Saba and St. Eustatius could not be in attendance.

The Minister of TEATT, Dr. Cornelius De Weever and the first Vice-President of the Collectivite Territoriale, Valerie Damaseau, also attended the meeting. Damaseau presented future plans for

the rebuilding and renovations of Orient Bay and the Marigot Waterfront.

The Managing Board of SXM Airport began one-on-one meetings with the hub partners from late 2017, updating them on the recovery process and operational plans and the progress made thus far. The hub partners gave individual presentations on the current state of its recovery post-hurricane Irma and Maria.

The St. Maarten Tourist Bureau briefed the meeting on developments at the port and marine industry. It also disclosed that it is currently

conducting and sharing exit surveys, as well as creating a database on the restaurant sector and available excursions.

The Bureau said it was at present hosting a press trip from Belgium and the Netherlands, following its earlier participation at trade shows in Brussels where people were constantly asking about island-hopping possibilities.

Commenting on the summit, the newly appointed Director of the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, May-Ling Chun said, "Now we have the opportunity to effectively strategize better than before."



**Beach Update Post Hurricane Irma:
DIVI LITTLE BAY**

Little Bay Beach is cut off from Great Bay by the Fort Amsterdam peninsula and is therefore fairly well protected. This peaceful and relatively small beach features great snorkeling and an amazing view of the island of Saba in the distance. The peninsula protects the beach so the waves are small enough for kids to safely enjoy the beach.

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St. Maarten Tourist Bureau Interim Director May-Ling Chun indicated at a stakeholders press conference at Loterie Farm on May 11, an incremental increase in hotel room availability should see more than 2,000 rooms available on the Dutch side by the end of the year, representing 54 per cent of total inventory. Based on a hotel survey, in the first quarter, from data compiled as of April 16. The survey will be updated again on May 16, so the figures may change. Chun gave stakeholders and media the latest updates in the ongoing rebuilding of the island's tourism. She was joined by her counterpart, St. Martin Tourism Office Interim Director Aida Weinum, who did likewise for the French side.

The Chamber is also partnering with the Statistics Department to do economic surveys in the business community. And in connection with the memorandum of understanding (MOU) both tourism offices are collecting data.

Weinum said that due to the largely devastated hotel sector on the French side, only about 200 hotel rooms are currently available (or 350, taking guest-houses and villas into account) but that will rise to 500-600 by December 2018. The French-side hotel association AHSM has re-formed with Patrice Seguin as President. The same goes for the restaurant association, and a guest-house association is in the works. She said the Chamber of Commerce has been very supportive to the business community.



Concession Highlight: **DOMINO'S PIZZA**

SXM Airport is ready to serve you with the team of the Domino's Pizza, before you step into the new Departure Pavilion.