



PRESS RELEASE

airbelgium.com

Air Belgium resumes its passenger flight programme as from 2 July with an additional destination in the Caribbean, Curaçao

Mont-Saint-Guibert – 2 April 2021. *A sensible decision for the airline given the current sanitary crisis.*

Since the sanitary crisis outbreak, Belgian and international governments have implemented measures and restrictions that are constantly evolving. A clear and long-term outlook is difficult to obtain. In this context, Air Belgium has decided to anticipate future developments and to operate all its passenger flights as from July 2nd. Furthermore, to complete its flights to the French Antilles, Air Belgium collaborates with Air Caraïbes and will fly to Curaçao, an island in the Netherlands Antilles, as from July 3rd.

The aviation industry still suffers from a crucial lack of perspective. Air Belgium, as all citizens, is compelled to follow day-to-day changes and developments. The airline is constantly trying to adjust without being able to foresee the consequences of the announcements and decisions taken by the various authorities, whether Belgian, French and/or Caribbean. For this reason and after careful consideration, Air Belgium prefers to plan for a resumption of its passenger flights to the Caribbean from July 2nd.

"We prefer to choose wisdom since, on the Belgian side, the requirement to present essential reasons for travelling has already been extended twice since the beginning of this year 2021. Also, Martinique has just been reclassified as a red zone by Belgium and joins Guadeloupe, which has also been a red zone for a few weeks. At the same time, the French government still imposes compelling reasons to travel to Guadeloupe and Martinique. According to information received and collected from local stakeholders, these compelling travel conditions are not expected to be lifted for several weeks", Niky Terzakis, CEO d'Air Belgium.

Air Belgium expects that by July 2nd, the various vaccination campaigns and the implementation of the European Vaccination Certificate will have progressed and will allow free travel within the European Union, of which Martinique and the Islands of Guadeloupe are part.

To provide more flexibility for travellers who may need to reschedule, Air Belgium is pleased to confirm that they will not interrupt their flight schedule to Fort-de-France during the months of September and October 2021. Flights to Martinique will be operated continuously from July 2nd onwards. Flights to the islands of Guadeloupe will resume on July 2nd and will also operate continuously except from September 1st to October 15th, 2021.

A new route to the Caribbean starting on July 3rd: Curaçao

Air Belgium is expanding its services to the Caribbean by launching a flight from Brussels Charleroi airport to Curaçao via Fort-de-France airport in Martinique.

After launching flights to the French Antilles in December 2019, it is a logical step for the airline to offer the Netherlands Antilles. While the French Antilles naturally attract more French-speaking customers (from Belgium or northern France), the Netherlands Antilles appeal more to Dutch-speaking customers (from Belgium or southern Netherlands).

Flights to Curaçao are now open for booking and will take off on July 3rd. The flight time between Fort-de-France and Curaçao is one hour and thirty minutes. Passengers in transit to/from Curaçao remain on board the aircraft during the stopover in Fort-de-France.

"Although the current crisis is affecting us terribly, we remain committed to resuming and expanding our operations. We have taken advantage of the last few weeks to work on developing new destinations as well as increasing our fleet through the successful launch of cargo operations to complement our core business. It is with great pleasure that we offer our passengers the opportunity to fly to the beautiful island of Curaçao in the Netherlands Antilles from July onwards", Niky Terzakis, CEO d'Air Belgium.

ABOUT AIR BELGIUM

Air Belgium SA is a company under Belgian law with its registered office in Mont-Saint-Guibert in Walloon Brabant. Its vocation is to offer direct intercontinental flights from Belgium. Exclusively specialised in long-haul flights at competitive fares and for business and leisure travellers, its strong Belgian identity is felt through all its services on the ground and on board.

Air Belgium operates flights from the main Belgian airports: Brussels Airport (Zaventem), Brussels Charleroi Airport and Liège Airport. In addition to its regular passenger routes, Air Belgium has developed its own cargo activities and also provides services for many prestigious international airlines, tour operators, cruise lines and foreign governments.