



PRESS RELEASE

Under embargo until 14 September 2022

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AIR BELGIUM CONNECTS BELGIUM AND SOUTH AFRICA AND THIRTY-EIGHT OTHER DESTINATIONS ACROSS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

With the launch of its new routes between Brussels Airport, Johannesburg and Cape Town, Air Belgium offers business and leisure travellers direct flights to South Africa and thirty-eight destinations in Southern Africa.

BRUSSELS, 14 SEPTEMBER 2022 - Air Belgium is reintroducing direct flight connections between Belgium and South Africa. From 14 September, travellers will take off from Brussels Airport every Wednesday and Sunday at 19h45 - arriving in Johannesburg at 07h15 the next day - with a continuation to Cape Town and an arrival at 11h00 (local time at the stations).

"This is an exciting and important chapter for Air Belgium," says Niky Terzakis, CEO.

South Africa is one of the most important economic market for Belgium. The reopening of these air connections, which have been suspended for more than thirty years, is eagerly anticipated. About two hundred Belgian companies, large and small, are established or have branches in South Africa. Flights between the two countries are therefore essential for these businesses. They support trade and, more generally, economic development. Belgium is South Africa's sixth most important trade partner.

On average, approximately 60,000 passengers depart from Belgium each year, despite the lack of a direct flight. This number should easily reach 80,000 by 2024. The new Air Belgium routes will fill this gap. It should also be noted that many compatriots live and work in South Africa.

This launch also marks the beginning of a major partnership between Air Belgium and South Africa's largest airline, Airlink. Air Belgium will not only offer tickets to Johannesburg and Cape Town, but also up to thirty-eight destinations on the African continent via Airlink's extensive network. Sixteen domestic destinations in South Africa and twenty-two destinations to eleven other countries on the continent.

This agreement allows Air Belgium to offer the most direct and fastest connections from Brussels Airport with correct fares and a lower CO2 emission rate.

"For Brussels Airport, the launch of Air Belgium's South Africa route marks an important milestone as we are expanding our destinations network with Johannesburg and Cape Town, explains Arnaud Feist, CEO of Brussels Airport. After no less than 20 years, we are particularly proud that this route is opening again. This confirms that Brussels Airport is the right fit for Air Belgium's long-haul services. We both have a diversified customer base including Belgian and foreign residents, as well as transfer passengers. We also share a passion for outstanding passenger experience and tailor-made services. This new destination will be operated with Airbus A330-900neo aircraft, that combine environmental and economic performance with excellent comfort. This aircraft fits in perfectly with our commitment to develop a sustainable future for aviation".



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FLIGHTS OFFERED VIA AIR BELGIUM AND AIRLINK:

South Africa: Durban, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, George, Skukuza, Upington, Hoedspruit, Nelspruit, Port Elizabeth, Pietermaritzburg, Mthatha, Sishen, Polokwane, Richards Bay, Cape Town, East London

Democratic Republic of Congo: Lubumbashi

Tanzania: Dar Es-Salaam

Angola: Luanda

Zimbabwe: Harare, Victoria Falls

Namibia: Windhoek, Walvis Bay

Zambia: Lusaka, Ndola, Livingstone

Uganda: Entebbe

Botswana: Gaborone, Maun, Kasane

Mozambique: Maputo, Vilanculos, Nampula, Pemba, Beira, Tete

Lesotho: Moshoeshoe

Madagascar: Antananarivo, Nosy Be

"The social and economic ties between Belgium and South Africa are historic and well established. The historic nexus between South Africa and Belgium is important especially in consideration of the relevance Brussels has to the European Union. Air access and connectivity in Southern Africa has experienced a watershed caused by the COVID pandemic. Airlink is privileged to have survived the change and to have capitalised on the opportunities that it has presented. Our reputation includes a proven record of delivering exceptional service, unmatched reliability, on time performance, and memorable moments of truth. The air travel markets are rapidly returning to pre-covid levels and right now there is an imbalance between demand and supply such that there could never be a better time for Air Belgium to enter the market with BRU as a central gateway to Europe, and JNB and CPT providing reciprocity. It is therefore with great delight that we commit to this commercial partnership and welcome Air Belgium to South Africa and to Airlink's comprehensive network of destinations throughout Southern Africa", Rodger Foster, CEO.

Air Belgium passengers can enjoy three classes of service on board the airline's A330neo aircraft (30 seats in business class, 21 seats in premium class and 235 seats in economy class). These aircraft are equipped with the latest technology and are the most modern to fly under Belgian flag. More than ever, the company promotes Belgium and its know-how through its services, in particular with typical Belgian dishes, the availability of local products on board, its humility, its humour and the hospitality of its staff.

"We often talk about 'Belgitude' and our motto is 'Fly Belgian Class', which is about bringing back joy and comfort to passengers in all classes of travel," says Niky Terzakis. "And while our passengers enjoy our fun and engaging approach to travel, we also offer them what really matters: safe and hassle-free travel, all-inclusive prices including a generous baggage allowance. We also offer travellers a more environmentally friendly travel option as the Airbus A330neo consumes on average 25% less fuel than previous generation aircraft. In terms of comfort, our aircraft provide the very best: quieter cabins, dimmable lighting, a state-of-the-art in-flight entertainment system and WIFI internet connection throughout the flight.

Fares start from €553 for an all-inclusive round trip between Brussels Airport and Johannesburg and from €722 between Brussels Airport and Cape Town. All passengers get a minimum baggage allowance of 30kg and meals are included even in economy class.

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FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Aircraft type	The Airbus A330neo offers 3 comfortable travel classes: BUSINESS, PREMIUM and ECONOMY.
Flight frequency	Two weekly flights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Brussels Airport every Wednesday and Sunday (arriving the next day on Thursday and Monday) - Departure from Cape Town and Johannesburg every Monday and Thursday (arrival the next day on Tuesday and Friday)
Flight Schedule	BRU – JNB – CPT: 19h45 – 07h15+1 – 11h00+1 CPT – JNB – BRU: 15h00 – 18h45 – 06h15+1
First flight	14 September 2022
Fare	Return economy fares start from €553 (to Johannesburg), €722 (to Cape Town) and ZAR 11,569 (to Brussels Airport)
Configuration	Business Class: 30 seats (can be converted into beds, 4 seats per row) Premium Class: 21 seats (spacious seats in rows of 7) Economy Class: 235 seats (8 seats per row with a comfortable legroom of 79cm)
Entertainment	All cabins are equipped with a large selection of entertainment. Up to 120 films (recent releases and classics), documentaries on various destinations, cartoons and TV series, a library of 600 music titles and a dozen games for all ages.
Wi-Fi	The Airbus A330neo aircraft offers Wi-Fi access. Air Belgium offers 3 different packages to meet the needs of all passengers: Chat, Surf Easy and Surf Plus. Passengers can also make calls, send SMS or MMS by activating their roaming.



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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.

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