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JAMAICA WELCOMES INAUGURAL SPIRIT AIRLINES FLIGHT FROM CONNETICUT TO MONTEGO BAY



Pictured: Top brass of the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) and local officials pause for a photo moment ahead of the inaugural arrival of Spirit Airlines from the Bradley International Airport in Hartford, Connecticut, USA, at the Sangster International Airport (SIA) in Montego Bay Thursday (December 15th, 2022). From left are Donnie Dawson, Deputy Director of tourism at the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), with responsibilities for the Americas; Sharon Hislop, Commercial and Marketing Director at the SIA; Robin Russell, President of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association; Francine Carter-Henry (left), the Jamaica Tourist Board's representative in the USA for Tour Operators and Airline Partners; Donovan White, Director of Tourism at the JTB; Christopher Daugherty, Director of Guest Experience at Spirit Airlines; Nicole Aguiar, Spirit's senior specialist for External Communications; and Richard Vernon, Deputy Mayor of Montego Bay. Spirit Airlines will make four weekly non-stop flights between the two airports on Sundays; Tuesdays; Thursdays and Saturdays. The Jamaica Tourist Board was the pioneering force in cementing the deal between the airline executives, the Sangster International Airport and the Jamaican government.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, December 16, 2022 – Continuing to expand ease of access to the island for US travelers, Jamaica welcomed new air service from Connecticut’s Bradley International Airport (BDL) in Hartford to Sangster International Airport (MBJ) in Montego Bay yesterday morning by Spirit Airlines. This is the first ever nonstop flight from Connecticut to Jamaica, making the event truly a historic one.

“We are extremely pleased to welcome the inaugural flight by Spirit from Connecticut to Jamaica, providing us with further reach into the key Northeastern U.S.,” said the Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism, Jamaica. “The expansion of our partnership with Spirit Airlines is a welcome addition to our airlift arrangements as we continue our drive to further boost the flow of visitors to Jamaica through the addition of new gateways and greater seat support.”

“This new non-stop service provides yet another convenient option for visitors to get to our beautiful island,” added Donovan White, Director of Tourism, Jamaica Tourist Board. “It is wonderful to see so many people on board the very first flight, indicating strong demand for Jamaica from the Connecticut area.”

Upon landing in Montego Bay, the arriving flight received a high-spraying water cannon salute on the runway to mark the occasion. Disembarking passengers were greeted by officials from the Jamaica Tourist Board and the airport. In keeping with tradition, gifts were presented to the pilots and crew of the flight in appreciation of their service. Live music from a Jamaican mento band capped off the festive atmosphere.



***Pictured:** Spirit Airlines' inaugural flight from Hartford arrived at the Sangster International Airport (MBJ) in Montego Bay yesterday morning.*

Connecticut is home to one of the largest Jamaican communities in the world, with the fifth largest population of residents having Jamaican ancestry among all U.S. states. In addition to the new flight from Bradley International Airport now operating four times weekly year-round, Spirit also operates non-stop flights to Jamaica from Baltimore, Fort Lauderdale and Orlando.

For more information about Jamaica, please visit www.visitjamaica.com.

ABOUT THE JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), founded in 1955, is Jamaica's national tourism agency based in the capital city of Kingston. JTB offices are also located in Montego Bay, Miami, Toronto and London. Representative offices are located in Berlin, Barcelona, Rome, Amsterdam, Mumbai, Tokyo and Paris.

In 2021, the JTB was declared 'World's Leading Cruise Destination,' 'World's Leading Family Destination' and 'World's Leading Wedding Destination' for the second consecutive year by the World Travel Awards, which also named it the 'Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board' for the 14th consecutive year; and the 'Caribbean's Leading Destination' for the 16th consecutive year; as well as the 'Caribbean's Best Nature Destination' and the 'Caribbean's Best Adventure Tourism Destination.' In addition, Jamaica was awarded four gold 2021 Travvy Awards, including 'Best Destination, Caribbean/Bahamas,' 'Best Culinary Destination –Caribbean,' 'Best Travel Agent Academy Program,'; as well as a *TravelAge West* WAVE award for 'International

Tourism Board Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support' for a record-setting 10th time. In 2020, the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA) named Jamaica the 2020 'Destination of the Year for Sustainable Tourism'. In 2019, TripAdvisor® ranked Jamaica as the #1 Caribbean Destination and #14 Best Destination in the World. Jamaica is home to some of the world's best accommodations, attractions and service providers that continue to receive prominent global recognition.

For details on upcoming special events, attractions and accommodations in Jamaica go to the JTB's Website at www.visitjamaica.com or call the Jamaica Tourist Board at 1-800-JAMAICA (1-800-526-2422). Follow the JTB on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#). View the JTB blog at www.islandbuzzjamaica.com.