



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AMERICAN AIRLINES LAUNCHES NEW DIRECT SERVICE FROM AUSTIN, TEXAS TO MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 04 2022// Sangster International Airport (SIA), Jamaica’s leading gateway to the world operated by MBJ Airports Limited, today welcomed American Airlines (AA) inaugural once weekly scheduled service on Saturdays from Austin, Texas, USA.

The inaugural flight using an Embraer 175 aircraft with capacity of 76 persons was met with a water salute from MBJ’s Emergency Response Service firefighting units. Government officials including Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett and Deputy Mayor of Montego Bay, Richard Vernon, were in attendance to greet the 66 arriving passengers and crew. Senior Jamaica Tourist Board, Airport officials, other tourism partners and media were also present.

Disembarking passengers were greeted by live performance of from a Jamaican Mento band and Jamaican memorabilia was presented to the crew by the Jamaica Tourist Board.

In welcoming the flight, Hon. Minister Bartlett indicated that “summer 2022 will be the strongest summer that Jamaica’s tourism has ever seen, exceeding 2019 figures.”

American Airlines is excited about the addition of this new service. “As we celebrate our 45th anniversary in Jamaica, we are thrilled to continue strengthening our presence with new service between Austin and Montego Bay, and in just a few months with the launch of our third destination in the island, Ocho Rios.” said Jose Maria Giraldo, American Airlines’ Managing Director for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. “These new flights will complement our robust Jamaican footprint, including up to 15 daily flights this summer.”

“This is a significant milestone for MBJ airports and Jamaica’s aviation sector. After the major decline in air travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am particularly pleased to see a brand new service launched, expanding our ability to move and connect people, as aviation traffic steadily climb. We welcome American Airlines and look forward to even more partnerships and connectivity,” were sentiments shared by the Minister of Transport & Mining, Hon. Audley Shaw.

President and Chief Executive Officer of the Airports Authority of Jamaica, Mr. Audley Deidrick commented on the service stating “The Airports Authority of Jamaica (AAJ) welcome this new service by American Airlines (AA) from Austin, Texas to the Sangster International Airport (SIA), and by extension to Jamaica. This important new route will certainly provide greater convenience for travellers between South-Western USA and Jamaica, and also serves to reinforce AA’s longstanding position as Jamaica’s number one carrier.”



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MBJ Airports Limited is also pleased with this new service as indicated by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Shane Munroe, "The expansion of this new route to MBJ is an indication that the confidence that American Airlines has in Jamaica as a destination is unwavering and they continue to respond to the needs of travellers, thus this direct service from Texas. We look forward to welcoming passengers directly from Austin, Texas on a weekly basis."





About MBJ Airports:

MBJ Airports Limited, operator of Sangster International Airport, connects Jamaica to more than 60 international destinations. A record of 4.7m passengers used the airport in 2019. MBJ operates SIA under a 30-year concession awarded in 2003 and the airport provides employment to more than 7,500 persons. SIA has been named the Caribbean's Leading Airport by World Travel Awards for 14 years.

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