## **MEDIA RELEASE**



#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

# LATAM Airlines Peru returns to Sangster International Airport, expanding MBJ's South American connectivity

### **MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA – 08 DECEMBER 2024:**

Sangster International Airport, operated by MBJ Airports Limited (MBJ) marked a significant expansion of its international routes with the return of LATAM Airlines Peru, connecting Jamaica with direct non-stop service to Lima, Peru. The inaugural flight touched down at 4:38 PM on Sunday, December 1, 2024 with a full complement of 151 passengers aboard an A320 aircraft, signalling a strong demand for the route.

The service, operating three times weekly on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, represents a crucial link between Jamaica and South America, offering connections to major destinations including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay through LATAM's extensive network.

"The return of LATAM Airlines to Sangster International Airport marks a significant milestone in our route development strategy," said Shane Munroe, CEO of MBJ Airports Limited. "This service not only strengthens our connectivity with South America but also demonstrates the growing confidence that airlines have in Jamaica as a premier destination. The full inaugural flight shows the strong demand for travel between these regions, and we're excited to facilitate this important connection."

The resumption of LATAM's service joins other recent route additions at MBJ, including Bahamas Air's service from Nassau, Bahamas, and Avelo Airlines' flights from Hartford, Connecticut, increasing the airport's connectivity to 46 international destinations.

Tourism Minister Hon. Edmund Bartlett, who was present for the inaugural arrival along with other dignitaries, welcomed the development as a boost to Jamaica's tourism sector. The service, which is scheduled to arrive MBJ at 4:45 PM and departs at 5:45 PM also has the added benefit that Jamaicans traveling to Peru do not require a visa.

The return of LATAM Airlines, which commenced operations on this route in December 2019 and ceased due to the COVID-19 pandemic, represents a strong vote of confidence in Jamaica's tourism recovery and MBJ's position as a leading Caribbean aviation hub.

For more information about flights and connections, travellers are encouraged to visit the airport's website or contact their travel agent.



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**Photo Caption:** The Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism and Donovan White, Director of Tourism, with LATAM Crew.

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### **About Sangster International Airport:**

Sangster International Airport (IATA: MBJ, ICAO: MKJS) is an international Airport located 3 mi (4.8 km) east of Montego Bay, Jamaica. The Airport is capable of handling nine million passengers per year. It serves as the most



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popular Airport for tourists visiting the north coast of Jamaica. The Airport is named after former Jamaican Prime Minister Sir Donald Sangster.

#### **About MBJ Airports:**

MBJ Airports Limited, the operator of Sangster International Airport, connects Jamaica to more than 60 international destinations. A record 5.267m passengers used the Airport in 2023. 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 16 years.

