

JAX FAX

AIRLINE INTELLIGENCE

IN THE AIR



TAAG INCREASES FLIGHTS

The Angolan Airlines (**TAAG**) announced the increase of number of domestic and regional flights, under the IATA obligations, to get into force in the new summer time in the domestic and international network. In response to demand, March 31 through October 26th, using Boeing 737-700 equipment, the company will start flying to Cape Town, South Africa, on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. The Cabinda province will have now four flights a week, on Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. TAAG also announced the holding of daily flights to Catumbela (Benguela), with rotation to the city of Ondjiva (Cunene) on Wednesday and Sundays. Until August 31 2013, flights to the city of Namibe are suspended, due to rehabilitation of the local airport. www.taag.com

AIR ASTANA NEW FLIGHTS

Starting March 31, 2013 **Air Astana Airline** (Kazakhstan) launched regular flights from Kyiv to Astana and Almaty. The Kyiv-Astana flights will be performed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays using Embraer 190 aircraft (the flying time is four hours). The Kyiv-Almaty flight will be performed on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays using an Airbus A320 (the flying time is five hours). www.airastana.com

FLYBE'S SUMMER FLIGHTS

Low cost airline **Flybe** has launched its East Midlands Airport summer schedule. From March 31 until October 27, it will be operating up to 192 flights a week on six routes to Amsterdam, Belfast City, Paris Charles de Gaulle, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Jersey. Late last year it announced a code-sharing service, which means travelers can now buy an Air France ticket to travel on Flybe routes to Charles de Gaulle, before joining connecting flights. Flybe managing director Andrew Strong said: "Through our code share partners, we are able to offer our customers even more travel choice that extends further our reach across Europe and the rest of the world, when booked through a travel agent. This, combined with the many add-ed-value products we offer, such as mobile check-in and the dropping of debit card charges for online bookings, gives our customers added incentive to plan their summer travels with Flybe." www.flybe.com

REINSTATED ROUTES

Air Botswana announced it is reinstating the Maun-Cape Town and Maun-Kasane routes effectively immediately. The GSA for Air Botswana for North America requests travel pro-

fessionals in the U.S. and Canada call **800-518-7781** with any Air Botswana questions or issues. www.airbotswana.co.bw

SAS PLUS AND SAS GO

In June, **SAS** is launching a new service concept, replacing previous service classes with two new alternatives: SAS Go for customers who want to have a lot and SAS Plus for customers who want to have more. These products meet the increasing demand for smoother and more time-efficient journeys for both leisure and business passengers. SAS Go always includes a checked bag at no extra charge, coffee or tea onboard, and mobile check-in. SAS Plus includes two checked bags at no extra charge, SAS Fast Track, lounge access, meals and drinks onboard as well as twice the number of EuroBonus points; all of this is on top of the benefits offered by SAS Go. www.flysas.com/us

MAJOR EXPANSION IN EAST ASIA

Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing airline in Africa, announced an expansion of its Asian network, adding three new destinations: Ho Chi Minh City, Manila and Seoul, as of June 18, 2013. In addition, flights from Addis Ababa to Hong Kong will no longer need to stop in Bangkok; Hong Kong will now be served via daily non-stop service from Addis Ababa instead of the current four-times-a-week flights routed through Bangkok. Also effective June 18, the daily Bangkok services will extend to Kuala Lumpur and to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. The Addis Ababa-Bangkok-Kuala Lumpur service will increase from three to four weekly flights. Three of the daily flights to Bangkok will extend to Ho Chi Minh using a 246-seat 767-300ER aircraft. www.ethiopianairlines.com

FINNAIR'S NEW AGREEMENT

Finnair has launched a two-month trial of a new in-flight entertainment system using the new HP Windows 8 tablets and wireless internet service on board one of its Airbus A330 wide body aircraft. Devices, which will be used on both scheduled and charter flights, will be placed in Business Class on scheduled flights and in Comfort Class on charter flights. Participating passengers will be offered an HP Windows 8 tablet loaded movies, TV shows, music and games. Additionally, the tablet includes wellness-related programs, such as a relaxation app to cope with time difference. Passengers will be asked to participate in a survey, and the information obtained will be used to develop Finnair's in-flight entertainment service concept. www.finnair.com