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VIRGIN ATLANTIC CARGO TO LAUNCH DAILY HEATHROW-CAPE TOWN FLIGHTS AND EXPAND CAPACITY TO CUBA FROM OCTOBER 2020

Virgin Atlantic Cargo will launch a new daily Heathrow-Cape Town service from October 2020 and increase capacity to Cuba as part of their winter flying programme.

As Virgin Atlantic celebrates 24 years of services to South Africa, the introduction of Cape Town flights from Heathrow for the winter season will offer new export and import opportunities for customers already supporting Virgin Atlantic's existing double daily services from Heathrow to Johannesburg. The 787-9 service will commence on 25th October.

South Africa is one of Virgin Atlantic's most popular cargo routes, attracting regular shipments of pre-packed fruit salads, vegetables, stone fruits and fish as well as car parts, computer and electrical components, mining equipment, pharmaceuticals, books and magazines. In March, Johannesburg will also be the first non-US route to begin services with the airline's new Airbus A350-1000.

The VS478 will operate as a night flight departing Heathrow at 16:20 arriving into Cape Town at 05:55 whereas the inbound, the VS479, will depart at 08:00 landing later that day at 18:00.

Virgin Atlantic will also reinforce its position as the only airline flying directly to Havana from London Heathrow by adding another weekly service to the city. Flights will depart Heathrow every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday on a 787-9 aircraft.

The winter flying enhancements are in addition to Virgin Atlantic's new daily services from Heathrow to Sao Paulo, second daily Delhi flights and increased Heathrow-San Francisco flights, which all take-off at the end of March. Virgin Atlantic Cargo is also marketing the cargo capacity of Virgin Australia's new daily Brisbane-Tokyo Haneda flights, which start on 29 March.

Dominic Kennedy, Managing Director of Virgin Atlantic Cargo, said: "This year, with the growth of our flying programme and our new expanded joint venture with Air France-KLM and Delta, we're giving our cargo customers unprecedented access to new markets, new gateways in existing markets and extra frequencies. South Africa is a great cargo market and the addition of Cape Town to our network, alongside the launch of A350 flights on Johannesburg, will increase the choice we can offer our customers in the UK and South Africa as well as those in the US who trade with South Africa via our London hub. We are also pleased to be offering more capacity for customers moving goods to and from Havana. 2020 is an exciting year for Virgin and our customers."

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For more information contact:

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Notes to Editors:

About Virgin Atlantic Cargo

Cargo has been an important part of Virgin Atlantic's business ever since the airline was founded by entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson 34 years ago. Today, the airline carries over 240 million kilos of cargo annually and, with a strong commitment to innovation and customer service at its core, Virgin Atlantic Cargo is recognised as one of the world's most customer-focused and service-oriented airlines, earning 14 international Cargo Airline of the Year awards.

Headquartered in London, Virgin Atlantic Cargo trades in 37 countries and sells services to destinations in over 60 countries worldwide. Alongside joint venture partner Delta Cargo, they operate a leading transatlantic network, offering a choice of 38 flights a day between the UK and US which, in 2019, carried over a quarter of total trans-Atlantic air cargo volumes.

Virgin Atlantic Cargo is also the long-haul international cargo sales and management partner for Virgin Australia, connecting the two airline's networks over Los Angeles and Hong Kong.

Virgin Atlantic Cargo's customers are benefiting from the up to 22% increase in capacity provided by the airline's growing fleet of Airbus A350-1000 as well as Virgin Atlantic Cargo and Delta Cargo's move to a new state-of-the-art Export facility at Heathrow, which will ultimately double size of their joint operation at the airport. Investment in new technologies will also make Virgin Atlantic Cargo even easier to do business.

In 2019, Virgin Atlantic launched new, daily Heathrow-Tel Aviv and Heathrow-Mumbai services and, at the end of March 2020, will commence the airline's first services to South America with daily Heathrow-Sao Paulo flights. Customers will also have the choice of double daily flights between Heathrow-Delhi, more capacity to San Francisco, as well as Virgin Australia's new Brisbane-Tokyo Haneda route.

On February 3rd, 2020, Air France-KLM Cargo, Delta Air Lines Cargo and Virgin Atlantic Cargo announced the launch of their expanded trans-Atlantic Joint Venture, promising cargo customers more connections, greater shipment routing flexibility, improved trucking options, aligned services and innovative digital solutions. The new partnership, which represents 23% of total trans-Atlantic cargo capacity or more than 600,000 tonnes annually, will enable the airlines to offer the best-ever customer experience, and a combined network of up to 341 peak daily trans-Atlantic services – a choice of 110 nonstop routes with onward connections to 238 cities in North America, 98 in Continental Europe and 16 in the U.K.

For more information, go to virginatlanticcargo.com