

REPORT: AIRLINES: AFRICA

What you need to know

February 2023

This report presents a roundup of what's been happening to Africa's airlines over the last month.

Major carriers

Ethiopian Airlines

Two African routes launching in March

On [March 26](#), Ethiopian Airlines will start two new international services within Africa. It will offer [11 weekly](#) flights to Accra and also start non-stop services to Cape Town.

JFK services to start

Ethiopian Airlines will launch a new [four times weekly](#) service between Addis Ababa and New York JFK from [May 29](#). The service, which will operate via Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire, joins the previously announced new operation to Atlanta, which is due to start on [May 16](#).

South African Airways

Airline gets a government bailout

South African Airways (SAA) is to receive R1 billion (US\$55 million) from the South African government to pay off liabilities accrued between December 2019 and April 2021, when the airline was subject to a business rescue plan. The money will be used to fund SAA's final dividend payment to creditors and refunds due on unflown tickets.

The government is selling 51% of SAA to the Takatso Aviation consortium, but it has declined to take on the airline's historical debts. The latest move reduces SAA's liabilities, but R2.59 billion is still outstanding, potentially jeopardizing progress on the sale. SAA has indicated that it will continue to negotiate with the National Treasury for the balance.

Until the government clears SAA's debts, the conditions will not have been met for Takatso Aviation to finalize the investment transaction.

Other carriers

Air Peace

Widebody fleet upgrade likely

Nigerian carrier Air Peace is looking to update and potentially expand its widebody fleet. The airline, which operates three Boeing 777s, is in negotiations with Boeing over an order for Boeing 787s.

Airlink

New BA codeshare signed

Airlink has signed a codeshare partnership with British Airways, improving connectivity between 18 destinations across Southern Africa and the U.K., Europe and North America. BA passengers will be able to connect over Cape Town or Johannesburg onto Airlink services to destinations including Durban, Port Elizabeth and Skukuza in South Africa, and Walvis Bay and Windhoek in Namibia.

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at February 28, 2023. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please email mike.eggleton@bcdtravel.co.uk to share your thoughts.