

# REPORT: AIRLINES: AFRICA

## What you need to know

December 2024

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

### Major carriers

#### Kenya Airways

##### London Gatwick joining network

On [July 2, 2025](#), Kenya Airways will add London Gatwick airport to its network. A new [thrice-weekly](#) service from Nairobi will complement its existing daily service to Heathrow. The airline's CEO has suggested that Gatwick is just the beginning of its expansion plans for the U.K. market.

#### South African Airways

##### Pilots' pay demand unaffordable

South African Airways (SAA) initially responded to a 30% pay rise demanded by its pilots with an offer of 8.46%. The airline warned that it lacked the finances to afford such a rise, which could drive it back into bankruptcy. After a day of strike action, the pilots returned to work having secured a total salary increase of 9.47%. As a condition, SAA's pilots have agreed to talks on a continuous enterprise improvement program.

### Other carriers

#### Air Congo

##### New DRC airline launches

On December 1, newly-established Air Congo commenced operations with a flight operated from Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to Lubumbashi in Burundi. The airline, which is 51%-owned by Ethiopian Airlines, will initially focus on domestic services linking seven airports within the DRC.

#### Air Seychelles

##### Codeshare agreed with Etihad

Air Seychelles has agreed a codeshare arrangement with Etihad Airways. As a result, Air Seychelles will start [six-times-weekly](#) service from Mahe to Abu Dhabi from [May 24, 2025](#). These will complement Etihad's existing twice-weekly flights on the route. Its passengers will also gain access to Praslin and Mauritius on Air Seychelles' flights.

#### Air Tanzania

##### Safety concerns prompt EU ban

Even though it doesn't currently fly to Europe, Air Tanzania has been added to the European Union's list of banned airlines. This follows safety concerns raised by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). Air Tanzania had been seeking permission to start flights to Europe. It will need to convince EASA that it is fully compliant with international aviation standards.

## Congo Airways

### Extra aircraft supports network expansion

In an effort to increase capacity as it attempts to return to full operations, Congo Airways has leased in a second Boeing 737-800. The extra aircraft has enabled the airline to launch flights from Goma to Kisangani, Kinshasa and Kindu, and between Kananga and Lubumbashi in Burundi.

## SA Express Airways

### Talks under way to resurrect airline

FlyModernArk has initiated a project aimed at relaunching SA Express Airways by bringing together a consortium of aviation professionals, including former SA Express employees. The plan is to restore SA Express as a key regional carrier in Southern Africa. The consortium is currently in advanced discussions with regulators and partners.

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at December 20, 2024. 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.eggleson@bcdtravel.co.uk](mailto:mike.eggleson@bcdtravel.co.uk) to share your thoughts.