

fastjet announces new flights linking South Africa and Zimbabwe

Low-cost airline expands its pan-African network with direct international routes from Johannesburg to Harare and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe

Johannesburg, 18 January 2016 – fastjet has announced that its newest international routes will be from Johannesburg to Harare and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

The launch of these routes is as a result of fastjet receiving clearance from the Zimbabwean and South African governments to operate flights between the two respective countries.

Return flights from Harare International Airport and Victoria Falls International Airport to Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport will operate using fastjet's modern Airbus A319 jet aircraft with seating for up to 144 passengers.

The Johannesburg/Harare route will commence on 1 February 2016 and operate daily with an additional daily flight expected to be quickly added by fastjet as consumer awareness and demand increases for its affordable, safe, quick and on-time service.

Flights linking Victoria Falls to and from Johannesburg will initially be three times a week on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays, commencing 3 February 2016.

Tickets for flights will be on sale this week, with fastjet advising passengers to book early to take advantage of its lowest priced fares on both routes of R1,339.18* (US\$80) one-way. This excludes government and airport taxes (R836.99 [US\$50] departing Zimbabwe / R585.89 [US\$35] departing South Africa).

The initial daily flights will depart from Harare at 06h15 and land in Johannesburg at 07h55, with a flight time of 1 hour 40 minutes. The return flight from Johannesburg to Harare departs at 08h40, landing at 10h15 (all local times).

Finalised slots and timetables for the flights linking Victoria Falls and Johannesburg are still to be confirmed by the respective airports.

The flights to Harare and Victoria Falls mark the third and fourth international routes for fastjet from South Africa with the airline presently operating to Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.

fastjet also announced that it expects to receive approval for additional international flights to commence from Zimbabwe to further East and Southern Africa markets within the first quarter of 2016.

“When fastjet’s first flight took off over three years ago, we promised that we would make air travel more accessible than ever before across Africa, and today’s announcement is a further significant step in fulfilling that promise” said Richard Bodin, fastjet’s Chief Commercial Officer.

“The only alternative to flying is to undertake long and uncomfortable journeys by road, which can take up to 20 hours from Johannesburg to Harare or Victoria Falls. As has been the case with other routes that we have launched, we expect many of our passengers to be first time flyers who, because of prohibitively high fares, cannot afford to travel by air,” Bodin continues.

Supporting this statement is recent research undertaken by the fastjet, showing that up to 40% of passengers on all routes were first time flyers able to afford air travel for the first time, thanks to fastjet’s low fares.

“Making it easier for more entrepreneurs, traders, tourists and other visitors to travel between South Africa and Zimbabwe and will strengthen the countries’ relationship, boost tourism and business sectors, create jobs and contribute significantly to both countries’ economic growth,” Bodin adds.

Available for purchase on these routes will be fastjet’s luggage upgrade option, ‘Freighty’, that allows passengers to transport up to 80kg of checked in bags. The Freighty luggage option in particular is expected to be popular with traders flying with fastjet to purchase wholesale produce in Johannesburg to transport back to their home markets to sell.

Bookings can be made online at www.fastjet.com/za, through travel agents or by contacting fastjet's South African call centre on +27 (0)11 289 8090.