

Press Release: 12 February 2020

Virgin Atlantic Returns To The Mother City

- **Virgin Atlantic Announces Seasonal Route From Cape Town To London Heathrow**
- **Route Commences October 2020**
- **Flights Go On Sale From 18 February 2020**

Virgin Atlantic has announced the reintroduction of Cape Town to London Heathrow with the seasonal service taking to the skies from October 2020 onwards. The route will be adding over 80 000 seats between Cape Town and London.

The seasonal service launches on 25th October and will complement the existing daily A350 service flying between Johannesburg and London Heathrow. 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. The Cape Town flights will be operated on Virgin Atlantic's Boeing 787-9 aircraft, offering customers the airline's award-winning Upper Class, Premium and Economy Light, Classic and Delight cabins. Virgin Atlantic offers a full onboard service in each of its cabins, providing complimentary food, drink and over 300 hours of entertainment across films, TV and music channels. All the airlines 787-9 are fully equipped with Wi-Fi, allowing customers to stay connected throughout their flight.

Liezl Gericke, Head of Africa, Middle East and India, at Virgin Atlantic commented: "I am thrilled of the reintroduction of this popular route; it will make it even easier for our customers to travel for business and leisure between South Africa and the United Kingdom – as well as creating additional cargo capacity for the route. The daily service will not only enhance a vital link between Cape Town and the UK's capital, but it also provides seamless connections via Heathrow to Europe and North America".

Minister of Tourism, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane says:

"South Africa has set an ambitious target of reaching 21 million international tourist arrivals by 2030. To this end the Department of Tourism has embarked on a number of programmes aimed at positioning South Africa as a destination of choice for tourists. Fortunately, South Africa is endowed with diverse tourist attractions that includes unspoiled wilderness and safaris, beautiful landscapes, beautiful sandy beaches and lush winelands around Stellenbosch and Paarl. With such a unique bouquet of tourism attractions, South Africa is uniquely positioned to offer authentic and memorable tourist experiences. However, presented with the many choices of holiday destinations, travellers are more inclined to choose destinations with ease of access especially air access. It is within this context that we welcome Virgin Atlantic's decision to reintroduce flights from London to Cape Town. United Kingdom is one of our key tourist source market and we believe that an additional direct flight route from this market will hugely contribute towards us reaching our 2030 goal as it will transport more tourists to our shores."

New services on sale from 18th February 2020. Visit www.virginatlantic.com for more information and to book.

Ends

For more information please contact the Virgin Atlantic Press Office on 01293 747373 or email press.office@fly.virgin.com

About Virgin Atlantic

Virgin Atlantic was founded by entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson 35 years ago with innovation and customer service at its core. Today Virgin Atlantic carries 5.4 million customers annually and was recently voted Britain's only Global Five Star Airline by APEX for the third year running in the Official Airline Ratings. Headquartered in London, Virgin Atlantic employs more than 10,000 people worldwide and operates a fleet of 45 aircraft serving 25 destinations across four continents. Alongside joint venture partner Delta Air Lines they operate a leading transatlantic network - offering up to 38 flights per day between the UK and US with onward connections to over 200 US and international cities. In September 2019, Virgin Atlantic took delivery of its first Airbus A350-1000 aircraft - helping to transform the fleet into one of the quietest and most fuel efficient in the sky.-

The airline's ambition is to become Britain's second flag carrier at an expanded Heathrow airport, connecting passengers between a domestic, European, and global network. More information on the campaign for slot reform can be found here: www.twoflagcarriers.com.

On May 15, 2018 Air France-KLM, Delta Air Lines and Virgin Atlantic Limited signed definitive agreements to combine the existing trans-Atlantic joint ventures. From January 2020 the airlines' expanded joint venture will become the preferred choice for customers travelling across the Atlantic offering the most comprehensive route network, convenient flight schedules, competitive fares and reciprocal frequent flyer benefits, including the ability to earn and redeem miles across all carriers.

In July 2019 the Connect Airways consortium - comprising Virgin Atlantic, Stobart Group and Cyrus Capital Partners - acquired Flybe. Flybe is Europe's largest regional airline, flying 9.4 million passengers each year across 120 routes, connecting customers around the UK regions to Virgin Atlantic hubs in Manchester and London Heathrow. In October 2019, Flybe announced it will become 'Virgin Connect' in 2020.

For more information visit: www.virginatlantic.com or www.virginholidays.co.uk or via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @virginatlantic @virginholidays