

Sichuan Airlines Resumes Flights to the Maldives, Reinforcing Tourism Growth



Velana International Airport, August 2, 2023 – Sichuan Airlines, one of China's leading carriers, has officially resumed flights to the Maldives, signifying a pivotal moment for the country's tourism industry. The resumption flight, carrying 186 passengers, gracefully landed at Velana International Airport at 6:05 PM yesterday evening, where it was welcomed with a special water salute, symbolizing the revival of tourism connections.

Sichuan Airlines will operate three weekly flights, bridging the gap between Chengdu and Maldives. This move adds to the existing Chinese airlines operating flights to the Maldives, including Beijing Capital, which operates weekly charter flights, and China Eastern, offering weekly scheduled flights every Saturday.

The airline is resuming flights after 7 long years. The last flight was operated on 23rd March 2016.

The reopening of Sichuan Airlines' operations at Velana International Airport is poised to significantly boost Maldives tourism and stimulate economic growth. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and the temporary closure of China's borders, the Chinese market played a crucial role in driving the Maldives' tourism industry. Since the reopening of its borders earlier this year, Chinese tourism has been consistently increasing, now ranking as the fourth largest source market for the Maldives.

The Maldives, renowned for its pristine beauty, picturesque landscapes, and luxurious resorts, has been a preferred destination for Chinese travelers seeking an enchanting vacation experience. With Sichuan Airlines' resumption of flights, the Maldives is well-positioned to regain momentum in attracting Chinese tourists, further solidifying its status as an alluring global tourist hotspot.

The Maldives Airports Company, operator of Velana International Airport, continues to welcome various airlines to connect the Maldives with the rest of the world. Efforts are being made to prepare for the upcoming winter season, with flights scheduled to operate from new destinations. In October, Virgin Atlantic is set to start operations between London and Heathrow Airport, further expanding the connectivity options.

Currently, more than 40 airlines operate in the Maldives, connecting the country to over 30 destinations worldwide. The continuous efforts to enhance accessibility and connectivity demonstrate the Maldives' commitment to further developing its thriving tourism industry.

Note to editor:

About MACL

Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL) is a 100% government owned limited liability company incorporated under the Companies Act of the Rep of Maldives. MACL is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Privatisation & Corporatisation Board of the Maldives. The Corporate Office of MACL is on the island of Hulhule', Republic of Maldives.

Maldives Airports Company is the operator of Velana International Airport and has been massively involved in destination marketing and bringing in new airlines to the Maldives to boost up the tourism industry. MACL has embarked on one of the biggest projects in the history of Maldives in developing the future Velana International Airport such as the development of a brand new international passenger terminal, a new code F runway, a new cargo terminal complex and a new fuel farm along with hydrant system and major infrastructure developments at Velana international Airport.

About Sichuan Airlines

Established on August 29, 2002, Sichuan Airlines Co.,Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as Sichuan Airlines) is mainly invested by Sichuan Airlines Group Co., Ltd, the first majority shareholder, with other shareholders including China Southern Airlines Company Limited, China Eastern Airlines Corporation Limited, Shandong Airlines Co, Ltd, and Chengdu Gingko Jin'ge Investment Co., Ltd. Its predecessor, Sichuan Arline's Company was founded on September 19, 1986 and started operations on July 14, 1988. With safety as its brand core value, Sichuan Airlines has achieved flight safety for 31 years. It now operates the largest II-Airbus fleet of over 150 aircraft in China and flies more than 300 domestic and overseas routes that cover Asia, Europe, Oceania, North America, and Africa.

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