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SilkAir Launches its Inaugural Flight to Malé

SilkAir, the regional wing of Singapore Airlines, today launched its inaugural flight to Malé, Maldives. With this launch, SilkAir's route network now spans 49 destinations in 13 countries.

The inaugural flight departed this morning at 10.40am from Changi Airport and is expected to arrive at Ibrahim Nasir International Airport at 11.40am. The return flight will take off at 1.35pm and is expected to land in Singapore at 9.25pm* (all times local).

The four times weekly flights depart out of Singapore on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with same day return flights from Malé. The services will be operated with Airbus A320 aircraft, featuring both business and economy class cabins.

This new service will complement Singapore Airlines' current daily flights to Malé. Together, SilkAir and Singapore Airlines will offer a total of twice daily services between Singapore and Malé.

To mark this special occasion, passengers on the first flight out of Singapore and Malé were presented with exclusively produced SilkAir gifts, as well as inaugural flight certificates signed personally by SilkAir's Chief Executive, Mr Leslie Thng, and Commander of the flight, Captain John Lee.

Commenting on the launch, SilkAir's Chief Executive, Mr. Leslie Thng said: "As the popularity of Maldives grows among Asian travellers, we are glad to be joining our parent company, Singapore Airlines, in operating flights on this route. Together, we will provide double daily services to and from Malé throughout the year, giving more options to travellers wanting to visit this

beautiful destination. The additional services will also offer our customers enhanced connectivity to over 100 international cities in 36 countries in the joint Singapore Airlines-SilkAir network."

Detailed flight schedules to Malé are as follows:

Singapore (SIN) to Malé (MLE) Flights

Flight	Days of Operation	Departure	Arrival	
SQ45 2	Daily	SIN 2035hrs*	MLE 2210hrs	Operated by Singapore Airlines
MI482	Mon Tue Wed Thu	SIN 1005hrs	MLE 1140hrs	Operated by SilkAir

^{*}SQ452 timings from 25Oct15 to 20Nov15: SIN 2020hrs/MLE 2210hrs Malé (MLE) to Singapore (SIN) Flights

Flight	Days of Operation	Departure	Arrival	
SQ45 1	Daily	MLE 2325hrs	SIN 0715hrs (+1)	Operated by Singapore Airlines
MI48 1	Mon Tue Wed Thu	MLE 1255hrs	SIN 2045hrs	Operated by SilkAir

^{*} Changes to flight timings for inaugural flight only, in conjunction with inaugural welcome ceremony.

About SilkAir

As the regional wing of Singapore Airlines, SilkAir operates the Singapore

Airlines Group's narrowbody fleet and extends the Group network by seeding and developing new, exciting destinations in Asia Pacific.

The airline took to the skies in February 1989 as Tradewinds the Airline, before evolving into SilkAir in 1992. In its early days, the airline catered to passengers holidaying in exotic destinations in the region, including Phuket and Tioman. As the carrier developed, regional business destinations such as Phnom Penh, Yangon and Kuala Lumpur were added.

Today, the full service airline operates more than 350 weekly flights to 48 destinations in 12 countries. Recent additions to the network include Denpasar (Dec 2014) and Cairns (May 2015). The airline currently has a fleet of 30 aircraft, comprising 5 A319s and 11 A320s and 14 Boeing 737-800 aircraft. In August 2012, the airline announced the largest order in its history of up to 68 Boeing 737 aircraft, with firm orders comprising Boeing 737-800s and Boeing 737 MAX 8s.

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