



## Press Release For Immediate Release

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### **WINAIR TO RESUME FLIGHTS TO THE BVI**

**Road Town, Tortola, June 1** – On Monday, June 28, regional airline WINAIR will resume flights to and from the British Virgin Islands.

Acting Director of the British Virgin Islands Tourist Board, Hadassah Ward said the addition of flights coming to the Territory from such a strategic airline is welcomed news to the entire tourism sector. “WINAIR serves two very important gateways for the BVI in Antigua and St. Maarten. This will offer our European visitors more flexibility in booking and easier access to the BVI.”

The carrier’s scheduled flights to St. Maarten and Antigua airport are mainly timed to connecting with major trans Atlantic air carriers such as British Airways and Virgin Atlantic. An air link connection through St. Maarten also benefits the Territory’s United States markets as tourist from major US cities such as Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago and New York are also hubs for airlines in which WINAIR serves as interconnection partners. Weekly there will be 21 flights between Tortola, St. Maarten and Antigua. This is estimated to bring in an additional 20,805 air seats to the Territory.

Speaking with the BVI Tourist Board, WINAIR’s Vice President of Marketing/Sales and Customer Service, Claudio Buncamper said the carrier is very happy to be once again, giving visitors to and residents of the BVI additional transportation options. Buncamper said his company provides much more convenience for travellers coming to the region because of their interconnecting agreements with major airlines. “There are airlines that we have interline and code share agreements with and this allows us to check their passengers’ bags through all the way to Tortola and the same on their return. With Air France for instance, we also have the capability to issue boarding passes for their passengers. Once their tickets are booked, when leaving the airport in Tortola, we will be able to check their bags all the way

through to their final destination in Europe as well as issue all connecting boarding passes for flights.” WINAIR code shares with Air France, British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, Air Caraibes, Continental, US Airways, Delta, Insel Air and KLM Midlands among others.

Buncamper also added that WINAIR’s new service will also benefit residents of the BVI as its new schedule is more convenient for persons wishing to just have a one-day trip to St. Maarten. The new schedule also provides more travel options for persons wishing to travel throughout the rest of the Caribbean, as travelling to some islands will no longer be an all-day affair. Passengers will also now be seated on the carrier’s Jet Stream 32 planes suited for 19 passengers. WINAIR management promises that flights will be much smoother when travelling on this aircraft.

Within the Territory, the airline’s local handler is Airport Services Limited, ran by Edison O’Neal. Airport Services Ltd. has offices both on Tortola and Virgin Gorda. Presently WINAIR is offering a special discount for BVI residents. Until 21st June, persons can book a one way ticket to St. Maarten, for as low as \$49. For more information and flight schedules, residents can visit the airline’s website at [www.fly-winair.com](http://www.fly-winair.com).

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**Note to Editors:**

Captions for attached photographs:

- **BVITB WINIAR Visit** - VP of Marketing/Sales and Customer Service, Claudio Buncamper (centre) stopped by the BVI Tourist Board's Office to share more information with Ag. Director of BVITB, Hadassah Ward (l) an Niche Marketing Manager, Lynette Harrigan (r) about WINAIR's return to the Territory. (photo courtesy of BVITB/S. Barnes)
- **BVITB WINAIR** - On June 28, 2010 WINAIR will resume flights to and from the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport with 21 flights per week on their 19 seater J32 aircrafts. (photo courtesy of WINAIR)