



VIRGIN ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY

St. Croix | St. Thomas | St. John United States Virgin Islands

Gateways to the U.S. Virgin Islands and its Economy

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2026

VIPA, Department of Tourism to Welcome Contour Airlines' New St. Maarten Service

ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS - The Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA), in partnership with the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism, will welcome Contour Airlines to Cyril E. King Airport (STT) on Monday, October 5, 2026, as the airline launches new nonstop service between St. Maarten and St. Thomas.

The inaugural flight from Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM) is scheduled to arrive at 2:10 p.m. VIPA, and the Department of Tourism will mark the occasion with a water salute and welcome ceremony. The route will operate twice weekly on Mondays and Fridays aboard Contour Airlines' 30-seat regional aircraft.

"VIPA is pleased to welcome Contour Airlines and this new connection between St. Thomas and St. Maarten," said VIPA Executive Director Ava Penn. "Expanding regional air service is a long-term goal for the Port Authority, and strengthens connectivity, supports economic growth, and creates more travel opportunities for residents and visitors alike."

VI Department of Tourism Commissioner Jennifer Matarangas-King joined VIPA in welcoming the new service to the territory. "Expanding regional air connectivity is an important part of strengthening the U.S. Virgin Islands' position as a premier Caribbean destination," said Matarangas-King. "This new service between St. Thomas and St. Maarten makes it easier for travelers to experience two vibrant Caribbean destinations while creating new opportunities for tourism, business, and cultural exchange. We are pleased to welcome Contour Airlines to St. Thomas and look forward to building on this connection with our neighbors across the region."

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The new service provides a convenient link between two neighboring Caribbean destinations and is expected to support tourism, business travel, and regional economic activity. As tourism remains the Territory's primary economic driver, expanded air connectivity creates additional opportunities for visitors to choose the U.S. Virgin Islands while benefiting local businesses that serve the tourism industry.

Contour Airlines announced the route in July as part of its ongoing effort to expand air service throughout the Caribbean.

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Media Contact:

Monifa Brathwaite, Public Information Officer

Office: (340) 714-6640 Mobile: (340) 244-1065

Email: info@viport.com Website: www.viport.com