

# WINGS CHAMBER

Monthly Free Distribution / [www.wingschamber.com](http://www.wingschamber.com)

RNI No- MAHENG/2007/24625 . Regd No- MAH/ENG/11020/13/1/2007-TC . VOLUME - 15 ISSUE - 1 , THANE , JULY 2021 , PAGE 04

## BRITISH AIRWAYS, VIRGIN ATLANTIC AND HEATHROW LAUNCH PROVING TRIALS TO SIMPLIFY TRAVEL RULES FOR FULLY VACCINATED CUSTOMERS

Later this week customers travelling on selected flights from the US, Caribbean and Europe to London Heathrow will be invited to take part in a proving trial to support the Government in lifting some of the most onerous restrictions for travellers arriving from 'amber list' countries. Fully vaccinated travellers of all nationalities will be able to present their Covid-19 credentials in digital or paper format to help prove vaccination status can be quickly and easily checked away from the border and allow safe entry to the UK. Anonymised data will be shared with the UK Government at the earliest opportunity, providing real-world insights to support the introduction of a scheme to exempt fully vaccinated passengers from self-isolation. Participants will continue to adhere to current restrictions for travellers entering from 'amber list' countries during the trial period. The proof-of-concept aims to support the Government to introduce exemptions for fully vaccinated travellers no later than 19 July, allowing the UK to catch-up with the EU and US, which have already introduced similar schemes. Routes including Los Angeles-



LAX and New York-JFK have been chosen given Transatlantic air links between the US and UK are vital to restart business, reunite families and allow people to go on holiday. British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and Heathrow have joined forces to prove it's possible to quickly and easily verify those arriving into the UK who are fully vaccinated – an

identification process already in place for outbound travel to several countries. Earlier this week, Germany became the latest country to confirm it would accept fully vaccinated UK travellers without the need to quarantine. The new UK proving trial, enabling inbound travellers to present their fully vaccinated status, will support the Government to move forward with its plans to remove quarantine for

more on pg 2

## Mente Group Names Cole White Managing Director – South

Mente Group has appointed IADA-certified preowned aircraft sales broker Cole White as managing director – South, effective July 1. White earned his certified broker designation from the International Aircraft Dealers Association (IADA) in 2019, while serving as



Cole White

Mente's vice president of transactions. He will continue to be located in Dallas. "Cole White has proven himself to be enormously valuable to Mentec Group's clients and since joining us has successfully handled numerous aircraft sales and acquisitions," said company president and CEO Brian Proctor. "He has turned his military discipline and professional sports competitiveness into effective assets for our many clients."

White served as an armor officer in the U.S. Army after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he was recruited to play baseball. He was drafted into the Pittsburgh Pirates organization, where he played professional baseball for three years. He holds a degree in

systems management from West Point, with a focus on systems engineering. White has also accomplished post-graduate work at Southern Methodist University Cox School of Business, where he studied financial reporting for managers, strategic financial statement analysis, financial planning and valuing of projects and investments, managerial accounting and corporate strategy, and value creation.

## BRITISH AIRWAYS SIGNALS IT'S READY FOR GOVERNMENT CHANGES TO INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FROM JULY 19

British Airways is preparing to welcome an increased number of holidaymakers back to the skies from July 19 in time for the start of the school summer holidays. Within a couple of hours of this morning's Government statement around the elimination of quarantine for Britons who are double vaccinated, the airline had seen a 96% increase in the number of views on its website as compared to the same day last week. The top destinations being searched included Barbados, Palma, Ibiza, New

York, Antigua, Malta and Malaga. As it stands, British Airways flies to more amber and green list countries than any other UK airline, 43 in total. To coincide with the announcement, British Airways has agreed further reassurance measures which mean customers travelling until 30th September 2021 to a country which is added to the red list from amber while they are at their destination will be able to change their flight without any change to the cost of their flight, subject

to availability. The move is expected to support Britons when they travel to a country that might be on a Government watchlist to help them get home. British Airways Holidays quickly released an offer this morning with up to £300 off for people wanting to book to selected amber list countries (see notes to editors). Their offer of a reduced deposit for holidays of £60 per person also remains in place which will also allow customers to wait until three weeks before they

travel to make the final payment. This sits alongside the company's Customer Promise policies which afford customers the flexibility to change bookings at no charge. During the pandemic British Airways has further enhanced its customer experience and made changes to ensure that Covid safety remains front of mind, such as: A renewed focus on technology which includes



digital apps to order table service in the lounge, and trialling the option to book a place in a check-in queue. Expanded and reduced cost Covid testing partners which

more on pg 4



## PHUKET WELCOMES ETIHAD AIRWAYS IN REOPENING TO INTERNATIONAL TOURISM

Traditional water cannon salute welcomes the UAE's national airline  
Etihad lands the first international flight following the reopening of Thailand to tourism  
Etihad Airways was the first international flight to land in Phuket today, to mark the reopening of tourism to Thailand. To celebrate the occasion the aircraft was greeted with the customary water cannon salute on arrival.



Etihad Airways first international airline to arrive in Phuket following reopening

Etihad flight EY430 from Abu Dhabi to Phuket arrived at Phuket International Airport at 11am on 1 July, and is the first Etihad flight to return to Thailand since the start of the pandemic.

The airline will operate three weekly flights to the island of Phuket, helping to support the recovery and bring tourism back to Thailand.

Martin Drew, Senior Vice President Global Sales and Cargo, said: "Etihad's return to Phuket is a fantastic step forward as we reopen a very popular holiday destination for travellers from the UAE, and we're proud to be the first

international flight to arrive since the pandemic halted travel last year. Holiday makers from Europe and further afield can also easily connect through Abu Dhabi and on to Phuket and can enjoy the benefits of flying in safety and comfort on Etihad's Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner."

To further support the return to travel, Etihad has extended its 'Verified To Fly' travel document initiative, enabling travellers to validate their Covid-19 travel documents before arriving at the airport, to routes across its global network.

Available for the vast majority of Etihad flights, passengers can use the Verified to Fly service up by visiting 'Manage my Booking' on etihad.com and following the simple instructions to upload and submit their travel documents. Guests will receive confirmation once their documents have been approved in line with government requirements and can travel to the airport with confidence and peace of mind, knowing they have met all essential requirements before their flight.

All travellers must check the entry requirements and PCR



Etihad Airways is greeted with a water cannon salute in Phuket



Etihad Airways reopens tourism to Thailand

## NEW BRITISH AIRWAYS SERVICES TAKE OFF FROM BELFAST WITH ROUTES TO EXETER, LEEDS BRADFORD, NEWQUAY AND GLASGOW

British Airways is launching four new domestic routes from Belfast this summer, supporting important business and tourism links between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

Over the next few months, the airline will start to operate 18 flights a week between George Best Belfast City Airport and Exeter, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford and Newquay airports. The new routes will run alongside existing British Airways services between Belfast and London City and London Heathrow airports. Customers can book via ba.com from today, with return fares from Belfast to these new destinations starting from £48 each way. Tom Stoddart, Managing Director of BA CityFlyer, which will operate the new routes, said:

"We're delighted to announce these new services from Belfast, which will enhance our regional network and maintain vital connections between Northern Ireland and other key UK destinations.

"We're sure these routes will be popular with customers getting away for a UK holiday this summer, as well as those visiting friends and relatives, and we'll continue to listen to their feedback about where they want to travel."

He added: "We also welcome the recent announcement about the NI Domestic Aviation Kickstart Scheme and await further details with great interest."

Katy Best, Commercial Director at Belfast City Airport, said: "Continuity on these services is excellent news for domestic

connectivity to and from Northern Ireland. Operated by Embraer 190 jets, these routes will greatly complement the existing British Airways services to London Heathrow and London City enabling passengers to enjoy the excellent British Airways experience to a greater number of destinations."

Customers booking with British Airways can do so with absolute confidence, thanks to the airline's flexible booking policy. Customers are able to exchange their booking for a voucher or move their dates without incurring a change fee if their plans change. British Airways Holidays' customers also have access to a range of additional flexible booking options, as part of the company's Customer Promise.

from pg 1

double jabbed passengers entering the UK from 'amber list' countries. The initiative will see fully vaccinated volunteers travelling on selected flights from Athens, Los Angeles, Montego Bay and New York to London Heathrow showing proof of their vaccine status. The trial aims to reassure Government that airlines and airports can check vaccine status upstream and away from the Border, ensuring no further pressure in UK immigration halls. Those taking part in the trial will be able to use a dedicated arrivals lane at the border and British Airways customers will be able to access a discounted rate for the mandatory arrivals tests.

Internationally recognised vaccination credentials will be accepted in the proving trial including the NHS app, CDC card, US state-level digital certification and EU Digital Covid Credential. British Airways will also support customers' vaccine verification through the VeriFLY app and Virgin Atlantic customers can verify their vaccine certificate through a new digital uploader tool, developed in partnership with Delta Air Lines and backed by TrustAssure™ technology. As the proof-of-concept develops, the options for customers to show vaccine status will rapidly be expanded, across physical, digital and integrated formats, including IATA Travel Pass.

The UK has led the world with its successful vaccine programme, which the Government promised would lead to the end of Covid restrictions. To date, 86% of UK adults have had a first dose of a Covid vaccine, with 64% fully vaccinated. Data from Public Health England has shown two doses of the vaccines offer 79% protection against becoming ill from the Delta variant and reduces the likelihood of needing hospitalisation by 96%. Despite this incredible achievement the UK is failing to reap the

economic and social rewards, falling behind countries like France, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Cyprus and Malta, all of which accept fully vaccinated travellers, including US residents, without the need for quarantine. The US also allows its fully vaccinated residents to avoid self-isolation. The Government's own transparency data also continues to show very low positivity in test results from 'green' and 'amber' country arrivals, with just 0.4% testing positive, and none of them had a variant of concern.

Sean Doyle, British Airways CEO and Chairman said: "We need to act quickly to protect jobs, re-build the UK economy and reunite loved ones. We are already helping our customers show proof of their vaccination status when travelling to a number of other countries outside the UK which require it, and we're confident we can make this happen for entry to Britain too, very quickly. We look forward to providing the data that proves it's simple for fully vaccinated status to be verified and to the Government meeting its commitment to get the country moving again." In the US, more than 157m people have been fully vaccinated – including 58% of US adults – with domestic flying returning to pre-pandemic levels, proving that flying is safe. Shai Weiss, CEO, Virgin Atlantic said:

"To reap the benefits of the UK's world-leading vaccine roll out, the UK Government must act now to remove self-isolation for fully vaccinated passengers arriving from 'amber' countries, and no later than the domestic reopening on 19th July. Our proof-of-concept trial on selected US and Caribbean routes demonstrates our readiness as an industry to rapidly operationalise the new policy, and work with Government and authorities to ensure it is smoothly implemented at pace, supporting the reopening of the Transatlantic corridor, without which £23m is lost

more on pg 3



## Daher Kodiak 100 and TBM 940 turboprops at France Air Expo

Daher's Kodiak and TBM turboprop aircraft are showcased at France Air Expo, Europe's primary general aviation event for 2021

Tarbes, France, Daher will have a high-profile presence at this week's France Air Expo – the only major general aviation show organized in Europe during 2021 – exhibiting the TBM and Kodiak turboprop product lines, as well as joining with its authorized European distributors: Rheinland Air Service for Germany and Austria; and Flying Smart for the UK and Ireland.

Being held June 17-19 at Lyon-Bron Airport, the event will feature Daher's top-of-the-line TBM 940 version and the Kodiak 100, both displayed on the company's exhibit stand (Location C7).

"France Air Expo takes place as the demand for rapid, efficient and flexible personal transport is significantly rebounding," commented Nicolas Chabbert, the Senior Vice President of Daher's Aircraft Division.

"The Kodiak 100 and TBM

family perfectly respond to the market, and our 2021 order book is almost full – which is exceptional." Chabbert also recognized the determination of the France Air Expo organizers in staging this



year's event, enabling Daher and the general aviation sector to renew contacts after the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.

The TBM 940 on display at Lyon-Bron Airport is the latest member of Daher's highly cost-effective six-seat pressurized aircraft, incorporating automation for enhanced safety and reduced pilot workload, including an autothrottle and automatic deicing protection.

Additionally, the TBM 940 became the first aircraft certified in Europe with an

automatic emergency landing function, following last year's approval by European and U.S. airworthiness authorities. Based on Garmin's emergency autoland system, the TBM 940's HomeSafe™ provides additional safety by

automatically bringing the aircraft to a runway touchdown when activated by passengers if the pilot becomes incapacitated. Earlier this month, Garmin's Autoland was named recipient of the prestigious Collier Trophy, which recognizes innovation in the field of aeronautics and space that improves performance, efficiency and safety.

Exhibited alongside the TBM 940 at France Air Expo is the Kodiak 100, Daher's 10-seat utility aircraft, which is making its commercial debut in France. The Kodiak 100 is

presented at Lyon-Bron Airport with a transport cabin configuration for nine passengers.

Renowned for its robustness, excellent payload, short takeoff and landing capabilities on unpaved runways or equipped with amphibious floats, the Kodiak 100 responds to a wide range of missions. Daher made its first deliveries to a French customer this year – Héli-Béarn, based in southwestern France at Pau – which acquired two Kodiak 100s primarily for use in skydiving operations. In this configuration, the Kodiak is equipped with a sliding door and bench-type seating, allowing it to carry up to 15 parachutists for an average of four rotations per hour.

At France Air Expo, Kodiak and TBM experts will be on hand to discuss the latest enhancements on both aircraft for quality, capabilities and maintenance. This includes comprehensive all-inclusive maintenance packages: four years or 1,000 flight hours on Kodiak 100s with Kodiak Care coverage; and five years or 1,000 flight hours for TBM 940s and TBM 910s in the TBM Total Care program.

## ETIHAD AIRWAYS HONOURED WITH THREE ACCOLADES AT RECENT AWARD CEREMONIES

Ethihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has been awarded 'Best Cabin Crew' and 'Best Frequent Flyer Programme' at this year's Business Traveller Middle East Awards 2021.

This accolade reinforces the airline's commitment to innovating the inflight guest experience. As a response to the Covid pandemic, Wellness

Ambassadors were introduced on board to share advice on travel wellbeing and to provide guests peace of mind when flying during these unprecedented times.

Throughout the pandemic, Ethihad Guest has continued to evolve with the changing landscape, enhancing its member customer experience by improving existing and

introducing new benefits to deliver value in the air and on the ground. For the second year in a row, the Best Frequent Flyer Programme award cements the airline's efforts to recognise its members travelling or who are currently unable to travel by introducing added bonuses and flexibility. In addition, Ethihad was awarded gold for 'Best in

Audio Branding' at the Transform Awards in Dubai. This award is testament to Ethihad's commitment in launching a sonic identity that expands across the airline's internal and external touchpoints to deliver a consistent experience and drive brand recognition. Ethihad is the first airline in the Middle East to develop a robust sonic identity.



Ethihad Airways wins 'Best Cabin Crew' at Business Traveller Award. Left to right: Ethihad Airways cabin crew with Captain Jihad Matta, Head of Crew Performance and Support, Ethihad Airways and Kawthar Boulaied, Manager Inflight Performance & Operations, Ethihad Airways.

Ethihad Airways wins 'Best Frequent Flyer Programme' at Business Traveller Award. Left to right: Ethihad Airways cabin crew with Terry Daly, Executive Director Guest Experience, Brand & Marketing, Ethihad Airways, and Kim Hardaker, Head of Ethihad Guest, Ethihad Airways.

Ethihad Airways wins gold at Transform Awards for 'Best in Audio Branding'. Left to right: Nasma Al Shamsi, Marketing Manager, Ethihad Airways, Amina Taher, Vice President Brand, Marketing & Partnerships, Ethihad Airways, Nomfundo Msomi, Head of Brand, Ethihad Airways and Aishwarya Nambiar, Brand Manager, Ethihad Airways.

from pg 2

each day from the UK economy. "The UK is already falling behind US and EU and a continued overly cautious approach towards international travel will further impact economic recovery and the 500,000 UK jobs that are at stake." Representatives from the travel industry have been clear about the consequences for the UK's economy and jobs of not opening the corridor quickly enough, with hundreds taking part in a day of action on June 23. Today, Heathrow released new research from CEBR, reinforcing the importance of aviation to the Government's ambitions for Global Britain, which could help industry deliver a £204bn trade boost to benefit every corner of the UK. Heathrow has warned that this cannot be realised unless the UK's aviation industry is supported by Government policies to resume flying as soon as possible. By capitalising on the country's vaccine dividend, ministers can help to deliver this economic stimulus for exporters across Britain, ensuring the UK retains its competitive edge as the country comes out of lockdown. On Monday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson restated that this important step to exempt fully vaccinated travellers from self-isolation would happen 'later this summer', with Transport Secretary Grant Shapps set to provide more detail this week. It's hoped the proof-of-concept will encourage the Government to introduce exemptions for fully vaccinated travellers no later than 19 July, allowing the UK to catch-up with the EU and US, which have already introduced similar schemes. John Holland-Kaye, CEO of Heathrow said: "This pilot will allow us to show that pre-departure and arrival checks of vaccination status can be carried out safely, so that fully vaccinated passengers can avoid quarantine from the 19th July. In addition to this, the UK Government must make progress on reopening travel between the US after a designated taskforce was established to look at this back at the G7. Heathrow is the main port for trade in goods and services with the US, the only country with whom the UK has a trade surplus. New research today demonstrates just how critical it is to the UK economy to get the passenger planes that carry those exports off the ground. This is a vital step towards delivering the Government's ambitions for Global Britain and they now need to act fast."



## BRITISH AIRWAYS TO FLY THE BRITISH AND IRISH LIONS TO SOUTH AFRICA THIS SUMMER

British Airways has today announced it will fly the 37-strong British & Irish Lions squad to South Africa on June 27 for the eagerly awaited Lions Tour.

The team will be heading directly to Johannesburg on a charter flight from Edinburgh, following The Vodafone Lions 1888 Cup clash against Japan at BT Murrayfield Stadium on Saturday 26 June at 3pm.

The Lions' arrival in Johannesburg sees the best players from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales embarking on an eight-game Tour of South Africa, including three Tests against World Champions, the Springboks. Both The British & Irish Lions and Springboks will be carried across the country to matches by British Airways' franchise partner, Comair.

Sean Doyle, British Airways'

Chairman and CEO, said: "We are honoured to be flying The British & Irish Lions to South Africa ahead of their tour. After a difficult year, we look forward to uniting the nation through sport and cheering them on. From everyone at British Airways, we wish them the best of luck and hope to carry them home as champions."

Ben Calveley, Managing Director for The British & Irish Lions, said: "We are delighted to be flying with British Airways for the 2021 Castle Lager Lions Series. We know the squad and management will receive a warm welcome from British Airways staff and enjoy a safe, comfortable journey to South Africa, landing in Johannesburg ready to take on the world champions."

British Airways is also



reinforcing its commitment to sport as the airline is currently the Principal Partner to Twickenham Stadium, Official Airline Partner to England Rugby and has been the Official Airline Partner to Team GB and Paralympics GB since 2008. The British & Irish Lions

have toured South Africa on 13 previous occasions, with the first Tour taking place in 1891. In that time, the Lions have won four Test series, lost eight with one drawn. Their overall record against the Springboks is played 46, won 17, lost 23 and drawn six.

## IFSC WORLD CUP SERIES SET TO RETURN TO KRANJ, SLOVENIA

Originally scheduled to take place in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana, the IFSC Lead World Cup in September is now to be held 20 kilometres away in Kranj, Slovenia – the 25th time a Sport Climbing World Cup has been hosted in the country's third-largest city.

As a result of the venue relocation, the first World Cup following the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 is now set to take place from 3 to 4 September, as opposed to 4 to 5 September as initially listed on the 2021 IFSC calendar.

With four Slovenian athletes

making finals in the first two Lead world cups of the season and Slovenia's very own star Janja Garnbret claiming the top podium position at each, the penultimate Lead World Cup of 2021 on the team's home soil will be a must-see. At the 2019 Lead World Cup in Kranj, Slovenia's Lucka Rakovec took home bronze; Will the 20-year-old earn another medal this year?

News and updates about the 2021 IFSC World Cup Series are available on the IFSC website and on its social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



© Jan Virt/IFSC

## Weston Aviation Success at G7 2021 in Cornwall

Weston Aviation, the UK & Ireland FBO and support services company has successfully delivered the G7 Summit in Cornwall. The Summit held at the Carbis Bay resort in Cornwall, operated all delegate flights into Cornwall Airport Newquay, which saw not only the main delegate aircraft but also in excess of twenty support freighters and reserve aircraft.

During the week, Weston Aviation handled and supported the main mission delegations including Air Force One and Two, processed

in excess of 400 passengers and support teams through the FBO with crew accommodation and transportation, significantly contributing to the overall success of the event. Weston Aviation brought in support teams, GSE and vehicles from other UK FBO locations to ensure that the extremely intensive and rapid flight program was met.

Nick Weston, CEO of Weston Aviation said "The past week of the G7 Summit, has been the result of many months of in-depth planning, meetings,

communication and ground works to ensure that a successful event was delivered by all involved. For myself and all my team, this would be a once in a lifetime event in Cornwall and through total dedication, very long hours



a pleasure to work alongside the entire US Embassy support teams, the various government departments, national carriers, police and airport ground staff".

and professionalism, we made it happen. It was

from pg 1 includes Qured, the test customers can carry in their suitcase to enable pre-departure on the way home, Wren Healthcare which can facilitate PCR tests in the comfort of their own home. The launch of digital travel passes to facilitate seamless travel, including VeriFLY and IATA Travel Pass.

A partnership with Dettol which provides hand sanitiser stations and wipes on board their aircraft for customers as they board. A new Speedbird

Café proposition for short haul flights featuring food from chef, Tom Kerridge. Sleep pods in the Heathrow lounges.

Increased access to Avios reward seats for customers.

The airline has already publicly confirmed that its rules around the wearing of masks will remain in place to protect travellers, provide reassurance and boost

customer confidence. Despite the relaxation of the mask rules, the Government has also recommended the wearing of masks in busy public areas and British Airways asks its customers to remain mindful of the rules around mask wearing in airports at a customer's destination.

Sean Doyle, British Airways' Chairman and CEO said: "This is an important step for Britain as we start to make travel possible again after 18 difficult months. There is still more to do, including opening the US, but we are enthusiastic about welcoming more of our customers back over the summer period and reassuring them that British Airways is ready. Our people have been working relentlessly behind the scenes to make important changes to the customer experience that will ensure our customers receive a first-class experience and complete peace of mind."

The airline has announced a proving trial this week in partnership with Heathrow and Virgin Atlantic to demonstrate that all WHO approved fully vaccinated travellers can safely enter the UK seamlessly using digital technology to prove vaccination status. VeriFLY, which already provides British Airways customers with access to an app to host verification documents, will be a key partner.