



Press release

Virgin Atlantic Cargo set to soar in South America for the first time

Virgin Atlantic Cargo is delighted to announce it will be launching flights between London Heathrow and São Paulo, Brazil in 2020.

Flying daily between London Heathrow and São Paulo Guarulhos International Airport, the Boeing 787 service will offer cargo customers multiple tonnes of capacity a day. The new route represents Virgin Atlantic's first foray into South America and will give customers direct access into the continent's largest import and export market.

The new service aims to capitalise on the fast-growing Brazilian economy and São Paulo's standing as the country's commercial capital and one of the top 20 global economic cities. The airline expects to carry regular shipments of car parts, pharmaceuticals, food and agricultural products.

São Paulo, the largest city in the Americas after New York for companies with multi-national offices, is Virgin Atlantic's second global route announcement of 2019 following the airline's confirmation it will begin daily Heathrow-Tel Aviv flights on 25th September this year – another prime cargo route for imports and exports.

Dominic Kennedy, Managing Director, Cargo, commented: "São Paulo is a fantastic route for our cargo customers, with high demand for both import and export capacity. Brazil is the Powerhouse of South America and we are excited to be flying to this continent for the first time. Alongside the launch of Tel Aviv services in September, this new phase of growth for Virgin Atlantic means we are giving customers more choice to two of the world's most dynamic cargo markets at a time when both are enjoying increasing prosperity, driven by their thriving business and consumer communities."

Virgin Atlantic has embarked on an ambitious growth plan which, in 2019, includes the arrival of the first four of 12 Airbus A350-1000. As well as redesigning the onboard experience for passengers and transforming the fleet into one of the quietest and most fuel efficient in the sky, the A350-1000 will also deliver a 10-22% improvement in lower deck cargo capacity depending on the aircraft's configuration. This year will also see the airline move to Heathrow's most state-of-the-art cargo terminal, twice the size of its existing operation, and invest in digital technologies to give customers new self-service options and make Virgin Atlantic Cargo easier to do business with.

The airline also looks forward to becoming the founding member of a new, \$13 billion transatlantic joint venture with over 300 daily transatlantic flights and 96 non-stop transatlantic routes, alongside Delta, Air France and KLM as well as launching new services from London Heathrow to Las Vegas and Manchester to Los Angeles.

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For further press information please contact the Virgin Atlantic Cargo press office on jamie@jamierochepr.co.uk or call 01344 631881.

Key facts:

Service operates: London Heathrow (LHR) – São Paulo Guarulhos (GRU)

Frequency: Daily, year-round, launching in 2020

Flight time: Approx 11 hr 55 (LHR – GRU)

Aircraft: Boeing 787-9

Notes to editors:

About Virgin Atlantic Cargo

Cargo has been an important part of Virgin Atlantic’s business ever since the airline was founded by entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson 34 years ago. Today, the airline carries over 240 million kilos of cargo annually and, with a strong commitment to innovation and customer service at its core, Virgin Atlantic Cargo is recognised as one of the world’s most customer-focused and service-oriented airlines, earning 14 international Cargo Airline of the Year awards. Headquartered in London, Virgin Atlantic Cargo trades in 37 countries and sells services to destinations in over 60 countries worldwide. Alongside joint venture partner Delta Cargo, they operate a leading transatlantic network, offering a choice of 38 flights a day between the UK and US which, in 2018, carried over a quarter of total trans-Atlantic air cargo volumes. Virgin Atlantic Cargo is also the long-haul international cargo sales and management partner for Virgin Australia, connecting the two airline’s networks over Los Angeles and Hong Kong. In 2019, Virgin Atlantic Cargo’s volumes will benefit from a 22% increase in capacity provided by the delivery of the airline’s first Airbus A350-1000 aircraft as well as the launch of its new Tel Aviv route in September. Investment in new technologies will make the airline even easier to do business with, while in Q4 will see Virgin Atlantic Cargo and Delta Cargo move in a state-of-the-art cargo terminal, doubling the size of their joint Heathrow operation.

On May 15, 2018 Air France-KLM, Delta Air Lines and Virgin Atlantic Limited signed definitive agreements to combine the existing trans-Atlantic joint ventures. Closer cooperation between Delta Cargo, Air France KLM Cargo and Virgin Atlantic Cargo across the trans-Atlantic is subject to regulatory approvals and the receipt of anti-trust immunity (ATI) from the US Department of Transportation (DOT). Once ATI is received, the cargo divisions will be able to start working together giving customers more choice across a broad network of passenger flights with joint trucking options and tailored products and services.

For more information, go to virginatlanticcargo.com