

fastjet's first Victoria Falls and Johannesburg flight took off

Marking a milestone in the pan-African airline's growth plans, [fastjet](#)'s first flight between Johannesburg and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe took off on Friday, 25 March 2016.



The flight was fastjet's first international route from Victoria Falls and was launched in response to strong passenger and tour operator demand from within the South African market. fastjet has been engaging with South African tour operators to deliver inclusive packages to encourage more South African visitors to fly to Victoria Falls, to enjoy the many adventure and safari activities available.

Becoming a gateway to central and Southern Africa

Services between Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport and Victoria Falls International Airport now operate twice a week on Fridays and Sundays, using fastjet's modern Airbus A319 jet aircraft with seating for up to 144 passengers.

Flights will depart Victoria Falls at 12.40pm and land in Johannesburg at 2.15pm, with a flight time of 1 hour 35 minutes. The return flight from Johannesburg departs at 2.55pm and lands in Victoria Falls at 4.35pm.

"The Zimbabwean government has invested a substantial US\$150 million in upgrading Victoria Falls International Airport, with the intention of it becoming a gateway to central and Southern Africa," said Richard Bodin, fastjet's chief commercial officer.

Affordable travel key to tourism growth

"We believe that affordable air travel is key to the continued growth of tourism between Zimbabwe and South Africa, with Victoria Falls being long established as a drawcard for tourists from Southern Africa, and elsewhere in the world," said Bodin.

“We expect many of our passengers on this route to be first-time visitors to Victoria Falls, who would otherwise not have been able to afford to travel to what is a popular holiday destination for Southern Africans.” Supporting this expectation is research undertaken by fastjet showing that more than one-third of its passengers were first-time flyers only able to afford air travel for the first time by choosing to fly on the airline.

This new route between Victoria Falls and Johannesburg follows closely on the success of fastjet’s route launches between Harare and Victoria Falls, and Harare and Johannesburg. fastjet recently increased the frequency of its flights from Harare to Johannesburg and now offers double daily flights on each day of the week - apart from the weekend - making a total of 24 flights per week between the two cities.

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