

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kenya Airways Officially Commences Direct Flights to London Gatwick, Boosting UK Connectivity

Nairobi, Kenya – July 2, 2025 – Kenya Airways (KQ) has today marked a significant milestone in its expansion strategy with the official launch of direct flights from Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) to London's Gatwick Airport (LGW). The highly anticipated inaugural flight, KQ 108, departed Nairobi this evening at 23:45 EAT, signifying a new era of enhanced connectivity between Kenya and the United Kingdom.

This strategic addition increases Kenya Airways' London frequency to 10 weekly flights, offering passengers unparalleled choice and convenience for travel to and from the UK. Gatwick Airport now serves as Kenya Airways' second entry point into London, complementing the existing services to Heathrow Airport (LHR).

Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Ms Rebecca Miano, stated that the Nairobi-Gatwick service will enable Kenya to significantly grow visitor numbers, diversify its tourism products, and scale up multi-destination travel across the country.

"These developments will deliver tangible benefits to our hoteliers, tour operators, and entrepreneurs in the broader travel ecosystem across the country. The ripple effects will be felt in employment, income generation, and in the continued diversification of our tourism economy." She said.

"More importantly, it breathes life into the Kenya-UK Economic Partnership Agreement by enhancing the mobility of goods, services, investments, and people, thereby fostering stronger diplomatic ties between our nations." She added

Speaking at the launch event, Mr. Allan Kilavuka, Kenya Airways Group Managing Director and CEO, expressed his enthusiasm for the new route. "This inaugural flight to Gatwick is not just about adding a new destination; it's about opening more doors for trade, tourism, education, and strengthening the vital connections between Kenya and the UK."

On her part, the Permanent Secretary for the State Department for Aviation and Aerospace Development, Ms Teresia Mbaika, commended Kenya Airways for its contribution to Kenya's and Africa's prosperity.

"According to a recent report by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the aviation sector currently contributes Ksh 425 billion to our national GDP, representing 3.1% of our economy and supporting approximately 460,000 jobs both directly and indirectly. These statistics represent livelihoods, opportunities, and national progress. Through its operations, Kenya Airways facilitates the export of agricultural produce, enables international business linkages, attracts investment, and promotes tourism by offering seamless connections between Kenya and key global destinations." Said Ms Mbaika.

Ed Barnett MBE, Deputy High Commissioner British High Commission expressed enthusiasm stating, "We warmly welcome Kenya Airways' new direct service to Gatwick. This increased connectivity will undoubtedly foster deeper bilateral ties, boost economic opportunities for both nations, and make it even easier for people to travel, study, and conduct business between the UK and Kenya. It's a fantastic development for our enduring partnership."



The new Gatwick service will operate three times a week on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, with flights departing Nairobi at night. This schedule is designed to seamlessly integrate with and enhance the existing London services.

Gatwick Airport, located 47.5 kilometers south of Central London, offers a convenient gateway for travelers from the Southeast and South of England. Passengers flying from Gatwick will benefit from seamless connections to Kenya Airways' extensive network via its Nairobi hub, ensuring a smooth and integrated travel experience to destinations across Africa and beyond.

Flights for the new Nairobi-Gatwick route are now open for booking and can be secured through Kenya Airways' official website www.kenya-airways.com, travel agents, and online travel agents (OTAs).

Flight Schedule for Nairobi-Gatwick Route (KQ 108/109):

Flight Number	Frequency	Departure Time (local)	Arrival Time (local)	Destination
KQ 108	Wednesday	23:45	06:55	Gatwick (LGW)
KQ 108	Friday & Sunday	23:40	06:50	Gatwick (LGW)
KQ 109	Monday & Thursday	12:10	23:05	Nairobi (NBO)
KQ 109	Saturday	12:25	23:20	Nairobi (NBO)

-Ends-

About Kenya Airways:

Kenya Airways (KQ), *The Pride of Africa*, is a leading African carrier on a mission to propel Africa's prosperity by connecting its people, cultures, and markets. We fly to 45 destinations worldwide, 37 of which are in Africa, connecting over 5 million passengers and over 70,000 Tons of cargo annually through our Hub at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

As the sole African carrier in the SkyTeam Alliance, we open up a world of possibilities for our customers, connecting them to over 1,060 destinations in 173 countries. We take pride in offering a delightful flying experience with a caring African touch. Our exceptional African hospitality has consistently earned us global recognition including the prestigious Skytrax World Airline Awards where we were honoured with the Best Airline Staff and Best Airline Cabin Crew in Africa in 2024. In addition, we were ranked Top Employer of the Year by The Employers Institute and the Africa Leading Airline at the World Travel Awards 2024

For more information, visit www.kenya-airways.com or call our 24-hour Customer Services Desk at +254 20 327 4747. We are also available on Twitter: @KenyaAirways & @KQSupport, Facebook: @OfficialKenyaAirways, and Instagram: @OfficialKenyaAirways. For media enquiries, please contact Kenya Airways Corporate Communications: Corporate.communications@kenya-airways.com