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NEWSFLASH - NOVEMBER 2019

SA EXPRESS WILL ADD MORE REGIONAL SERVICES

SA Express will be offering services to Zimbabwe, Angola and Botswana. The airline will add seven new flights between Cape Town International Airport and Gaborone as well as seven flights between Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport and Bulawayo and three to Luanda.

PASSPORTS FOR MINORS UNDER 18

New South African passports for minors under the age of 18 are being issued containing the details of both parents as a standard feature. Children traveling on these new passports do not require any additional documentation when traveling abroad. If accompanied by both parents.

USA - CALIFORNIA TO BAN SMALL PLASTIC BOTTLES IN HOTELS

California has passed a new law that bans the use of small plastic bottles filled with shampoo, conditioner or soap in hotels. Hotels in violation of the new law will receive a fine of US\$500 (R7392) for the first offense and thereafter the fine will be \$2 000 (R29570). Many hotel companies have taken the first steps in eliminating small plastic bottles.

INDIA TO LIFT TRAVEL ADVISORY

India is set to lift an advisory which requested tourists and pilgrims to leave Jammu and Kashmir two months ago. However Britain and other countries still have advisories in place discouraging their citizens from traveling to Jammu and Kashmir,

while mobile and Internet services are largely still blocked in the Kashmir valley.

SAA DENIES USING FAKE PARTS

SAA has released a statement rejecting media reports of the use of fake parts in its aircraft. South African Airways, SAA Technical and Mango Airlines are being investigated by the South African Civil Aviation Authority.

TURKEY - TRAVEL ADVISE

Following Turkey's president Tayyip Recep Erdogan's announcement that Turkey intends to 'destroy the terror corridor' and bring peace to the region the UK FCO has advised against all travel to areas within 10km of the border with Syria with the exception of the city of Kilis. The FCO advises visitors to be wary in cities as most previous attacks have taken place in the south and east of the country and in Ankara and Istanbul.

AIR ITALY TO FLY INTO EAST AFRICA

Air Italy will introduce four weekly flights to Mombasa Kenya, as well as flights to Zanzibar. The flights to Mombasa and Zanzibar will be operated by an Airbus 330 with 24 seats in business class and 228 in economy.

SOUTH AFRICANS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO HAVE A VISA FOR TUNISIA

From the 1st of December, South African passport holders will require a visa to enter Tunisia. Visas can be obtained from the Embassy of Tunisia in Pretoria.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES UNVEILS FREE POCKET WIFI

Singapore Airlines is offering all passengers free pocket WiFi when travelling to Singapore. Singapore and SilkAir customers who are 16 years and older are eligible for access to a secure 4G WiFi modem. The complimentary WiFi is valid for three days and two nights and has 2GB of data. Each hotspot router has about 12 hours of battery life and can support up to five mobile devices.

SPAIN TRAVEL ADVISORY

Large gatherings have been reported in Barcelona and other parts of Catalonia in relation to political developments. Demonstrations may cause disruptions to transport including access to airports roads and the railway and metro systems. The UK FCO advises travellers to check for latest updates on travel disruption before going on a journey or heading to the airport.

UK COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE DEMAND BAN ON AIR MILES

The Committee on Climate Change in the UK commissioned Imperial College London by demanding a ban on air miles because they encourage excessive flying. The committee believes frequent flyers should have to pay an escalating air miles levy to discourage them from flying too much rather than being encouraged by reward schemes. The committee also recommends decreasing prices on rail services to reduce demand for cars and flights as well as reopening disused rail lines