



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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MADAGASCAR AIRLINES AND AIR AUSTRAL SIGN COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE INDIAN OCEAN CONNECTIVITY

Madagascar Airlines and Air Austral have officially signed a codeshare agreement and a Special Prorate Agreement (SPA), marking a major step forward in the revival of their commercial cooperation.

This partnership aims to strengthen connectivity between Madagascar, La Réunion, and other regional and international destinations, while offering more fare options and enhanced travel opportunities to customers of both airlines.

More destinations, more flexibility

Under this agreement, Madagascar Airlines customers can now book, under MD flight numbers, Air Austral-operated flights between La Réunion and several Malagasy cities: Antananarivo, Antsiranana, Nosy Be, Toamasina, __ and vice versa.

In addition, they benefit from easier access, via La Réunion, to Air Austral's long-haul destinations, including Bangkok (BKK) and Johannesburg (JNB).

Conversely, thanks to the SPA agreement, Air Austral gains access to Madagascar Airlines' entire domestic network, providing its passengers with broader coverage of the Malagasy territory and smoother connections to key destinations.

A new, exclusive inter-island route

Another key feature of this partnership is the introduction of a new regional air link: La Réunion – Toamasina – Sainte-Marie (RUN-TMM-SMS).

This unprecedented regional connection will boost tourism and economic exchanges between the islands and provide a new leisure destination for passengers departing from La Réunion. The Air Austral flight from Réunion to Toamasina will connect seamlessly to a Madagascar Airlines-operated Toamasina–Sainte-Marie leg.

Ticket sales

Codeshare flights will be available for purchase through both airlines' booking systems starting in June 2025.

"This partnership with Air Austral is fully aligned with our Phénix 2030 roadmap to rebuild a reliable, connected, and forward-looking airline.

It gives our passengers more flexibility, greater choice, and continuity of service between the islands and beyond. It also helps boost Madagascar's visibility as a unique destination at the heart of a dynamic regional space, and better connects our country to global tourism, business, and cultural exchanges." — Thierry de Bailleul, CEO of Madagascar Airlines



“I am delighted with the implementation of this commercial partnership between Air Austral and Madagascar Airlines. This codeshare agreement goes far beyond a simple collaboration between two airlines – it reflects the closeness of two neighboring islands that share a common history. It aligns perfectly with Air Austral’s development strategy, which is firmly focused on offering our customers, through high-quality interline partnerships, even more travel opportunities and destinations to explore. We’re especially excited about Sainte-Marie, a popular island, as well as the wonders of southern Madagascar that people from La Réunion will enjoy rediscovering.”
— Hugues Marchessaux, Chairman of the Management Board, Air Austral

About Madagascar Airlines

Madagascar Airlines is the national airline of Madagascar. The carrier operates an extensive domestic network and regional routes, facilitating exchanges between provinces and supporting the country's tourism and economic development. On a large island where road infrastructure is often limited, air travel plays a vital role in connecting communities and strengthening national cohesion. Its fleet is mainly composed of ATR 72-500 and 72-600 turboprop aircraft, known for their efficiency on short and medium-haul routes, with significantly lower fuel consumption and carbon emissions than comparable jets. Committed to modernizing its operations, digitizing services, and continuously enhancing the customer experience, the airline is deploying its Phénix 2030 strategic plan, developed with the support of the World Bank, to build a reliable, connected, and sustainable airline that serves national development.

For more information, visit www.madagascarairlines.com.
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About Air Austral

Air Austral is a French airline based on Réunion Island. Founded in 1990 to serve the southwestern Indian Ocean, the airline expanded to national and international routes in 2003, including long-haul flights to Paris and Asia.

With a workforce of 950 employees, Air Austral is now a key player in the Indian Ocean aviation sector, carrying an average of 1.2 million passengers per year—over 400,000 of them between Réunion and mainland France.

Fully committed to its mission of regional connectivity, Air Austral operates up to 12 weekly flights between Paris and Réunion. From Réunion, it serves the largest network of destinations in the Indian Ocean, including Mayotte, Mauritius, Madagascar, South Africa, Rodrigues, as well as several cities in Asia (Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Bali, Singapore, Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo in partnership with Thai Airways) and in Europe (Paris CDG with direct rail-air connections to 19 provincial cities and 40 destinations across Europe via Air France). It is also the only airline to operate direct flights between Paris and Mayotte, with up to 9 frequencies per week during peak travel periods. Air Austral’s fleet includes two Boeing 787-8 (bi-class), three Boeing 777-300 (tri-class) for long-haul flights, and three Airbus A220-300 for regional routes. The company is recognized for the quality of its fleet, cabin comfort, onboard services, and welcoming staff.

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