

# REPORT: AIRLINES: AFRICA

## What you need to know

September 2021

This report presents a roundup of what's been happening to Africa's airlines over the last month.

### Major carriers

#### Ethiopian Airlines

##### Economy passengers can buy more space

Ethiopian Airlines has launched [My Sheba Space](#), a new digital option that enables economy class passengers to buy one or more empty seats on board to get extra space. The COVID-19 inspired offer means passengers can pay from [\\$30](#) to guarantee an empty adjacent seat.

#### Kenya Airways

##### First half losses reduced

First-half revenues at Kenya Airways declined by [9%](#) to [KSh27.4 billion](#) (US\$250 million), largely reflecting the suspension of domestic services in April and ongoing international travel restrictions. While [passenger](#) revenue dropped [17%](#), [cargo](#) revenue increased by [60%](#).

Despite the weaker revenues, the airline reduced its net loss by [one fifth](#) to [KSh11.5 billion](#) (\$105 million), while narrowing its operating loss by [14%](#) to [KSh7.3 billion](#).

#### South African Airways

##### Flights resume

South African Airways (SAA) has resumed flying for the first time since [September 2020](#), when it was forced to suspend all operations and commence a restructuring. Operations resumed with a [thrice-weekly](#) service between Johannesburg and Cape Town. SAA is also planning international services to Accra, Harare, Kinshasa, Lusaka and Maputo. Once it is efficiently serving its start-up routes, SAA will then look at expanding its fleet and network.

### Other airlines

#### Comair

##### Business rescue progresses

In a significant step towards the successful conclusion of its business rescue process, South African carrier Comair has brought in R270 million ([\\$19 million](#)) through the R250 million sale of its SLOW Lounge business and receipt of a R20 million payment from South African Airways. The latter payment is part of R1.1 billion owed to Comair under a damages settlement for anti-competitive behavior (with R289 million having previously been paid).

##### Kulula flights resume

Comair-operated low-cost carrier Kulula resumed domestic services in South Africa on [September 4](#), flying twice-weekly from Johannesburg to East London.

## RwandAir

### New DR Congo connections

From the end of [September](#), RwandAir has been adding new routes to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The first was a twice-weekly service linking Kigali with [Lubumbashi](#). Flights to [Goma](#) will follow on [October 15](#).

#### Note

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at September 24, 2021. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

Do you have questions or comments regarding this report?

Please email [mike.eggleton@bcdtravel.co.uk](mailto:mike.eggleton@bcdtravel.co.uk) to share your thoughts.