

Virgin move Barbados flights from Gatwick to Heathrow

Virgin Atlantic has decided to move its Barbados flights from Gatwick to Heathrow, in the slots controversially purchased from Air Jamaica, according to the Jamaican Observer newspaper. The newspaper says that decision means that the highly prized slots have 'gone to a competing Caribbean destination'

Virgin agreed in May to take over Air Jamaica's flights between London and Kingston, a route that was loss making for the Caribbean airline. As part of the deal, Virgin moved the route from Heathrow to Gatwick and will launch a new twice-a-week Gatwick to Kingston flights next Tuesday (October 30).

The UK airline also purchased Air Jamaica's slots at Heathrow, for £5.1m. The newspaper now reports that it will use the slots for flights to Bridgetown, the Barbados capital, a very popular destination among Britons. It says that they will move to Heathrow on December 11.

The newspaper also reports 'another blow to Jamaica', claiming that Virgin is also likely to reduce the number of flights from London to Jamaica - from four to three - in the summer of 2008. The airline plans to operate two flights a week from Gatwick to Montego Bay and a similar number from Gatwick to Kingston, until next summer when its booking site suggested it would drop one flight to Kingston and operate a Gatwick-Kingston-Montego Bay flight among the three remaining ones.

Source: UK-Airportnews.info 25/10/07