



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

MEDIA RELEASE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT MALAYSIA

ADDITIONAL FLIGHT CAPACITY APPROVED BY MAVCOM FOR HARI RAYA AIDILFITRI 2023 IS 43% HIGHER COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 April 2023 – The Ministry of Transport Malaysia (MOT), through the Malaysian Aviation Commission (MAVCOM) has approved 527 additional flights for this Hari Raya Aidilfitri festive period. This is 43% higher compared to the additional capacity approved for the same period last year.

The measure is to cope with the high demand. In line with the global airline industry, normal ticket fares are based on dynamic pricing whereby consumers who purchase their tickets early, at a time of high availability, will enjoy lower prices. However, prices can become expensive when only a handful of tickets are left in the market.

Since early March, MOT and MAVCOM have taken proactive steps in encouraging airlines to offer reasonably priced flight tickets. MAVCOM has facilitated and **approved all additional capacity requests by airlines in offering fixed fares** to key destinations within Malaysia.

Following MAVCOM's approval, AirAsia and Batik Air announced their fixed-fare flight tickets on March 7 and March 10 respectively. (Please refer to the chronology **Table 1** for details).





MAVCOM has also approved **more additional flights in general** to ensure higher availability of seats in addressing the high demand and in lowering airfare prices.

However, the fixed-price tickets were sold at a rapid pace. The normal-fare flights also saw a high take-up rate that led to higher prices for the remaining tickets.

Even though the airlines have increased their capacity, it was still insufficient to meet the high demand which prompted MOT and MAVCOM to **undertake another round of intervention**.

Following discussions with Malaysia Airlines Berhad (MAB), MAB committed to increasing its capacity and confirmed that 40 of its scheduled flights will be upgraded to the Airbus A330 wide-body aircraft to facilitate travellers from Kuala Lumpur to Kuching and the Kuala Lumpur to Kota Kinabalu sectors. The larger pool of available flight tickets has assisted in lowering the initial airfare prices.

As a result of the interventions by MOT and MAVCOM, the additional capacity approved for domestic flights is **43.1% higher compared to the Hari Raya Aidilfitri festive period last year**.

As of 5 April 2023, 527 additional flights requested by airlines have been approved by MAVCOM.

MOT and MAVCOM's facilitation has led to the following actions:





MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

TABLE 1: Actions taken to meet flight demands during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri festive season

Date	Action
Mar 7	AirAsia announces fixed-fare tickets <ul style="list-style-type: none">● RM199 from Peninsular to Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu and Miri● RM249 from Peninsular to Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan, Tawau● Travel period: 19 - 21 April 2023; 28 - 30 April 2023
Mar 10	Batik Air announces fixed-fare tickets <ul style="list-style-type: none">● RM299 from KL International Airport, Terminal 1 to Kuching● RM359 from KL International Airport, Terminal 1 to Kota Kinabalu● Travel period: 17 April 2023 - 2 May 2023
Mar 29	Malaysia Airlines, Firefly and MASwings launch 20,000 additional tickets
April 6	Malaysia Airlines, Firefly and MASwings announce another 18,000 additional tickets <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wide-body aircraft will be used on 20 April 2023 - 1 May 2023● 54 additional return flights to Kuching, Kota Kinabalu, Tawau, Sandakan, Kota Bharu, Alor Setar, Terengganu, Kuantan, Labuan, Bintulu, Sibul and Miri● Firefly also added extra flights to Kota Bharu and Kota Kinabalu





MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

TABLE 2: Breakdown by airlines of the approved additional flights (one-way) for the Hari Raya Aidilfitri festive season

Airline	Additional flights
Malaysia Airlines	184
Batik Air	173
AirAsia	130
Firefly	18
MASwings	12
MYAirline	10
Total	527

TABLE 3: Breakdown of the approved additional flights (one-way) for the Hari Raya Aidilfitri festive season according to routes from West Malaysia to Sabah Sarawak

Kota Kinabalu	118
Tawau	70
Sandakan	32
Total (Sabah)	220
Kuching	102
Sibu	34
Miri	20
Bintulu	14
Total (Sarawak)	170
Grand Total (Sabah & Sarawak)	390





This is on top of 5,617 regular scheduled flights within Peninsular Malaysia, 2,149 between Peninsular Malaysia to Sarawak as well as 2,033 between Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah, operated by all carriers during this period.

The Government of Malaysia is pleased to see that the aviation industry has shown immense commitment and support in facilitating travellers *balik kampung* during this Hari Raya Aidilfitri travelling period.

The Government also wishes to accord its utmost appreciation to the airlines, its pilots, and crew members who will be performing and managing these 527 additional flights during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri festive season.

MOT will continue working with MAVCOM to ensure enough flight capacity is available to facilitate more affordable airfare prices. As the economic and commercial regulator for the aviation industry, MAVCOM is committed to approving all route applications by airlines during festive seasons and performing its mandate for the national interest.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
8 April, 2023

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About MOT:

The Ministry of Transport Malaysia is determined to be the leader of an integrated, efficient and secure transportation system by empowering technology-based transportation systems as the catalyst for national development.





MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

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