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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA CELEBRATE THE START OF NONSTOP SERVICE FROM NEWARK ON JETBLUE AIRWAYS**

**ST. JOHN’S, ANTIGUA, July 4, 2021**… The Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority on July 3 welcomed the start of nonstop service on JetBlue Airways from Newark Liberty International Airport to VC Bird International Airport in Antigua. The new service will operate three times a week, on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays, departing Newark at 8:50 AM and arriving in Antigua at 1:17 PM.

Passengers boarding the inaugural flight at Newark Liberty International Airport were treated to some delightful Caribbean music performed by a pan soloist and were presented with mini flags. The festivities included a ribbon cutting ceremony at the check-in counter with representatives from the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority and from JetBlue Airways.

“As the travel industry rebounds, we are delighted that JetBlue is expanding their service to Antigua & Barbuda, providing both our visitors and returning residents with another convenient option for them to experience our twin island destination,” noted Hon. Charles Fernandez, Minister of Tourism and Investment. “Antigua is a tropical paradise with a diverse range of offerings and this decision signifies a tremendous vote of confidence in our tourism product. Our destination remains one of the Caribbean’s leading hotspots with remarkable natural beauty, a rich culture and delectable cuisine which excites the imagination of visitors and ensures a memorable vacation experience.”

“The launch of new destinations from Newark International Airport, including Antigua, allows us to grow our presence in the Caribbean and helps further our network strategy in the greater New York Area” said Andrea Lusso, vice president network planning, JetBlue. “This new route seeks to grow our airline’s presence in key regions and introduce our low fares and more competition for customers both in Antigua and in Newark.”

The full flight was met on arrival at the VC Bird International Airport with a water cannon salute on touchdown, followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony with Minister Fernandez, ABTA CEO Colin James, and JetBlue’s Supervisor Airport and Ground Operations ANU, Shevonne Joseph.

The new JetBlue service from Newark complements the existing service from New York JFK which currently includes flights on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Traveling to Antigua is easy as all travelers need to do is show proof of a negative PCR test taken and received within seven days of their flight. Visitors may be required to undergo testing on arrival or at their hotel as determined by the local health authorities. In Antigua, the wearing of face masks is mandatory along with social distancing protocols. On arrival, all visitors must complete a health declaration form.

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**ABOUT ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Antigua (pronounced An-tee'ga) and Barbuda (Bar-byew’da) is located in the heart of the Caribbean Sea. Voted the World Travel Awards 2015, 2016, 2017 *and 2018* *Caribbean’s Most Romantic Destination*, the twin-island paradise offers visitors two uniquely distinct experiences, ideal temperatures year-round, a rich history, vibrant culture, exhilarating excursions, award-winning resorts, mouth-watering cuisine and 365 stunning pink and white-sand beaches - one for every day of the year. The largest of the Leeward Islands, Antigua comprises 108-square miles with rich history and spectacular topography that provides a variety of popular sightseeing opportunities. Nelson’s Dockyard, the only remaining example of a Georgian fort a listed UNESCO World Heritage site, is perhaps the most renowned landmark. Antigua’s tourism events calendar includes the prestigious Antigua Sailing Week, Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta, and the annual Antigua Carnival; known as the Caribbean’s Greatest Summer Festival. Barbuda, Antigua’s smaller sister island, is the ultimate celebrity hideaway. The island lies 27 miles north-east of Antigua and is just a 15-minute plane ride away. Barbuda is known for its untouched 17 mile stretch of pink sand beach and as the home of the largest Frigate Bird Sanctuary in the Western Hemisphere.

Find information on Antigua & Barbuda at: [www.visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://www.visitantiguabarbuda.com) or follow us on

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