



Monday, September 9th, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Air Caledonie is opening a new route : Nouméa-Port-Vila code- shared with Aircalin

Air Calédonie announces the opening of a new regional air route, in cooperation with Aircalin, to the capital of Vanuatu, Port-Vila. The first flight is scheduled on October 3rd, 2024, to be operated with one ATR 72-600 aircraft, departing from La Tontouta International Airport. This flight will mark the beginning of a regular schedule twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays.

The launch of this new regional route is part of the deeper cooperation initiated between the two airlines in March 2023 with a domestic code-share agreement, which enabled the sale of tickets on international markets. This cooperation has been reinforced in March 2024, when five exceptional rotations operated by Air Calédonie between the Isle of Pines and La Tontouta Airport were organized in connection with Aircalin international flights.

According to Daniel Houmbouy, CEO of Air Calédonie, *“We have been working on this new international route for several months. This is a major step for the airline, to demonstrate our commitment to ensuring strong connections not only within New Caledonia islands but also within the Pacific region. In these challenging times, this route represents a vital opportunity to maintain jobs and sustain the level of activity necessary for the airline’s durability. The involvement of the teams in this project reflects our determination to expand towards new opportunities, and this is just the first step in our essential transformation plan to the future.”*

Air Calédonie flights to Port-Vila will be operated under a code-share with Aircalin. The customers will be able to purchase their ticket either from Aircalin or Air Calédonie ticket. Air Calédonie flights will be distributed worldwide. Both airlines are aiming to fulfil the customers longings for a regular service between New Caledonia and Vanuatu. Aircalin currently offers a weekly flight on Fridays with their A320neo, limited to school holiday. For Aircalin, the relaunch of this route via Air Calédonie is also part of its recovery plan, which includes a temporary reduction in its regional flight schedule.

Georges Selefen, CEO of Aircalin: *“This code share with Air Calédonie is an opportunity to maintain a historic and regular service with Vanuatu. It allows our frequent customers to benefit from a combined offer with two to three flights per week. We continue our cooperation to intensify this service in the coming months and also allow Air Calédonie to place its code on our flights to Port-Vila.”*

Customers are invited to book their trips to Vanuatu directly through www.air-caledonie.nc or www.aircalin.nc, via phone at the airlines' sales points, or through travel agencies.

Press Contacts

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Appendix – Flight Schedule

Monday:

- TY915 / SB3240: Departure from La Tontouta at 3:00 PM, arrival at Port-Vila at 4:30 PM;
- TY916 / SB3241: Departure from Port-Vila at 5:30 PM, arrival at La Tontouta at 7:00 PM.

Thursday:

- TY915 / SB3240: Departure from La Tontouta at 3:00 PM, arrival at Port-Vila at 4:30 PM;
- TY916 / SB3241: Departure from Port-Vila at 5:30 PM, arrival at La Tontouta at 7:00 PM.