

Russia's SkyExpress to open Egyptian charter routes

Tom Zaitsev, London (02Oct08, 15:29 GMT, 120 words)

Russian low-cost operator SkyExpress is turning to international charters to augment revenues and counter seasonal fluctuations in domestic demand.

The airline will this month begin providing non-scheduled services to the Egyptian tourist resorts of Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheikh using Boeing 737s.

It plans to complement these with charter flights from Moscow Vnukovo to several ski destinations in Europe shortly afterwards.

"We're finalising arrangements with a number of large tour operators and will make announcements about particular destinations in due course," says a company spokesman.

He cites a pronounced seasonality in the domestic air market which necessitates deploying fleet capacity elsewhere to supplement income during low seasons.

SkyExpress provides scheduled services on a dozen routes within Russia using 10 leased 737s.

Source: Air Transport Intelligence news

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