

The Virgin Islands Consortium

U.S. Virgin Islands, Dominica And Guadeloupe Among Routes To Be Cut By Liat

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ST. CROIX -- Liat, the Antigua-based Caribbean airline company announced on Tuesday that come March, its flights to and from the U.S. Virgin Islands will no longer be available, as well as flights between Guadeloupe and Dominica.

According to the company, the decision to suspend operation of the mentioned routes was made "to achieve greater profitability and improve efficiency."

The St. Croix flights will stop on March 1, while the St. Thomas flights end June 14, according to Liat. The Dominica/Guadeloupe route will stop on March 2.

"These moves are intended to help stabilize the airline's flight schedule and network," the company said.

The action follows a company-wide review of operations, with an end goal of ensuring that Liat only operate in commercially viable routes. Liat Chief Commercial Officer Lloyd Carswell said the change means more time added to schedules at airports throughout the region, while eliminating the underperforming routes.

While Liat left little hope for reinstating its St. Croix flights, Mr. Carswell said once the company makes up for its losses in the axed routes, it may consider flights to St. Thomas on a seasonal basis.

Liat's next meeting with regional trade unions and the company's management happens on Friday. Among topics to be discussed is the airline's plan to reorganize routes of operation in its bid to maximize profits.

Correction: January 9, 2017

Liat has clarified that its flights to and from St. Thomas will be suspended on June 14, not March 14, as previously noted in the story. We've updated the article in reflected the correct information.