

For the airport in the Cook Islands with the IATA code MOI, see Mitiaro Airport.

Moi International Airport (IATA: MBA, ICAO: HKMO) is an international airport in Mombasa, the second-largest city in Kenya. The other three important international airports in Kenya include the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Kenya's capital city, Nairobi, the Kisumu International Airport (KIA) in Kisumu, Kenya's third largest city and the Eldoret International Airport (EIA) in Eldoret . It is located in Mombasa County in a township called Port Reitz, and features regional as well as intercontinental flights. The Airport is awarded as the "Best Airport in Africa"-2020 (under 2 million passengers per annum) by Airports Council International[2]

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Overview[edit]

Moi International Airport serves the city of Mombasa and surrounding communities. It lies approximately 425 kilometres (264 mi), by air, southeast of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, the largest and busiest airport in the country.[3] Mombasa Airport is operated by Kenya Airports Authority. It was named after former Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi during his tenure.

At 61 metres (200 ft) above sea level,[4] the airport has two runways: Runway 1 measures 3,350 metres (10,990 ft) in length and Runway 2 measures 1,260 metres (4,130 ft) in length.[5] Runway 1 is also known as Runway 03/21, while Runway 2 is also known as Runway 15/33. Runway 1 is equipped with an ILS (Instrument Landing System).

There are two terminals at the airport. Terminal 1 is primarily used for international flights, while Terminal 2 is used for domestic flights. Some airlines such as Kenya Airways use Terminal 1 for both domestic and international.

In September 2018, it was confirmed that Qatar Airways would be introducing four weekly flights to Mombasa operating with the A320. The first flight commenced on 11 December 2018, with a flight time from Doha of just over 6 hours.[6]

History[edit]

The airport was built during the Second World War by the Engineer Corps of the South African Army. During the war, it was used by the Fleet Air Arm as a land base of the British Eastern Fleet which was based at nearby Kilindini Harbour from 1942, by the Royal Air Force (AHQ East Africa and No. 246 Wing RAF) which operated anti-submarine Catalina flying boats off the East Africa coast and by the South African Air Force which was engaged in the war against Italy in Abyssinia. It was originally known as Port Reitz Airport.[citation needed]

Mombasa Airport was expanded to an international airport in 1979. Aircraft Maintenance facilities for private and light- to medium-size commercial aircraft are provided from government and private hangars by Benair Aircraft Engineering, licensed by the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) as an approved maintenance organisation (AMO).[citation

needed]

Starting on 18 August 1992, Moi International Airport was used as the headquarters for the US Central Command's regional command and control headquarters for Operation Provide Relief until 4 December of that same year when it was subordinated and merged with Operation Restore Hope. The initial deployment of personnel from US Central Command included tactical communications specialists from the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE).[citation needed]

From July to September 1994, Moi International Airport was used almost continuously as a refueling station during the Operation Support Hope humanitarian mission into Rwanda. Empty C-141 and C-5 freighter jets returning to Europe flew to Mombasa due to the scarcity of fuel in the African interior. The airlift through Mombasa ceased by October due to runway expansion work.[citation needed]

Airlines and destinations[edit]

Airlines Destinations

Animawings Seasonal charter: Bucharest[7]

Enter Air Seasonal charter: Katowice, Warsaw–Chopin

Ethiopian Airlines Addis Ababa

Eurowings Discover Frankfurt

Fly540 Nairobi–Jomo Kenyatta, Zanzibar

Fly-SAX Moroni

GullivAir Seasonal charter: Bucharest ,[8] Sofia[9]

Jambojet Nairobi–Jomo Kenyatta

Kenya Airways Nairobi–Jomo Kenyatta

KLM Seasonal: Amsterdam (begins 31 October 2021)[10]

LOT Polish Airlines Seasonal charter: Warsaw–Chopin

Lufthansa Frankfurt1[11]

Mombasa Air Safari Amboseli, Keekorok, Lamu, Malindi, Masai Mara, Ukunda/Diani Beach

Neos Milan–Malpensa

Seasonal: Rome–Fiumicino, Verona

Qatar Airways Doha

RwandAir Dubai–International, Kigali

Smartwings Poland Seasonal charter: Prague, Warsaw–Chopin

TUI fly Netherlands Seasonal: Amsterdam

Turkish Airlines Istanbul2

Uganda Airlines Entebbe

Note

1: Lufthansa' Frankfurt to Mombasa flights continue to Zanzibar whilst Mombasa to Frankfurt flights originate at Zanzibar. However, the airline does not have traffic rights to transport passengers solely between Zanzibar and Mombasa in either direction.

2: Turkish Airlines' inbound flights from Istanbul to Mombasa make a stop in Kilimanjaro. However, the airline does not have traffic rights to transport passengers solely between Kilimanjaro and Mombasa.