Nelson Mandela International Airport (IATA: RAI, ICAO: GVNP), also known as Praia International Airport, is the airport of Santiago Island in Cape Verde. It was opened in October 2005,[2] replacing the old Francisco Mendes International Airport. It is located about 3 km northeast of the city centre of Praia in the southeastern part of the island of Santiago.  
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History[edit]  
The first flight to the new airport was on 6 October 2005 with a flight from Sal.[2] Even though the airport serves the capital and largest city, Praia as well as the island of Santiago, Cape Verde's busiest international airport is Amílcar Cabral International Airport located on the smaller island of Sal.[1]  
In January 2012 a Cape Verde government statement noted that Praia International Airport was renamed after South Africa's former president Nelson Mandela, an icon for freedom in Africa, not without controversy.[3] Modernization works, including a new departures hall, were scheduled for completion in July 2018.[4]  
Airlines and destinations[edit]  
Airlines Destinations  
Air Senegal Dakar–Diass[5]  
ASKY Airlines Dakar–Diass, Lomé[6]  
Azores Airlines Lisbon,[7] Paris–Charles de Gaulle, Ponta Delgada  
Cabo Verde Airlines Boston,[8] Lisbon, Sal, São Vicente  
Royal Air Maroc Casablanca  
TAP Air Portugal Lisbon  
TICV Boa Vista, Maio, Sal, São Filipe,[9] São Nicolau, São Vicente  
Transair Dakar–Diass[10]  
TUI fly Netherlands[11] Amsterdam  
Statistics[edit]  
See source Wikidata query and sources.  
Year Passengers Operations Cargo (t)  
2012[12] 497,049  
2013[12] 505,497 8,978 1,418  
2016[1] 522,584 8,641 1,109  
2017[1] 662,356 11,236 959  
See also[edit]  
List of buildings and structures in Santiago, Cape Verde