



RESUMPTION OF SERVICES: AIRLINK AND MANTIS

The Titan charter flights that replaced St Helena's usual air service with South Africa so far throughout the pandemic will come to an end in March, as the Airlink service is set to resume.

In late 2021, St Helena Government announced that air service between Johannesburg and St Helena would recommence from 26 March 2022.

This service, operated by Airlink, will be provided fortnightly. A monthly shuttle between St Helena and Ascension Island will be included.

Ticket sales are now live at www.flyairlink.com (travellers can alternatively contact travelagent@solomons.co.sh).

Also in late 2021, Mantis announced that its Mantis St Helena hotel – which has been closed for the majority of the pandemic – is set to reopen in September 2022.

“There are very few undiscovered destinations left in the world and St Helena is one of them,” said Mantis Collection CEO Paul Gardiner in a December press release. “This is an incredible bucket list destination for the coming year, offering visitors an extraordinary once in a lifetime experience[...].”

TRAVEL UPDATE

St Helena's Ministerial Council decided in December that the entry requirements to the island will remain the same until at least 31 March 2022. These requirements include 10 days' mandatory quarantine upon arrival and three COVID tests. A decision about entry requirements after March has yet to be made.

Two final charter flights between London and St Helena, operated by Titan Airways, are scheduled to take place between February and mid-March. Further information about all of the above, as well as updates as the situation evolves, will always be available at www.sthelenatourism.com.



BOOSTER VACCINES BEING ROLLED OUT

Since the middle of last year, 97% of the population has been double vaccinated. Now, booster vaccinations are being rolled out on-island.

A consignment of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines arrived to St Helena in November 2021. The Pfizer vaccine is used as a booster as well as a vaccine for persons aged 12 to 17.

The vaccines were first made available for priority groups (such as front-line workers and clinically vulnerable persons); and from 10 January 2022, booster shots were made available to the general public.



JONATHAN'S 190TH BIRTHDAY

This year, the world's oldest known living land animal 'Jonathan the Giant Tortoise' is celebrating his 190th birthday. His milestone will be celebrated throughout the year with a variety of events including a big birthday bash in October 2022. Visit Jonathan this year and receive a certificate depicting a special image of his footprint.

To kick off his birthday year, Jonathan also received a second Guinness Book of World Records title - check it out [here](#).

MBE AWARDEE

Terrestrial Conservation Nursery Officer Vanessa Thomas-Williams on 1 January 2022 was awarded a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services and commitment to conservation in St Helena.



Vanessa started her conservation career at a very young age and developed a passion for restoring critically endangered plant species. Over the years, her expertise was developed through professional training and exposure to horticultural work with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Vanessa has worked with universities and institutions abroad, conducting studies through which improvements to conservation techniques have been made. Most recently, Vanessa has been playing a vital role in restoring endemic plants like the She Cabbage, endemic habitats like the Peaks National Park, and launching a new seed bank on-island.

NEW INVERTEBRATE GUIDE PUBLISHED

St Helena boasts a wide range of habitats, from barren desert to lush cloud forest. These are populated by unique invertebrates, including more than 420 species found only on St Helena.

Now, you can easily find out more about each of these incredible species. The new *Terrestrial & Freshwater Invertebrates of St Helena* guide book is hot off the presses. The book describes more than 1,000 species, contains more than 1,200 colour photographs – many of the species never illustrated before – and provides informative text useful to both budding enthusiasts and professional entomologists.

The 220-page book was written by Roger Key, Liza Fowler and David Price, and was produced by the St Helena Nature Conservation Group with support from the St Helena National Trust. The book is available from various outlets on the island, including the Tourist Office.

