

Rwanda national carrier on Monday started first ever non stop flights connecting the capital Kigali and Paris, France, the airline has announced.

RwandAir will be using its newly delivered Airbus A330-300 aircraft on the route, flying three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

The direct flight to Paris was revealed earlier in April this year, making the French capital the 25th destination of Rwanda's national flag carrier.

The carrier joins Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airline with direct flights to France. Earlier this month, Air France launched direct flights from Paris to Dar es Salaam, ending a 28-year hiatus.

The airline seeks to tap the huge Rwandan diaspora living in France as well as Belgium.

"Passengers travelling from Rwanda will now be able to reach Paris in 8 hours and 30 minutes," RwandAir said in a tweet on Monday.

"The new flights to the 'City of Light', will operate three times a week, giving customers easy access to one of Europe's most stylish and exciting cities, as well connecting France with Kigali, in the heart of Africa,"

"Flight WB700 departs Kigali each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 00:30 am, arriving at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport at 9:00 am the same morning. The returning flight WB701 leaves Paris at 9:30 pm each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, arriving at RwandAir's home hub at 6:00 am the following morning," the airline announced in an earlier statement.

The airline says that customers flying to France from Africa will now be able to reach Paris via Kigali in under 8 hours and 30 minutes, giving them more time to explore the city's incredible atmosphere, amazing culture and iconic sights.