Private Aviation

BACK IN THE HIGH LIFE

Why it is not just the Monaco jet-set who are flying private charter post-coronavirus.

There was a
time when private jets were associated with rock stars and royalty. But these days, as European, and eventually international, borders are gradually reopening after Covid-19 brought air travel to its knees, private charter is proving a sanitary and secure alternative to commercial travel.

"Passenger safety has always been top priority in our sector," comments Nils Lovag from Global Jet, a worldwide business jet management company. "And we have seen an increase in the demand from worried travelers who have not paid to fly privately before."

From the early stages of the pandemic, Global Jet began implementing strict protocol to ensure health safety for passengers and staff. "Crew have been regularly tested, stringent cleaning is performed after each flight and other precautions, like replacing newspapers and magazines with disinfected iPads, have been implemented," explains Lovag, who is the charter sales executive at the Monaco office.

Even before coronavirus, Global Jet had distinguished itself by the diversity of its offerings, which range from customized charters and aircraft management to sales and acquisition.

"We have a fleet of 75 aircrafts," says Lovag, "and for Monaco residents, there are lots of advantages to chartering a pet-friendly plane as compared to commercial airlines." Flying on a business jet facilitates social distancing by avoiding close contact with other unknown passengers onboard and outside the craft, with standalone VIP terminal facilities, such as the General Aviation Terminal in Nice or the dedicated Cannes-Mandelieu airport.

"With private aviation, there are thousands of airports available worldwide and you can fly anytime you choose. This is key with the drastic reduction of scheduled services this summer."

Founded in December 1999, Global Jet has headquarters in Geneva and Luxembourg, plus 11 sales offices operating in Europe, Asia and Russia. Today the company counts 30 different types of aircrafts by a wide variety of manufacturers—everything from light jet to ultra-long range.

How does Global Jet approach the unavoidable issue in private aviation concerning the alarming pollution of the skies? "We see what's happening in terms of climate change," Lovag asserts, "and there are already some governments who are pushing to restrict private jets.

"However, we already have many clients asking us about carbon emissions from their flights so they can pay extra to help compensate." Money from carbon offsetting, he clarifies, is then invested in any number of environmental projects, from planting trees to the use of solar panels, aimed at reducing greenhouse gases.

Admittedly, a private aircraft charter is more expensive than a ticket on commercial jets with prices varying according to flight times and dates. For Lovag, in the current social distancing environment, business aviation not only plays a vital role but also could be considered an Essential Service.

"The personalized approach means that as a passenger you benefit from the very highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness," he adds.