

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

## Private jet travel soars this holiday season: Flexjet

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*Flexjet Gulfstream G650. Image credit: Flexjet*

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By STAFF REPORTS

Private jet travel Dec. 20-21 in the United States is expected to cross that of Thanksgiving weekend, which is typically the busiest travel period of the year.

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Overall, nearly 7 million U.S. consumers will fly private jet this holiday season, up 4.9 percent from last year, according to private jet travel provider Flexjet citing recent AAA travel estimates. The overlap between Hannukah Dec. 22-30, Christmas and New Year's Eve and Day contributed to the increase.

"With the holidays coinciding this year, more people will be traveling at the same time, crowding the skies and making private jet travel more appealing than ever," said Megan Wolf, chief operating officer of Cleveland, OH-based Flexjet, in a statement.

"Over the Thanksgiving weekend, Flexjet typically sees more travel than any other time of the year, and this year was no different," she said. "However, bookings for this coming weekend already exceed this year's Thanksgiving travel levels."

### Plane talk

Private jet travel typically grows in tandem with commercial air traffic as affluent consumers seek to avoid crowds, delays and lengthened travel times with regular flights, **Flexjet** said.

Affluent consumers flying private jet in North America have access to 5,000 airports closer to their final destinations compared to 500 airports open to commercial airlines, many of them accessible through hub connections that add to the travel time.



*Flexjet is an official sponsor of the 2019 Aspen World Snow Polo Championship Dec. 18-20 and also the 2020 sponsor of the Flexjet Polo Team led by Melissa Ganzi. Image courtesy of Flexjet*

Examining travel pattern behavior over three years shows that favorite private jet travel destinations for the holidays comprise a mix of sun, ski and overseas locations, according to Flexjet.

Top destinations for sunny locales are Palm Beach, Miami and Naples, all in Florida. Aspen and Vail in Colorado, and Bozeman in Montana are the top ski destinations.

The islands most popular for private jet travel were all in the Caribbean: Nassau in the Bahamas, Punta Cana in the Caribbean and Montego Bay in Jamaica.

Beyond North America, London, Bordeaux in France and Venice, Italy were top favorite destinations via private jet.

FLEXJET HAS seen an uptick of 47 percent this year in private jet travel to, from and within Europe. But the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas remain popular non-U.S. destinations even after the damage caused by Hurricane Dorian.

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