

World's shortest int'l flights: Blink and you have landed

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Dhaka : Long-haul flights tend to steal the spotlight, but some of the most fascinating air journeys last barely long enough for the seatbelt sign to go off. These miniature international hops - many spanning just a few dozen kilometers - are equal parts quirky, practical, and essential.

According to aviation data firm OAG, the world's ten shortest international routes cover distances that some commuters might drive in under an hour. Found mostly in the Caribbean, they link neighboring islands, small territories, and cities separated by little more than a river or a bay. For locals, they are lifelines; for travelers, they are brag-worthy bucket-list items.

Here is a look at the world's tiniest border-crossing flights.

Antigua-Montserrat (55 km): Caribbean connector

Operated by Fly Montserrat, this 20-minute hop covers 55 kilometers of

turquoise waters. Beyond its postcard views, the route is vital for the British Overseas Territory, whose airport sits dramatically among volcanic peaks and lush hills.

British Virgin Islands-US Virgin Islands (46 km): Quick island hop

Just 46 kilometers apart, Terrance B. Lettsome Airport (BVI) and Cyril E. King Airport (USVI) are linked by frequent services from Cape Air and Air Sunshine. Think of it as a flying ferry - beach bars and sailboats included.

Saba-St Maarten (44 km): Adrenaline approach

Flying this 15-minute route on Winair means taking off from the world's shortest commercial runway - a 400-meter strip carved into Saba's cliffs. The payoff? A thrilling landing at St Maarten's famous Maho Beach, where planes glide just above the sand.

Anguilla-St Barthélemy (40 km): Luxury in air

Carrying jet-setters between two Caribbean gems, Tradewind Aviation and Anguilla Air Services cover the 40-kilometer route in under 15 minutes. It's the preferred alternative to a bumpy yacht ride-champagne optional.

Hong Kong-Macau (37 km): VIP shortcut

Sky Shuttle Helicopters connects Hong Kong and Macau in 15 minutes of pure skyline glamour. Skipping road congestion and border queues, it's a favorite among executives and casino-bound travelers who prefer their commutes with sea views.

St Barthélemy-St Maarten (Dutch Side) (31 km): Bilingual beach hop

A trio of airlines - Winair, Air Caraïbes, and St Barth Commuter - flies this 15-minute route between French chic and Dutch duty-free. The panorama of green peaks and blue bays is pure Caribbean magic.

St Barthélemy-Saint Martin (French Side) (31 km): Twin-island tango

Another short leap connects St Barth to the French side of Saint Martin. Operated by St. Barth Commuter and Air Antilles, it's a serene 15-minute glide over aquamarine waters - proof that memorable journeys don't need to be long.

Brazzaville-Kinshasa (24 km): Across Congo River

Separated only by the mighty Congo River, the capitals of Congo-Brazzaville and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are just 24 kilometers apart. Major carriers, including Air France, Royal Air Maroc, and TAAG Angola Airlines, operate this ultra-short hop - occasionally even using wide-body jets like the Boeing 787.

Sint Maarten-Anguilla (19 km): Ten-minute teaser

At 19 kilometers, Anguilla Air Services' route is so short that passengers joke the check-in process takes longer than the flight. It links the Dutch Caribbean's bustle with Anguilla's quiet beaches in under ten minutes.