

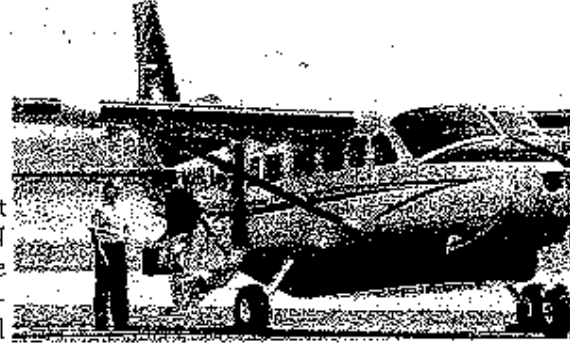
Linear Air luxury charter service arrives in Puerto Rico

Based in Isla Grande airport from Nov. 15 through March 31

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Massachusetts-based Linear Air is starting charter air taxi services throughout the Caribbean Nov. 15, with its base of operations in Isla Grande airport, Linear's President & CEO William Herp told CARIBBEAN BUSINESS. He indicated the airline will have one luxury-configured Cessna Caravan available in the region throughout high season until March 31, and will use SheltAir Aviation's ramp at Isla Grande as a hangar, maintenance, repair and refueling facility. Herp added, however, that the airplane can fly out of Luis Muñoz Marín International or any other airport on the island from which it is chartered.

Linear will serve Culebra and Vieques as well as the Dominican Republic (D.R.), Antigua, Tortola, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Nevis and St. Martin, among others, Herp said. Prices range from \$1,500 to charter the aircraft for a one-way trip to Tortola, to \$2,300 to Punta Cana or La Romana in the D.R.



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He emphasized that Linear's Cessna Caravan will be the only airplane of its class with luxury, first-class service flying out of Puerto Rico.

"The airplane's interior looks like a luxury executive jet, with leather seats, air conditioning and all the other amenities you expect from a jet," Herp explained, adding that although the airplane can seat up to 12, Linear's Caravan is equipped to carry only eight passengers plus two pilots for greater comfort.

He indicated while other airlines operate the turboprop with only one pilot, Linear uses two for added safety. "We have received a Gold rating from the Aviation Research Group/US, the leading independent safety auditor in the aviation industry," he said.

The airline already has a 1,000-client contact list that it has put together since first testing the waters in the Caribbean last year, Herp commented. "We have established some very strong relationships with travel agents and brokers in the area and are already taking bookings for Thanksgiving and the holidays," he said.

Linear's CEO indicated he expects the airline to establish seasonal service on a permanent basis in the Caribbean. Next year, Herp revealed, the airline will add a four-passenger Eclipse 500 Very Light Jet (VLJ) to its Caribbean operations. "Our average load is only three passengers, so the Eclipse should be a perfect fit for us," he noted, adding that Linear will receive the first of 30 Eclipse 500 jets it has on order in mid-2007. ■