

St. Augustine air charter company to offer flights to the Bahamas

By Will Robinson October 3, 2018

St. Augustine-based Boomerang Air Charter will soon begin offering individual tickets on direct flights to the Bahamas, a route they have served with chartered flights since 2012. Boomerang President Elliot Mintzer believes the service, which begins in 2019, will fill the void left by Silver Airways, which is suspending all service from Jacksonville beginning in November, and another major carrier that discontinued its route to the islands.

Boomerang will offer up to nine seats on each flight from St. Augustine to Marsh Harbor. The company will offer a morning and afternoon flight on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between Apr. 1 and Aug. 31 next year.

Tickets cost \$375 one-way or \$750 roundtrip. The flight takes about an hour.

"There's free parking and no extra bag fees," said Mintzer. "You can show up 15 minutes before your flight with your passport and bags, and off we go."

Despite Silver's exit, Mintzer believes there is a strong market for the route, noting that Marsh Harbor sees 180,000 visitors a season and Silver regularly sent planes filled at more than 90 percent capacity.

"I think Silver has its own issues," said Mintzer. "The market is definitely there."

Mintzer also noted that Boomerang's chartered service to Marsh Harbor has always had "crazy demand." He expects that to continue now that other commercial options to get there from Northeast Florida are "extremely limited."