

# No plane sailing for St Helena

Potential buyers of the RMS St Helena might have to wait to set sail aboard the vessel. The mail ship, which has plied its trade between Cape Town and the remote Atlantic island of St Helena since it was built in 1990, is being replaced by an air service. But it was announced yesterday that the airport's opening has been delayed indefinitely after test flights revealed dangerous wind conditions.



RMS St Helena via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Britain's Prince Edward was due to open the airport on May 21, St Helena Day, after arriving on the first Comair passenger flight from Johannesburg, but that plan has now been scrapped.

The R5.25-billion airport, built by South African construction company Basil Read between soaring mountains and the South Atlantic Ocean, was designed to boost tourism and revive the community in the British territory.

A spokesman at the RMS St Helena office in Cape Town said no decision had been made yet on extending its life. - AFP/Staff reporter

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