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City breaks back on as EasyJet bookings soar

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EASYJET's chief executive Johan Lundgren said that recovery is on the way as the airline's bookings skyrocket, especially for warmer destinations.

As reported by Lundgren during the carrier's trading update call, bookings for destinations such as Turkey and Egypt have increased 400 per cent.

"We have seen city breaks beginning to return alongside a growing demand for leisure travel from customers looking for holidays in popular major destinations," said the chief executive.

"October half-term bookings have been strong particularly for the Canary Islands, where we have increased our capacity to circa 140 per cent compared to Covid-19 levels."

Lundgren also added that capacity is expected to grow as EasyJet moves to 2022, going to 70 per cent of pre-pandemic levels. "We continue with our upward trajectory and capacity while also keeping a tight control on costs. The recovery is underway and EasyJet will seize opportunities as we emerge from the pandemic."

Lundgren said it's still early to say if things will go back to normal by the summer of 2022. "We believe 2023 is going to be the year when we are going to go back to 2019 but all of this depends on the restrictions and what will happen with the pandemic. Nobody knows exactly when it's going to take place."

The chief executive also added that though some routes are not operating at the levels the company would like, the UK Government's recent easing of travel restrictions – including changing the mandatory day-two PCR tests with cheaper lateral flow ones – is a step in the right direction.

"But what we would like to see [eventually] is for the lateral flow test to go," he added. "I think the UK Government is working towards that. It's more a matter of timing and monitoring the situation in the next few months."

The airline announced yesterday that expected pre-tax losses for the year ending 31 September 2021 amount between £1.14bn and £1.18bn, with the board not issuing dividends for its 2021 financial year.



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EasyJet operated at 58 per cent pre-pandemic capacity over the past three months