



Bardawil

Middle East Aviation

Newsletter

: 2849 : 21 January 2016

SERVING CIVIL AVIATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE 1961 WITHOUT A BREAK

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Published weekly by Bardawil Aviation Co. s.a.l

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDIA Flights Grew In 2015

Domestic Flights Represented 65.24%

SAUDIA has issued its annual operational performance report for 2015 showing growth in flights during last December as it operated 16,559 flights in domestic and international networks with an increase of 5% compared to the same month in 2014. The report also showed an on-time performance rate of 85.23%.

According to the report, in December, scheduled domestic flights represented 65.24% of the total number of the scheduled flights with an on-time performance rate of 86.2%. The airline operated 5,506 international flights with on-time performance rate of 85.2%.

The report showed that the company has transported during December 2015 a total of 2,481,643 guests with an increase of 9% compared to the same month in 2014. The company transported in the domestic network 1,374,054 guests representing 55.6% of the total number.

There were 3,895 flights operated from Riyadh station. Jeddah Station operated 3,788 flights while Dammam station operated 1,101 flights and Madinah operated 909 flights.

Dammam station was number one in on-time performance scoring 91.28%. Riyadh was second scoring 87.01%, Madinah was third scoring 85.15% and Jeddah scored 83.61%.

It is expected that 2016 will witness further growth in numbers of flights and seating capacity in both international and domestic networks as the company will be receiving new aircraft to its fleet this year.

U A E

Etihad Airways Delivers Another Year Of Strong Growth In 2015

Etihad Airways delivered solid operational performance in 2015 by achieving continued growth in passenger and cargo volumes. The airline carried 17.4 million passengers last year, a significant increase of 17 per cent over 2014 levels, and operated 97,400 flights which covered 467 million kilometres. The growth in passenger demand continued to surpass the airline's capacity increase, underscoring the strength of its long-term growth strategy.

In total, Etihad Airways carried more than 75 per cent of the total passengers who travelled to and from Abu Dhabi International Airport in 2015. With the addition of the airline's equity partners that operate flights into the UAE capital, the combined total rises to 84 per cent of passenger traffic at Abu Dhabi International Airport.



James Hogan, Etihad Airways' President and Chief Executive Officer, said: "In 2015, we were able to bring new competitive choice to millions of travellers, through our award-winning services and through the growing networks of our equity partners. No airline group is doing more to stimulate new competition in the aviation industry."

Etihad Airways introduced six additional destinations to its global route network in 2015, with new flights to Kolkata, Madrid, Edinburgh, Entebbe, Hong Kong, and Dar es Salaam, and a new direct service to Brisbane.

Last year also saw Etihad Airways' fleet boosted with the deployment of the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, which entered commercial service on routes to Washington DC, Zurich, Singapore and Brisbane. The Airbus A380 network was expanded with a second service to London Heathrow and new flights to Sydney and New York.

This year, the airline will commence its third daily A380 service to London Heathrow, and will add two new A380 destinations of Mumbai and Melbourne, while the Boeing 787 will start flying to five new cities, namely Düsseldorf, Perth, Shanghai, Istanbul and Johannesburg.

Etihad Airways increased frequencies on 16 existing routes across the world in 2015. These were Bangkok, Chennai, Dammam, Delhi, Hong Kong, Hyderabad, Istanbul, Jeddah, Kochi, Kozhikode, Melbourne, Mumbai, Muscat, Seychelles, Tehran and Trivandrum.

Complementing its organic growth, the airline also expanded its codeshare and equity partnerships last year. These partnerships delivered more than five million passengers onto Etihad Airways' flights, an increase of 43 per cent over the 3.5 million passengers in 2014.

A new codeshare agreement was launched with Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), while Etihad Airways' existing codeshares with Air Serbia, American Airlines, flynas, Jet Airways, Korean Air, NIKI and S7 Airlines were significantly expanded. As a result, Etihad Airways now offers a combined passenger and cargo network of nearly 600 destinations through its 197 interline and 49 codeshare partnerships.

In April 2015, the airline obtained regulatory approval from Switzerland's Federal Office of Civil Aviation, FOCA, to finalise a 33.3 per cent investment in the Swiss regional carrier, Darwin Airline.

In June, Darwin Airline, trading as Etihad Regional, became the latest addition to Etihad Airways' equity partners network, which also includes airberlin, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, Alitalia, Jet Airways and Virgin Australia. Etihad Airways' equity partnerships represent the seventh largest global grouping of airlines, together flying more than 100 million guests.

Etihad Airways also reported strong cargo volumes for 2015, with 592,090 tonnes of freight and mail flown in total, a four per cent increase year-on-year. The airline accounted for 88 per cent of cargo imports, exports and transfers at Abu Dhabi International Airport last year.

During 2015, Etihad Cargo enhanced its global reach by offering bellyhold capacity on Etihad Airways' six new passenger destinations, bringing to 96 the total number of passenger destinations on which cargo services are currently provided. Etihad Cargo also expanded its freighter services to several new markets including Dakar, Nouakchott and Douala, bringing the number of freighter-only destinations operated to 20.

Etihad Airways' fleet consisted of 121 aircraft at the end of 2015 (+9 per cent year-on-year), with an average age of 5.8 years – one of the youngest and most environmentally-friendly in the industry. The airline took delivery of 11 Airbus (four A380s, six A321s and one A320) and four Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft in 2015, while further leased capacity was also added.

To support the next phase of its global network expansion, Etihad Airways will receive 10 aircraft deliveries this year, including five Boeing 787-9s, three A380s and two Boeing 777-200 Freighters.

Mr Hogan said: "We enter 2016 with confidence as a stronger, more dynamic airline that will continue to support the evolution of Abu Dhabi as a global aviation hub. We continue to face challenges, not least the protectionism of the major American and European legacy carriers. We will continue to fight to bring new competitive choice to travellers around the world."



Emirates Expands Switzerland Operation, Adds Second Daily Service To Geneva

Emirates announced the expansion of its operation in Switzerland with the addition of a second daily service to Geneva effective 1st June 2016. The second daily flight will double capacity on the route and represents an overall increase of 26% for Emirates in Switzerland.

The new flight will be operated by a state-of-the-art Boeing 777-300ER aircraft in a three-class configuration, with eight Private Suites in First Class, 42 lie flat seats in Business Class, and 310 spacious seats in Economy Class.

With an additional cargo capacity of almost 20 tonnes per day in each direction, Emirates SkyCargo will offer better access for Swiss companies to economies around the world.

Court Ruling Definitive On Etihad Airways-airberlin Codeshare Dispute

Etihad Airways welcomed the recent ruling by the higher administrative court in Luneburg reversing an earlier judgment and allowing it to continue operating 26 out of the 31 codeshare flights for the full Winter Schedule - which ends on 26 March 2016.

The court definitively ruled that 26 of the 31 codeshares are lawful. Together with the other 50 approved codeshares with airberlin, 76 of the 81 codeshares are now approved once and for all, that is 94 per cent of the codeshares applied for. The other five codeshares are on German domestic routes.

The court's interpretation of the UAE-Germany Air Services Agreement also means that Etihad Airways will be able to continue with all those codeshares beyond the Winter Schedule.

Etihad Airways President and Chief Executive Officer, James Hogan, said: "We are pleased with the ruling which confirms 94 per cent of Etihad Airways' codeshares.

"This ruling is a victory for consumers and competition in Germany. We remain strongly committed to our strategic partner, airberlin, and will redouble our efforts to provide a strong competitive alternative to the dominant German carrier, Lufthansa. We would like to encourage German consumers to support airberlin and its 8,000 staff, who have been seriously damaged by this sustained attack on their business."

Emirates Announces Second Daily Service To Athens

Emirates unveiled plans to boost capacity to Athens with the addition of a second daily flight to the Greek capital from 1 March 2016. The addition of a second daily service will take the total weekly Emirates flights serving Athens to 14. The flight will be linked to the existing Dubai-Larnaca route, allowing travellers to book tickets between the Cypriot city and Athens.

The Dubai-Larnaca-Athens service will be operated by a state-of-the-art Boeing 777-300ER aircraft in a three-class configuration, with eight Private Suites in First Class, 42 lie flat seats in Business Class, and 310 spacious seats in Economy Class.

"Emirates started serving Athens in June 1996; since then we have carried over 2.2 million passengers on the route. Boasting a rich history and picturesque islands, Greece is a popular destination for travellers from the UAE, Australia, China and South Africa. The expanded schedule will also enable more seamless connections for business and leisure passengers travelling from Athens to key destinations like Dubai, Manila, Johannesburg, Dhaka, Melbourne, and Hong Kong. By linking the new service to our existing Dubai-Larnaca flight, Emirates becomes the only airline to operate a wide-body aircraft on the popular Larnaca-Athens route," said Thierry Aucoc, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations, Europe and Russia.

OMAN

Oman Air Announces Codeshare With Thai Airways

Oman Air announced a new codeshare agreement with Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (THAI) for flights between Muscat and the Thai capital Bangkok. Oman Air and THAI will now be able to offer more choices for passengers on board both carriers. Under the signed agreement, Oman Air and THAI will place each other's codes on the respective flights operated between Muscat and Bangkok.



Starting 25 January 2016, Thai Airways will operate three round trip flights per week (Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday), while Oman Air will operate double daily flights.

Oman Air's Chief Operating Officer, Abdulrahman Al-Busaidy, said, "Thai Airways International shares Oman Air's commitment to delivering the highest quality of products and services. Together with Thai Airways, we will now be able to offer more customers the experience of Oman Air's award-winning products and services between Muscat and Bangkok."

JORDAN

Royal Jordanian's Crown Lounge Wins The Africa & Middle East Lounge Of The Year Award 2015

Royal Jordanian's Crown Lounge, at Queen Alia International Airport, was named the winner of the Africa & Middle East Lounge of the Year Award 2015, by Priority Pass, part of the Collinson Group.

This is the 11th year the prestigious Lounge of the Year Awards have taken place. Priority Pass named just 17 winners from over 850 international lounges in the Priority Pass program, based on the voting of Priority Pass members. It recognizes the individual excellence and investment in customer experience within the Priority Pass program. Members voted on a set of criteria covering overall lounge quality, including refreshments, staff, business facilities and ambience.

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