

REPORT: AIRLINES: MIDDLE EAST

What you need to know

February 2023

This report presents a roundup of what's been happening to airlines in the Middle East over the last month.

Major carriers

[Etihad Airways](#)

[Lisbon joining network](#)

From [July 2](#), Etihad Airways will expand its European network with the start of [three weekly](#) flights from Abu Dhabi to Lisbon, Portugal.

[Turkish Airlines](#)

[January passenger numbers up by more than a half](#)

During January, Turkish Airlines carried 6.09 million passengers. This was up [56%](#) year-over-year. With revenue passenger kilometers rising by 70% on 39% growth in capacity, the airline's load factor advanced 14.8 points to [81%](#).

Other airlines

[Air Arabia](#)

[New routes from Abu Dhabi](#)

Low-cost carrier Air Arabia's Abu Dhabi division will start a new [thrice-weekly](#) service from Abu Dhabi to Amman, Jordan, from [March 12](#). It will be the airline's 27th destination from Abu Dhabi. Kolkata will become its 28th destination and seventh in India, when [thrice-weekly](#) services start on [March 15](#).

The airline is also planning to launch two routes to Iraq. [Twice-weekly](#) flights to Baghdad will begin on [June 22](#). Flights at the same frequency will start to Erbil on [September 15](#).

[Passenger numbers drive up 2022 results](#)

UAE-based Air Arabia saw its turnover rise by [65%](#) to Dh5.2 billion in 2022, as passenger numbers almost doubled to 12.8 million. Annual net profit jumped by [70%](#) to Dh1.2 billion (US\$327 million).

[Air Astana](#)

[Strong demand drives up profits](#)

Kazakh carrier Air Astana improved annual revenue in 2022 by [36%](#) to just over \$1 billion. Passenger numbers rose by 11% to 7.35 million, helping to drive a more than doubling in profits to \$78.4 million.

[Beijing service resumes](#)

Air Astana will resume [twice-weekly](#) flights from Astana to Beijing from [March 18](#). It will also increase frequency on its existing Almaty-Beijing service to [four](#) times weekly, before increasing it further to [daily](#) during the summer.

El Al

New Tokyo service starting

Israeli carrier El Al will start [twice-weekly](#) flights from Tel Aviv to Tokyo Narita on [March 2](#), the first scheduled service linking Israel and Japan.

Flydubai

Mogadishu joining network

Low-cost carrier Flydubai will add Mogadishu, Somalia, to its network from [March 9](#). It will initially operate [daily](#) services from Dubai, rising to [double-daily](#) from [June 1](#).

Jazeera Airways

Profits slump in Q4 2022

Kuwaiti low-cost carrier Jazeera Airways increased fourth quarter 2022 revenues by [25%](#) year-over-year to KD41.3 million. This was driven by an [88%](#) increase in passengers to 978,000. However, Jazeera's quarterly operating profit slumped by [91%](#) to just KD900,000 (US\$2.9 million). It also reported a KD700,000 net loss, a steep reversal from 2021's KD7 million net profit.

Samarkand service starting in March

On [March 1](#), Jazeera Airways will launch new [twice-weekly](#) non-stop services between Kuwait and Samarkand in Uzbekistan. It already serves Tashkent and Namangan.

Oman Air

Four new summer destinations

As part of its summer 2023 schedule, Oman Air will start four new routes from Muscat. From the end of [March](#), it will start [four weekly](#) flights to Chittagong in Bangladesh, followed by four weekly flights to the Maldives from the end of [June](#). During [August](#), Oman Air will also launch [12 weekly](#) flights to Lucknow and [five times weekly](#) services to Thiruvananthapuram in India.

Royal Jordanian

New services

Royal Jordanian Airlines will launch a number of new services this summer. From Amman, it will resume regular non-stop flights to Algiers from [March 16](#), with services to Manama, Bahrain, following in [June](#). It will also begin [twice-weekly](#) flights to Stockholm on [May 29](#) and to Düsseldorf on [September 23](#). Royal Jordanian will further offer [twice-weekly](#) flights to Al-Ula in Saudi Arabia from [September](#).

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at February 27, 2023. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please email mike.eggleson@bcdtravel.co.uk to share your thoughts.