

# REPORT: AIRLINES: MIDDLE EAST

## What you need to know

July 2022

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

### Major carriers

#### Emirates

##### [Response to Heathrow's request to reduce capacity](#)

Having initially refused to cut any of its six daily A380 flights to London Heathrow, Emirates has decided to work constructively with the airport to ease disruption. The UAE airline has now capped further sales on its flights out of Heathrow until [mid-August](#) (and not September 11, as required by the airport). Flights will operate as scheduled and ticketed passengers may travel as booked.

##### [New Air Canada partnership](#)

Emirates has agreed to codeshare with Air Canada later in 2022, subject to regulatory approval. The two carriers have signed a strategic partnership agreement, which will also include reciprocal frequent flyer benefits and lounge access.

##### [New Greek partnership](#)

Emirates has entered into a strategic partnership with Greek regional carrier Sky Express. Passengers flying with the UAE carrier from New York or Dubai can now connect over Athens to [34](#) Greek destinations served by Sky Express.

#### Etihad Airways

##### [Beijing service restarts](#)

After a break of more than two years, Etihad has resumed flights from Abu Dhabi to Beijing. It's initially operating a [weekly](#) service.

#### Turkish Airlines

##### [Demand in June above 2019](#)

Turkish Airlines carried 6.9 million passengers in June, [4% more](#) than in the same month in 2019. Passengers carried on domestic services were [16% lower](#) at 2.4 million, but those carried on international services increased by [21%](#) to 4.5 million. The airline's domestic load factor improved by 1.0 points to [87%](#), with international services recording a 3.5 point rise to [83%](#).

##### [Indigo codeshare reactivated](#)

Turkish Airlines has resumed codeshare flights with Indian carrier IndiGo. Initially, both airlines are selling tickets with Turkish Airlines as the marketing carrier and IndiGo as the operator. Turkish will add its code to IndiGo's Delhi-Istanbul services and on domestic flights to Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.

## Vietnamese alliance explored

Turkish Airlines has signed a memorandum of understanding to explore code sharing opportunities with Vietnam Airlines on flights to Istanbul from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

## Co-operation grows with Air Serbia

Turkish Airlines has signed a memorandum of understanding with Air Serbia to deepen commercial co-operation. The two airlines will explore a joint venture to offer more competitive and affordable flights between their home countries. As part of the co-operation, Air Serbia will increase Belgrade-Istanbul flights to **10 per week**, while Turkish Airlines will allocate wide-bodied aircraft to the route **twice-weekly**.

## Other airlines

### Flydubai

#### Samarkand added to network

Dubai-based low-cost carrier Flydubai will launch services to Samarkand in Uzbekistan from **September 20**, its second destination in the country after capital city Tashkent. It will operate the service **twice-weekly**, and flights will also carry Emirates' EK code.

### Flynas

#### Podgorica added to network

Saudi Arabian airline Flynas has added Podgorica in Montenegro to its network, launching **weekly** flights from Riyadh on July 28.

### Kuwait Airways

#### New codeshare with SriLankan

During June, Kuwait Airways signed a new codeshare partnership with SriLankan Airlines. The two airlines will market on each other's flights between Kuwait and Colombo. The relationship may be expanded to include frequent flyer programs.

### Oman Air

#### Extra Indian services

From **August 1** until **October 29**, Oman Air is ramping up its Indian flights from **seven** to **ten** per week from Muscat to Chennai, Delhi and Kochi. It will continue to offer seven weekly flights to Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kozhikode and Mumbai, and three per week to Goa.

### Wizz Air Abu Dhabi

#### Two new routes planned

Wizz Air Abu Dhabi will launch two new routes from Abu Dhabi during October. On **October 4**, it will start **four weekly** flights to Male in the Maldives, with **daily** services to Kuwait following on **October 30**.

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at July 26, 2022. 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](mailto:mike.eggleson@bcdtravel.co.uk) to share your thoughts.