

REPORT: AIRLINES: SOUTH ASIA

What you need to know

December 2024

Major airlines

Air India

Vistara aircraft to upgrade service on domestic routes

From [December 1](#), Air India deployed Airbus A320 aircraft formerly used by Vistara on five domestic routes. Passengers flying from Delhi to Bangalore, Hyderabad and Mumbai, and from Mumbai to Bangalore and Hyderabad, can now enjoy an upgraded service on aircraft configured with business, premium economy and economy class seating.

More aircraft ordered

Air India has placed an order for 90 Airbus A320-family narrowbodies and 10 A350s. These are in addition to orders placed in 2023 for 210 A320s and 40 A350s. As part of its fleet renewal program, in 2023 Air India also ordered 220 aircraft from Boeing, including 190 narrowbodies from the 737 Max family. Of these, 35 have already been delivered and are in service with Air India Express.

IndiGo

JAL codeshare has started

IndiGo launched a new codeshare with Japan Airlines on [December 16](#). The arrangement initially covers IndiGo's domestic services that connect to JAL's daily flights from Tokyo Haneda to Delhi and five-times weekly flights from Tokyo Narita to Bangalore. JAL's passengers will now be able to connect to Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Goa, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Leh, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy and Varanasi.

The codeshare also includes JAL's flights from Bangkok and Singapore to Haneda and Narita and from Bangkok to Osaka.

Turkish codeshare expanding

IndiGo has expanded its existing codeshare partnership with Turkish Airlines, adding connections over Istanbul to Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles and Miami.

New Phuket service

Starting [December 27](#), IndiGo will start a new [daily](#) direct flights between Kolkata and Phuket. Kolkata will join Delhi as the second city with direct service to the Thai island destination.

New domestic route from Bangalore

On December 31, IndiGo will start a new domestic service, offering daily flights from Bangalore to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh. At the same time, the airline will resume previously-operated services from Bangalore to Gorakhpur.

Other airlines

Air Sial

Fleet expanding

Pakistani carrier Air Sial is to grow its fleet to nine aircraft, after agreeing a deal to lease a pair of Airbus A320s from AerCap. The Karachi-based full-service carrier has standardized its fleet on the A320.

Pakistan International Airlines

European flights set to resume

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plans to resume scheduled services to Europe, after the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) lifted a four-year flight ban. As U.K. authorities had put EASA clearances as a prerequisite for lifting its own ban, PIA intends to approach them for a similar decision. It would like to resume services from Islamabad and Lahore to Birmingham, London Heathrow and Manchester.

SpiceJet

Lessor withdraws insolvency case

Aircraft lessor Airastle has withdrawn its insolvency case against Indian low-cost carrier SpiceJet after agreeing a settlement of \$5 million over a \$23.39 million dispute. It continues a process at the airline of actively resolving disputes with various partners.

Separately, SpiceJet has also settled a \$16 million dispute with lessor Genesis. It will pay \$6 million to Genesis, which will also acquire \$4 million of equity in the airline.

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at December 20, 2024. 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.