



IAAI Newsletter

October 2014, IInd Fortnight Issue

Aviation News

Etihad Airways to operate third daily flights to Mumbai & New Delhi from 2015



Strengthening its route network further in the Indian market, Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has announced that Mumbai and New Delhi will become its first destinations in the country to be served with triple-daily flights from 2015. Services to both cities will be upgraded from the current double-daily frequencies, with the third daily flight to Mumbai starting on February 15 and to New Delhi on May 1. The development of new flights will provide business and leisure travellers with more options throughout the day between the UAE and India, and enhance India's connections with markets across Etihad Airways' global network.

Along with Jet Airways' services, both airlines will connect Abu Dhabi to 14 Indian cities, with over 200 return flights each week. This includes five flights a day to Mumbai, four flights a day to New Delhi, three flights a day to Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi, two flights a day to Ahmedabad and Kozhikode, and daily flights to Jaipur and Thiruvananthapuram.

Etihad Airways will also launch a daily service to Kolkata on February 15, 2015 to support its long-term development plan in India, and Jet Airways has announced it will soon launch daily services between Abu Dhabi and Goa, Lucknow and Pune. In addition to the airline's network developments, Etihad Airways has upgraded its aircraft on a number of Indian routes, including the debut of three-class, wide-body aircraft on select flights. The airline will also operate its new Boeing 787-9 on Mumbai evening services in January 2015.

Flight Schedule for Mumbai flights, effective February 15, 2015

Flight No	Origin	Departs	Destination	Arrives	Aircraft	Operation
EY206	Abu Dhabi	22:00	Mumbai	03:00 +1	B787	Existing
EY205	Mumbai	04:30	Abu Dhabi	06:25	B787	Existing
EY204	Abu Dhabi	15:45	Mumbai	20:25	A320	Existing
EY203	Mumbai	21:40	Abu Dhabi	23:40	A320	Existing
EY212	Abu Dhabi	03:00	Mumbai	07:40	A320	New
EY213	Mumbai	09:30	Abu Dhabi	11:30	A320	New

Flight Schedule for Delhi flights, effective May 1, 2015

Flight No	Origin	Departs	Destination	Arrives	Aircraft	Operation
EY224	Abu Dhabi	15:25	New Delhi	20:40	B777	Existing
EY223	New Delhi	22:10	Abu Dhabi	00:15 +1	B777	Existing
EY218	Abu Dhabi	22:05	New Delhi	03:20 +1	B777	Existing
EY211	New Delhi	04:50	Abu Dhabi	06:55	B777	Existing
EY228	Abu Dhabi	03:00	New Delhi	08:15	A320	New
EY229	New Delhi	09:05	Abu Dhabi	11:30	A320	New

**All departures and arrivals are listed in local time.*

Aviation News

IndiGo signs MoU for 250 A320neo aircraft



IndiGo has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 250 A320neo family aircraft. The agreement will become Airbus' single largest order by number of aircraft. This new order reaffirms IndiGo's commitment to the long-term development of affordable air transportation in India and overseas. IndiGo has previously placed orders for 280 Airbus aircraft (100 A320ceo and 180 A320neo). The A320neo features the latest-generation engines and large Sharklet wing-tip devices, which together deliver 15 per cent in fuel savings from day one and 20 per cent by 2020, which is equivalent to a reduction of 5,000 tonnes of CO2 per aircraft per year.

Gulf Air to resume flights to Hyderabad on Dec 15 this year

Following the resumption of its operations to Thiruvananthapuram last year, Gulf Air will recommence flights to Hyderabad with five weekly flights, starting from December 15, 2014. As one of Middle East's largest network carriers, Gulf Air's Hyderabad operations will serve regional travellers with connections within three hours through its hub in Bahrain, providing two-way connectivity for travellers flying to and from the GCC, Africa, and select Middle East destinations. The national carrier of the Republic of Bahrain will be operating an A320 on the Hyderabad route.

The Hyderabad Flight Schedule:

Flight Number	Departure Airport	Departure Time	Arrival Airport	Arrival Time	Frequency
GF0274	Bahrain	02:55	Hyderabad	09:25	Mon, Fri & Sun
GF0275	Hyderabad	10:25	Bahrain	12:35	Mon, Fri & Sun
GF0276	Bahrain	14:10	Hyderabad	20:40	Tues & Sat
GF0277	Hyderabad	02:40	Bahrain	23:50	Tues & Sat

* All Times Local

Gulf Air will expand its India network, which currently includes Kochi, Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, and most recently, Thiruvananthapuram, with the addition of Hyderabad.

Aviation News

flydubai to operate 29 weekly flights to India



With 25 weekly flights to India after the relaunch of services to Mumbai, flydubai aims to operate 29 weekly flights to India by March 2015. This could be an addition to the existing routes or new cities in India. flydubai commenced flights to India in 2010. Ever since, there has been strong appetite for enhanced connectivity. Four years later, demand remains with passenger numbers from January to June this year up 12.3

per cent from those in 2013. This trend is set to continue. flydubai operates direct flights, five times a week between Dubai International's Terminal 2 and Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport. flydubai has a network of 86 destinations, of which 54 were previously underserved. Within India, in addition to Mumbai, flydubai operates services to Ahmedabad, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Lucknow, and Thiruvananthapuram. Business Class is available on flights to Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Mumbai, and Thiruvananthapuram.

Mumbai Flight Details

flydubai is operating five flights a week between Dubai and Mumbai. FZ445 departs from Dubai International Terminal 2 at 2240 hrs local time, landing at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport at 0300 hrs local time. FZ446 departs from Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport at 0400 hrs, arriving in Dubai at 0600 hrs local time.

Round-trip Fares

Economy Class return fares to Mumbai start at Rs 14,200, including 20-kg checked baggage, while Business Class return fares start at Rs 46,000 and are inclusive of all taxes and 40-kg checked baggage.

Aviation News

AirAsia India to start flights from Delhi, Mumbai



AirAsia India will soon start flights from big cities, changing its strategy of connecting smaller cities, to take on competition that followed the airline wherever it went since launch of operations earlier this year. The airline, which started with connecting cities like Chennai, Kochi, Goa, Chandigarh, and Jaipur from its hub in Bengaluru, plans to start operations from key cities like Delhi and Mumbai. The airline had earlier announced that it wouldn't operate from these cities because of high airport charge. Since its launch, the airline has been facing severe competition from other domestic carriers. Days after it announced Bengaluru as its hub, other airlines ramped up operations from there. Competition followed it on the Bengaluru-Jaipur sector too, launching new flights.

Source: The Economic Times

Royal Jordanian implements piece concept for free baggage allowance policy



Royal Jordanian (RJ) has simplified its free baggage allowance policy, by adopting piece concept, instead of weight, on all its routes. The new rule will be applicable on all tickets purchased from now onwards for travel on or after November 2, 2014.

Under the piece concept, Economy Class passengers travelling on all routes are entitled to check in one piece as baggage allowance with a maximum weight of 30 kg, instead of 20 kg under the weight-based free baggage system. Crown Class passengers are allowed two pieces, one weighing 30 kg and the other 23 kg.

The piece concept will be effective on all destinations to which RJ operates flights after being used on RJ routes to North America. RJ passengers flying to North American destinations may carry two bags, each of 23 kg for Economy Class and of 32 kg for Business Class. Frequent flyers, members of the Royal Plus programme, will also enjoy additional free luggage, depending on their tier status.

Aviation News

Tigerair to operate 2 additional weekly flights on Chennai -Singapore route from Dec 4, 2014



In order to strengthen its existing network and meet the increasing passenger demand, Tigerair will expand its service between Chennai and Singapore by adding two weekly flights on the sector. Currently, Tigerair operates seven weekly flights between Chennai and Singapore. Beginning December 4, 2014, Tigerair will operate two additional weekly flights on the route. Bookings for both these flights are now available on Tigerair's website- www.tigerair.com.

Tigerair operates total 36 weekly flights to Singapore from five Indian destinations. The airline also connects to Bali, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Perth, Taipei via Singapore, the gateway to destinations in Asia Pacific.

Air India, Air Astana sign code-share agreement



National carrier Air India Ltd (AI) has entered into a free flow code-share agreement with Air Astana JSC, the flag carrier of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Under this agreement, AI would code-share as marketing carrier on flights operated



daily by Air Astana on Delhi-Almaty sector. With this agreement, AI has opened its second gateway in the CIS countries after introduction of flight to Moscow. With the present agreement both airlines look forward to an expansion of the code-share viz. AI code-sharing beyond Almaty on Air Astana's network and Air Astana code-sharing beyond Delhi on AI's domestic as well as international network subject to connectivity and regulatory approvals.

Routes	Flight No.	Departure	Arrival	Days of Operations
DEL-ALA	KC 908/AI 6521	12:20	16:35	DAILY
ALA-DEL	KC 907/AI 6520	07:50	11:10	DAILY

Visa News

E-Visa regime for 25-30 countries to be rolled out in a week's time



The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is rolling out the much-awaited electronic-Visa (e-Visa) regime by next week. All the arrangements, including the software for e-Visa processing, have been developed and will be launched officially by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India within a week.

Between 25 and 30 countries will be extended the e-Visa facility in the first phase. These include the 13 countries that currently enjoy the Visa-on-Arrival (VoA) facility in India. As per the intention of the government, all countries, except a few in the 'prior list', will be brought into the new system over a period of two years, over four to five phases.

The e-Visa facility will be available at nine airports, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, and Goa.

Hospitality News

Govt. launches mobile App for tourists



To boost tourism, the Govt. of India has launched an android mobile application to offer tourists various travel related information including availability and charges of hotels, air fares, and local attractions of any particular place in the country. Instead of using 10 to 12 different Apps, a tourist now can use only one App which will cater to all his or her travel related requirements in a particular city. The application, named *'Tripigator Android App'*, has been launched by Tripigator.com, in partnership with Incredible India. The App will also provide information about health facilities available in a particular area.

However, since this is a non-commercial App one cannot book hotels or tickets through it, but will only get indicative rates on air fare and hotel charges. The App also has a price index which will offer cheaper available options as well as medium and high budget options.

Hospitality News

South African Tourism launches Gandhi Inspired Tourist Attractions



South African Tourism (SAT) has launched Gandhi Inspired Tourist Attractions at an event held at his Johannesburg home. The Attractions enable travellers to come and walk in Gandhi's footsteps, and experience the places where he created history in South Africa. The Gandhi Inspired Tourist Attractions website is now live on <http://gandhi.southafrica.net>.

Through this initiative, SAT makes makes 13 attractions accessible to tourists and to the global travel trade who sell and package South Africa.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi led India to independence from colonial British rule in 1947. He spent the formative years of his life in South Africa, having come to this country in 1893 as a 24-year-old, and leaving 21 years later in 1914. Central to his contribution to human rights was the Satyagraha movement of passive resistance.

Luxury Tax abolished on hotels with tariffs upto Rs 3000 in Madhya Pradesh



The Madhya Pradesh Government has amended its Tourism Policy and decided to stop levying Luxury Tax on hotels charging room rent of Rs 3,000 (or less) per day. Some amendments have been made in the Tourism Policy this year to encourage investments. This announcement was made during the recently concluded Global Investors Summit in Indore. Besides, the MP Govt presented numerous opportunities for investment in the tourism sector through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) & Private Sector Participation (PSP).

Border Security Force to start Day Tourism from Nov 10

To ease the pressure due to multitude of visitors during the daily beating retreat ceremony at Attari, the Border Security Force (BSF) has decided to begin 'Day Tourism' at the international border from November 10. Day Tourism, scheduled between 11 am and 3 pm, would include a close view of the international border, border pillar on the international boundary with Pakistan, and the international border gate. At present, tourists are not allowed to go beyond Swarana Jayanti Dwar during daytime.

Industry News

Coming soon :

Tamper-proof e-passports to speed up travel



The passport division of the ministry of external affairs has initiated the process for the public roll-out of new-age e-passports. The technology will make the document more secure and also substantially reduce the time required by the holder for immigration. While the look and feel of the passport will remain largely as it is now, an electronic chip, containing identification data, will be embedded in its back cover. The necessary procurements have been initiated by India Security Press, Nashik, and the actual change-over to the next-generation passport is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2016.

The e-passport would contain all the data currently given on the second page of the paper-only passports, including photograph, personal and biological data (finger-prints), besides the country's digital signature used to validate the genuineness of the document. The chip can be sealed only once with the signature of the Passport Issuing Authority (PIA), thus making these e-passports virtually tamper-proof. While e-passports are a norm in more than a 100 countries already, India has so far tested their success on only a few diplomatic and official passports since 2008.

The e-passports to be issued now are expected to be technologically superior to those launched on an experimental basis, yet are unlikely to cost more than the fees levied currently for the issuance of a normal passport.

Source : The Times of India

- Mitsubishi Aircraft is launching its newest creation, Japan's first commercial aircraft. Developed at a cost of \$1.9 billion, this 100 seater is Japan's second attempt in commercial aircraft after a failed attempt 50 years ago. Mitsubishi confirmed 191 orders of the aircraft, whose USP is that it is supposed to burn 20% less fuel than an aircraft of a similar size.



Interesting Photographs

Marble caves—Lake General Carrera

Chile—Argentina Border



Open Space

Lighter Moments

One afternoon, a man was riding in the back of his limousine when he saw two men eating grass by the road side. He ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate. "Why are you eating grass?", he asked one man.

"We don't have any money for food.", The poor man replied.

"Oh, come along with me then."

"But sir, I have a wife with two children!"

"Bring them along! And you, come with me too!", he said to the other man.

"But sir, I have a wife with six children!" The second man answered.

"Bring them as well!"

They all climbed into the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as the limo. Once underway, one of the poor fellows says "sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you."

The rich man replied "No, you don't understand, the grass at my home is about three feet tall!"

Thought for the Fortnight

Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you only spend it once.

— William Dickson

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