



IAAI Newsletter

August 2016, 1st Fortnight Issue

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Aviation News

GoAir gets Government approval to operate overseas



GoAir has received Government's approval to fly to nine countries including Iran, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Airline is expected to start international operations from the next summer schedule. Generally, the summer schedule commences from the last Sunday of March and extends to the last Saturday of October every year. The airline has received approval to operate flights to nine countries, including Iran, China, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Saudi Arabia. It hasn't, however, been granted permission to fly to Kuwait, Turkey, Thailand, UAE and Oman.

Currently under the air service agreements, Indian carriers can operate 31 weekly services to Iran, seven to Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan (21), Uzbekistan (18) and China (42). In case of Vietnam, Indian airlines are allowed to operate 28 weekly services and permitted unlimited operations from 18 select tourist destinations in India.

GoAir currently has a fleet of 21 Airbus aircraft including two fuel-efficient A320 neos. It is the lone one among the established players that is yet to start overseas flights. Its peers – IndiGo and SpiceJet — already operate international flights. The erstwhile 5/20 norm, whereby local carriers were required to have at least five years of flying experience and a minimum of 20 aircraft to fly overseas, had restricted GoAir since it did not have the required number of planes to operate on international routes. Only in June this year, GoAir saw its fleet rise to 20 planes with the induction of first A320 neos. Around the same time, the government decided to do away with the 5/20 rule and replaced it with 0/20 norm as part of the new civil aviation policy.

Source : The Indian Express Website

Air India to make Delhi-San Francisco a daily



Buoyed by the response to its non-stop connection between Delhi and San Francisco (SFO), Air India Ltd (AI)b has decided to make it a daily flight from this winter. The Delhi-SFO route was launched last December as a tri-weekly flight. It has been getting high occupancy despite premium pricing over the one stop options given by Gulf, European, Southeast Asian and American airlines. With Delhi-SFO becoming a daily option, AI has deferred its plans to launch Delhi-Washington nonstop from this winter.

At 17 hours, the Delhi-SFO is one of the longest non-stop flights globally. AI is finally addressing an issue that bothers its passengers tremendously on the long US non-stop — an unreliable in flight entertainment system (IFS). Passengers who have flown these routes say there are two main problems on AI planes regarding IFS: not all the sets work and often the entire system is down for long periods of time.

Aviation News

Etihad Airways enhances travel experience for senior citizens flying from India to USA



Etihad Airways has introduced a first-of-its-kind senior citizens' package offering enhanced privileges for the over 60s travelling from India to the United States of America. Senior citizens flying from any of Etihad Airways' 11 Indian gateway cities can benefit from added value services, including a 24/7 helpline number, pre-flight travel and medical checklist support and special assistance at check-in counters.

Also on offer are fare reductions of up to 10% in Business Class and 5% in Economy until August 31, 2016, for travel by December 31, 2016, together with 60% bonus Etihad Guest loyalty miles on every senior citizen ticket booking. The special package is applicable to guests aged over 60 flying in Business and Economy Class on Etihad Airways.

Advertisement Section



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Aviation News

IndiGo adds three new flights to its network



IndiGo is enhancing its customer experience with the launch of three new flights on its network. IndiGo will operate its first daily non-stop flight on Kolkata and Visakhapatnam sector. The airline will also operate its fifth daily non-stop flight between Kolkata and Agartala and Kolkata and Hyderabad sector. The new flights will provide increased frequencies on the routes and offer greater travel options for its customers effective August 15, 2016.

Launch of new flights resonate the airline's expansion plan, and the month-on-month growth IndiGo has seen in the domestic skies. Both corporate and leisure travelers will now have the opportunity to experience the matchless on-time performance that IndiGo is synonymous with. IndiGo operates 812 flights connecting 40 destinations.

Brussels Airlines to connect Belgium to Mumbai from March 2017



Brussels Airlines will start flights to Mumbai. The Indian metropolis will be connected to Brussels Airport five times a week. Since March 2016, Belgium and India are no longer connected. Brussels Airlines is to change this as from March 2017. In collaboration with Star Alliance partner Air India, Brussels Airlines passengers can connect seamlessly on domestic flights to other Indian cities and regions. The Mumbai-Brussels flight schedule will allow connections to European, African and American destinations on the Brussels Airlines network. To operate the Mumbai route, Brussels Airlines expands its fleet with a tenth Airbus A330, with a Business Class and an Economy Class and the recently introduced Economy Privilege.

Source : Aviation Tribune

Aviation News

Air India commences Ahmedabad to Newark flight via London



Air India commenced the first ever flight between Ahmedabad to Newark via London from 15th August 2016. The flight AI 171 took off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport at 05:00 hrs. AI-171 will operate three days a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. It will take off from Ahmedabad at 05:00 hrs and reach London at 10:15 hrs, depart from London at 12:30 hrs and arrive at Newark at 15:00 hrs. The return flight AI-172 will leave Newark at 22:30 hrs and reach London at 10:15 hrs next day, leave London at 12:30 hrs and land at Ahmedabad at 02:00 hrs.

The B787 flight to Newark will be the first commercial operation of the aircraft to the United States of America from India. It will meet a long standing need and demand of more than 6 lakh Indians in Ahmedabad and expatriates in Newark and neighboring cities as well as off locals visiting the Indian sub-continent, who have been looking for seamless connections for work and leisure travel to Newark and London. The flight will give a boost to tourism as well, as Air India offers convenient connections from Ahmedabad to Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai for onward travel to places of interest and tourism within the country.

IndiGo unveils 6E Explorer programme



To celebrate its 10 successful years in the domestic skies, IndiGo is going all out to thank its customers and partners in the aviation fraternity who have made this journey possible. India's largest low cost carrier, IndiGo has launched a unique programme called - The 6E

Explorer, to make travel more memorable and personalised for leisure and corporate travellers. The 6E Explorer Programme will go live on August 5, 2016 by 7pm with the announcement of the call-for-entries across India to get passionate travellers on board as "6E Explorer." Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the IndiGo leadership and external jury based on their passion for travel. The shortlisted Explorers will need to travel to a specific IndiGo destination and create fresh content in the form blogs, images & videos with their perspective of that city.

This primary curated content will comprise not so popular, seen or heard of places to eat, see, party, things to do; advise for family traveller, backpackers and much more. IndiGo will appoint one Explorer per state for an initial period of 1 year and each Explorer will be required to travel to at least 4-6 destinations within or outside his state.

The Explorer will share his personalized travel experience on IndiGo website under the IndiGo destinations section. These personalized travel experiences will be populated on the website as "Travel advisory" for IndiGo passengers to view travel trends of the destinations the airline flies to. With the launch of this programme, IndiGo passengers are encouraged to refer to these travel advisories which is intended to enhance their travel experience.

Aviation News

Jet Airways to increase fleet capacity on Mumbai-Amsterdam route



Jet Airways will fly the largest aircraft in its fleet, the Boeing 777-300 ER, on the Mumbai-Amsterdam route with effect from October 30, 2016 to meet the growing demand on this key sector. Jet

Airways is the only airline flying daily non-stop flights between Mumbai and Amsterdam.

The Jet Airways' Boeing 777 service offers a three-class configuration, comprising of eight First Class suites, 30 Premiere seats that open out into lie-flat beds, and 308 ergonomically designed seats in Economy. Jet Airways had commenced daily flights from Mumbai to Amsterdam on March 27, 2016. The capacity increase is in response to growing demand, particularly from business and corporate travellers.

From Amsterdam, Jet Airways offers connectivity to 30 destinations across Europe and 11 destinations in the United States and Canada through its codeshare partnership with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Delta Air Lines.

SpiceJet launches India's first Smart mobile Check-in



SpiceJet raised the bar of customer comfort and convenience with the effective integration of technology into its services. In a first-of-its-kind initiative by any airline in the country, the carrier announced the launch of Smart Check-in facility using BLE (Bluetooth Low Energy) and NFC (Near Field Communication) technologies. This feature is available for all SpiceJet customers who have booked their tickets through the SpiceJet mobile app. An interesting feature about this application is that the customer does not require to carry the itinerary printouts nor has to Key-in the PNR number to initiate Check-in. The service has been initially introduced at Hyderabad Airport in close coordination with GHIAL and will soon be available in all airports supporting e-boarding facility.

NFC enables passengers to receive their boarding pass on their smartphone when they check-in through NFC-enabled smartphones with SpiceJet's mobile app. Customers who have booked their tickets using the mobile app will have to simply open the app and touch the mobile device on the NFC Check-in Poster available at the airport to retrieve their mobile boarding pass on their smartphones.

Customers can also avail a touchless beacon based check-in to receive their boarding pass on the smartphone. Customers who have booked their tickets through the SpiceJet mobile app will receive an alert as they walk towards the SpiceJet Check-in area provided their Bluetooth and SpiceJet mobile app are activated. Post acknowledgement of the notification, the customer will immediately receive the boarding pass on their smartphone.

Hospitality News

Mumbai to be gateway for International Cruising



With the announcement that Mumbai will be the new homeport of Costa neoClassica, from December 2016 to March 2017, comes the interesting new development that a lot of concerted efforts are being made at every level to develop and promote India's financial capital city as the country's cruise tourism hub. Mumbai Port Trust revealed that there is a clear mandate from Prime

Minister to union minister for shipping, to make Mumbai the gateway for international cruising. Within this year 59 ships will come to Mumbai and next year the number will increase to 100. This year we will see 70,000 to 80,000 cruise tourist arrivals.

A significant amount will be spent on upgrading the cruise terminal. All facilities that are available in airports will be provided at the cruise terminal. There will be ease of business in terms of immigration, etc. New SOPs have been prepared which will be further improved. Costa neoClassica will sail from Mumbai to Male in Maldives. The itinerary is for seven nights in each direction. This should be the beginning of more cruise ships to have Mumbai as their homeport. It will coincide with the State Government's initiative to launch the Visit Maharashtra Year in 2017.

Source : Express Travelworld

Oberoi Group to add 3 resort properties to their portfolio



The Oberoi Group

Oberoi Hotels & Resorts will be adding three more luxury resort properties to their portfolio by this year end. The Oberoi Sukhvilas Resort & Spa is set to open in October this year, the other two properties – The Oberoi Al Zorah, Ajman and The Oberoi Marrakech, Morocco - will be ready either by the end

of 2016 or beginning of 2017.

- The Chandigarh property is just outside the city, 30 minutes driving distance from the city centre. The resort is surrounded by 8,000 acres of protected natural forest.
- The Oberoi Marrakech has just under 80 rooms and suites all overlooking the Atlas Mountains. The resort is located in an area where there are Olive trees which are over 500 years old. All rooms and suites in the resort have private pools.
- The Oberoi Al Zorah is 30 minutes driving distance from Dubai airport and is a beach resort. While most of the beaches in Dubai are manmade beaches, Al Zorah is a natural white sand beach. The resort will offer 107 rooms and villas. All the rooms will have private balconies, while the villas are designed with private temperature controlled pools.

PHOTO FEATURE

CuliAir Hot Air Balloon Restaurant, Netherlands



Top Dutch chef Angelique Schmeinck cooks with it hundreds of feet from the ground on her unique hot air balloon restaurant named "CuliAir Sky Dining". It can host up to 14 diners as they take flight and experience not just stunning views of Netherlands but culinary delights prepared in the sky. The customised balloon has everything a chef could need and more to serve up a variety of tasty morsels, with Schmeinck even using its flame to prepare elements of dishes including Scottish lobster, coquilles Saint Jacques (scallops with wine and mushrooms), wild sea bass and guinea-fowl. It likely comes as no surprise that CuliAir Sky Dining doesn't come cheap with a somewhat inflated price of £360-a-head, a cool £140 more than the tasting menu at Heston Blumenthal's The Fat Duck. For their outlay though diners, who spend at least 75 minutes in the air, get an aperitif and nibbles before take-off, three courses and cooking demonstration, matching wines and a copy of the chef's book, *Swingen in de Keuken*.

Open Space

Lighter Moments

During a test, the college professor noticed that a married student, who was quite pregnant, kept rubbing her side. After class, before she left, the teacher asked her, "Are you okay? I noticed you were holding onto your side."

"Oh, I'm fine," the student answered. "It's just that my baby was pushing his foot up and down my ribs, and it hurt a little."

"Well, that's good," the professor said, feeling relieved.

"Yes," she continued. "It's strange. He normally sleeps during your class too."

Thought for the Fortnight

It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.

— Harry Truman (The 33rd US President from 1945–1953)

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