

# REPORT: AIRLINES: MIDDLE EAST

## What you need to know

September 2021

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

### Major carriers

#### Emirates

##### More services restart

Emirates continued to rebuild its Saudi Arabian operation during [September](#), flying double-daily to Riyadh, daily to Dammam and Jeddah, and thrice-weekly to Medina. Elsewhere, it will start daily Airbus A380 service to Istanbul from [October 1](#), and resume service to St Petersburg from [October 8](#), initially flying four times per week, but quickly ramping up to a daily service.

#### Qatar Airways

##### New Kazakh service

Qatar Airways will start a new [twice-weekly](#) service from Doha to Almaty in Kazakhstan on [November 19](#).

#### Turkish Airlines

##### August demand 20% below 2019 levels

Turkish Airlines carried [5.9 million](#) passengers in August, [20%](#) less than in August [2019](#). Passengers carried on [domestic](#) routes were just [3.6%](#) lower at 2.7 million. But [international](#) passengers were down [30%](#) to 3.2 million. Across its network, Turkish cut available seat kilometer capacity by 18%, but with traffic declining by 29%, the airline's load factor fell 12 points to [73%](#).

##### New Finnair codeshare

Turkish Airlines started a new codeshare with Finnair on [September 29](#). Finnair's AY code will be added to Turkish's flights from Istanbul to Helsinki, Athens, Sofia, Thessaloniki, Amman, Sharm El Sheikh, Hurghada, Luxor, Antalya and Gazipasa. Turkish will in turn add its code to Finnair flights from Helsinki to Kuopio, Oulu, Reykjavik, Riga, Rovaniemi, Tallinn, Tartu, Vaasa and Vilnius.

### Other airlines

#### Air Arabia

##### Network expands

Sharjah-based low-cost carrier Air Arabia resumed flights to [Saudi Arabia](#) in [mid-September](#), restoring daily services from the U.A.E. to Dammam, Jeddah and Riyadh. Elsewhere, it will also launch [thrice-weekly](#) service to [Entebbe](#), Uganda, on [October 10](#).

## Flydubai

### Destinations reinstated and added

Dubai-based low-cost carrier Flydubai has resumed flights from the emirate to Prague and Zagreb. The Czech capital is being served with **five** weekly flights, while Zagreb will initially be served **twice-weekly**, rising to **four** times weekly in **December**. Flydubai will also add a second Romanian destination to its network, when it starts **twice-weekly** services to Cluj-Napoca from **November 3**. It already operates daily to Bucharest and will add a **second daily** flight from November.

## Gulf Air

### Airline heads to Israel

By the end of **September**, Gulf Air will have started flying to Israel, launching a **twice-weekly** service between Bahrain and Tel Aviv.

### Saudi service resumes

On **October 3**, Gulf Air will resume service from Manama to Qassim in Saudi Arabia, flying the route **four** times per week. The service means Gulf Air has now fully restored its Saudi network, which also includes Dammam, Jeddah, Medina and Riyadh.

## Oman Air

### London service reinstated

Oman Air resumed flights between Muscat and London Heathrow on **September 22**. The airline is initially operating a **thrice-weekly** service.

## Saudia

### More services resume

During **September**, Saudia restarted twice-weekly services from Jeddah and Riyadh to the **Maldives**, operated with a stopover in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The airline also returns to Manchester for the first time in 21 months with the launch of a **thrice-weekly** service from Jeddah on **December 15**.

## Note

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at September 24, 2021. 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.

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