

ETIHAD AIRWAYS TO LAUNCH FLIGHTS TO HOLY CITY OF MEDINA

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, will launch non-stop daily flights to Medina, the regional capital of the western Saudi Arabian province of Al Madinah and the second holiest city in Islam after the Holy city of Mekkah.

With the addition of the new service, which will start on February 1 2014, Etihad Airways will now offer 50 weekly flights to four destinations in Saudi Arabia which, along with Medina, include Dammam, Riyadh and Jeddah.

Flights between Abu Dhabi and Medina will be operated by an A320 aircraft fitted with 16 Pearl Business Class and 120 Economy Class seats, offering a total 1,904 seats per week.

The new services are set to meet growing demand from religious Hajj and Umrah travellers wishing to visit this Holy city which is the home of Prophet Mohammed's Mosque and burial site.

They will also allow maximum connectivity over Abu Dhabi for flights between Saudi Arabia and the Indian Subcontinent, Asia, GCC and Europe, as well as serving strong point to point traffic.

James Hogan, Etihad Airways' President and Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are delighted to announce the introduction of Medina to the Etihad Airways' global flight network. Saudi Arabia has always been a key market for Etihad Airways and Medina is therefore an important strategic destination for the airline.

"Our new flights will cater to the Saudi Arabian population living in the UAE, as well as to the growing numbers of business and religious travellers looking to fly to the city.

“The demand for the Umrah flights has always been very strong and with plans for the expansion of the Prophet Mohammed Mosque underway, we expect this demand to continue to grow in the future,” Mr Hogan said.

The new service to Medina will be Etihad Airways’ ninth destination in the Arabian Peninsula, joining Dammam, Jeddah, Riyadh, Kuwait, Bahrain, Doha, Muscat, and Sana’a.

Medina Schedule

Flight	Departs	Departure Time	Arrives	Arrival Time	Frequency
EY345	Abu Dhabi (AUH)	00:50	Medina (MED)	02:55	Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday
EY346	Medina (MED)	03:55	Abu Dhabi (AUH)	07:20	Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday
EY341	Abu Dhabi (AUH)	13:25	Medina (MED)	15:30	Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
EY340	Medina (MED)	16:30	Abu Dhabi (AUH)	19:55	Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Note: All are in local time.

ENDS

About Etihad Airways

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, began operations in 2003, and in 2012 carried 10.3 million passengers. From its hub at Abu Dhabi International Airport, Etihad Airways offers flights to 96 passenger and cargo destinations in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas, with a fleet of over 83 Airbus and Boeing aircraft, and large orders for additional aircraft including 41 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners and 10 Airbus A380s, the world’s largest passenger aircraft. Etihad Airways also holds equity investments in airberlin, Air Seychelles, Virgin Australia and Aer Lingus, and subject to regulatory approval will acquire a 24 per cent stake in India’s Jet Airways. Etihad Airways also will acquire 49 per cent of Air Serbia from January 2014. For more information about Etihad Airways, visit: www.etihad.com