**flydubai touches down in Samarkand**

* The Dubai-based airline becomes the first UAE national carrier to provide direct flights to Samarkand
* flydubai grows its network in Uzbekistan to three points including Namangan from 24 September and the capital, Tashkent

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 21 September 2022:** flydubai, the Dubai-based airline, celebrated its inaugural service to Samarkand, becoming the first UAE national carrier to operate direct flights from Dubai. The airline will operate a twice-weekly service from Dubai International (DXB) to Samarkand International Airport (SKD). With the start of flights to Samarkand, flydubai grows its network in Central Asia to seven points served by a fleet of 68 Boeing 737 aircraft, providing passengers from the UAE and the GCC with more options for travel.

The inaugural flight landed at Samarkand International Airport (SKD) to a traditional water cannon salute. Senior local officials including Gairat Nematov, Chief Executive Officer at Air Marakanda welcomed the delegation led by Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai.

Speaking at the press conference, Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai, said: “flydubai is committed to opening up underserved markets and strengthening the links from Dubai and the UAE with the region. We are excited to see our network in Uzbekistan grow with the launch of flights to Samarkand. Since 2019 when we first started operations to Uzbekistan, we have seen sustainable demand and we are confident that the launch of our second destination will provide our passengers with more reliable and convenient options for travel.”

“I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Minister of Transport, Hakim of Samarkand region and Chairman of Uzbekistan Airports for their support and look forward to a long and successful relationship moving forward,” added Al Ghaith.

"The opening of a new route connecting Samarkand to Dubai will have a positive impact on the entire Samarkand region. Cooperating with our valued partners at flydubai, we have established a direct link between Samarkand International Airport and one of the biggest and most vibrant economic hubs in the world. Air Marakanda is very glad to welcome the new airline and we are committed to provide passengers to and from Dubai with a best-in-class airport experience."

On 24 September, the airline also launches its twice-weekly service to Namangan, growing its network in the market to three destinations served with a total of 10 weekly flights.

Commenting on the start of operations, Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai, said: “With Namangan and Samarkand joining our network in Central Asia, we see our operations grow to seven points in four countries. Central Asia is an important market for flydubai and we continue to look for more opportunities to connect these markets with direct airlinks to Dubai’s aviation hub, making travel more accessible on the flydubai network and beyond.”

The carrier provides flights to seven destinations in Central Asia including Almaty and Astana in Kazakhstan, Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan, Dushanbe in Tajikistan, as well as Namangan, Samarkand and Tashkent in Uzbekistan.

**Flight details**

Flights to Samarkand International Airport (SKD) will operate from Terminal 2, Dubai International (DXB) twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays. Flights to Namangan International Airport (NMA) will operate from Terminal 2, Dubai International (DXB) twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 24 September.

Return Business Class fares from DXB to SKD start from AED 8,000 and Economy Class Lite fares start from AED 1,800. Return Economy Class fares from DXB to NMA start from AED 1,800. Return Economy Class fares from NMA to DXB start from USD 480.

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| **Flight Number** | **Departure Airport** | **Arrival Airport** | **Departure Time** | **Arrival Time** |
| FZ 769 | DXB  | SKD | 22:40 | 02:50 |
| FZ 770 | SKD | DXB | 04:05 | 06:30 |
| FZ 789 | DXB | NMA | 22:50 | 03:30 |
| FZ 790 | NMA | DXB | 04:30 | 07:25 |

All Times Local

Flights are available to book on flydubai.com, the official flydubai App, the Contact Centre in Dubai on (+971) 600 54 44 45, the flydubai travel shops or through our travel partners.

Passengers are required to make sure that they are up to date with the regulations for their whole journey, and follow the guidance issued by the authorities and the airline. They can visit the [COVID-19 information hub](https://www.flydubai.com/en/plan/covid-19/travel-requirements) on flydubai.com for more information.

For the full timetable and fares, please visit: <https://www.flydubai.com/en/plan/timetable>

**About flydubai**

From its home in Dubai, flydubai has created a network of more than 95 destinations served by a fleet of 68 aircraft. Since commencing operations in June 2009, flydubai has been committed to removing barriers to travel, creating free flows of trade and tourism and enhancing connectivity between different cultures across its ever-expanding network.

flydubai has marked its journey with a number of milestones:

**An expanding network:**Created a network of more than 95 destinations in 50 countries across Africa, Central Asia, the Caucasus, Central and South-East Europe, the GCC and the Middle East, and the Indian Subcontinent.
**Serving underserved markets:** Opened more than 70 new routes that did not previously have direct air links to Dubai or were not served by a UAE national carrier from Dubai.
**An efficient single fleet-type:**Operates a single fleet-type of 68 Boeing 737 aircraft and includes: 32 Next-Generation Boeing 737-800, 33 Boeing 737 MAX 8 and 3 Boeing 737 MAX 9 aircraft.
**Enhancing connectivity:** Carried more than 80 million passengers since it began operations in 2009.

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