

## GCC Airports- 2018

### **United Arab Emirates**

#### **Dubai**

- Dubai to Krakow (Poland) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to Dubrovnik (Croatia) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to London Stansted by Emirates
- Dubai to Riyadh by Emirates
- Dubai to Auckland by Emirates
- Dubai to Catania (Italy) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to Kutaisi (Georgia) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to Makhachkala (Russia) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to Ufa (Russia) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to Voronezh (Russia) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to Zagreb (Croatia) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to Helsinki (Finland) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to Lyon (France) by Emirates
- Dubai to Paris (France) by Emirates
- Dubai to Santiago (Chile) by Emirates
- Dubai to Thessaloniki (Greece) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to Kabul (Afghanistan) by Fly Dubai
- Dubai to Edinburgh (Scotland) by Emirates

#### **Sharjah**

- Sharjah to Moscow (Russia) Sheremetyevo by Air Arabia
- Sharjah to Bodrum (Turkey) by Air Arabia
- Sharjah to Asmara (Eritrea) by Air Arabia
- Sharjah to Prague (Czech Republic) by Air Arabia

#### **Abu Dhabi**

- Abu Dhabi to Goa (India) by Jet Airways
- Abu Dhabi to Baku (Azerbaijan) by Etihad Airlines
- Abu Dhabi to Barcelona (Spain) by Etihad Airlines
- Abu Dhabi to Calicut (India) by Indigo Airlines
- Abu Dhabi to Cochin (India) by Indigo Airlines

*A total of 28 new flights were launched from UAE*

*Source: The National, 2018, Whatson.ae,*

## **Saudi Arabia**

### **Riyadh**

- Riyadh to Izmir (Turkey) by Saudia
- Riyadh to Vienna (Austria) by Saudia
- Riyadh to Malaga (Spain) by Saudia

### **Jeddah**

- Jeddah to Malaga (Spain) by Saudia
- Jeddah to Surabaya (Indonesia) by Saudia
- Jeddah to Medan (Indonesia) by Saudia
- Jeddah to Erbil (Kurdistan) by Saudia
- Jeddah to Vienna (Austria) by Saudia

*Found no new routes from Mecca & Khobar*

*A total of 8 new flights were launched from Saudi Arabia*

*Source: Saudia Airlines Website Press Release, 2018*

## **Oman**

### **Muscat**

- Muscat to Istanbul (Turkey) by Oman Air
- Muscat to Casablanca (Morocco) by Oman Air
- Muscat to Moscow (Russia) by Oman Air
- Muscat to Maldives by Oman Air. Relaunching the airline after a pause
- Muscat to Kuwait City by Salam Air
- Muscat to Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) by Salam Air
- Muscat to Khartoum (Sudan) by Salam Air
- Muscat to Iraq by Salam Air
- Muscat to Egypt by Salam Air
- Muscat to Kathmandu (Nepal) by Salam Air

*Found no new routes from Salalah*

*A total of 12 new flights were launched from Muscat*

*Source: Oman Air Website Press Release, 2018 & Times of Oman, July 17, 2018 news*

## **Bahrain**

### **Manama**

- Manama to Bangalore (India) by Gulf Air
- Manama to Calicut (India) by Gulf Air
- Manama to Abha (Saudi Arabia) b Gulf Air
- Manama to Tubuk (Saudi Arabia) by Gulf Air
- Manama to Alexandria (Egypt) by Gulf Air
- Manama to Sharm El Shaikh (Egypt) by Gulf Air
- Manama to Baku (Azerbaijan) by Gulf Air
- Manama to Casablanca (Morocco) by Gulf Air
- Bahrain to Izmir (Turkey) by Atlas Global
- Bahrain to Antalya (Turkey) by Atlas Global
- Bahrain to Trabzon (Turkey) by Atlas Global
- Bahrain to Trabzon (Turkey) by Turkish Airlines

*A total of 12 new flights were launched from Manama*

*Source: Gulf News, ArabianBusiness.com, 2018*

## **Kuwait**

### **Kuwait City**

- Manama to Chennai (India) by Indigo Airlines

*A total of 1 new flight was launched from Manama*

*Source: Indigo Airlines, 2018*

***A total of 61 new airline routes were announced and launched up until November 2018***

The above analysis is based on a sample of 10 Airlines, namely, Emirates, Etihad, Fly Dubai, Salaam Air, Oman Air, Gulf Air, Saudia, Fly adeal, Air Arabia and Indigo Airlines. This sample is based on the airlines which have the highest frequency across multiple destinations.

2018 witnessed multiple airlines adding a wealth of new destinations to their existing routes across the GCC, some of which provide a glimpse of the overall tourism strategy of the region. UAE witnessed the lion's share (46%) of these new routes across GCC. Of these new routes, 50% were for various destinations in Europe. Some of the noticeable destinations are Dubrovnik in Croatia, Helsinki in Finland and Krakow in Poland. The second largest share of these new destinations is captured by multiple Russian destinations followed by one destination each in Africa, South America and New Zealand.

UAE was closely followed by Bahrain and Oman, each introducing 12 new routes in 2018. It is interesting to note that while most of the new routes across Oman were GCC and North Africa centric, routes introduced by Bahrain were more Central Asia focused indicating a wide variety of source markets for various countries in GCC region.

Saudi Arabia introduced 8 new routes in 2018, the majority of which originate from Jeddah. It will be interesting to see how busy the new routes are, especially those to Europe (Malaga and Vienna). For these routes, we expect that the majority of demand will come from the outbound market, but the routes may also attract a degree of inbound visitors be it corporates, religious and maybe even leisure tourists given the push towards attracting more international visitation to the Kingdom.