

Etihad Airways to retire entire Boeing 777 fleet

A Monitor Report

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Abu Dhabi : Etihad Airways is undergoing a radical transformation in an effort to cut losses by 2023. As part of it, the airline has revealed plans to retire its entire Boeing 777 fleet.

Tony Douglas, Group CEO of Etihad Airways has announced that the Abu Dhabi-based airline will retire its entire Boeing 777 passenger fleet by the end of 2021.

"You will see of us a very focused, a very disciplined operating model which is heavily built around the fleet of the 787 Dreamliner and A350-1000," he said.

Etihad currently operates a fleet of 19 Boeing 777-300ERs, which are an average of just over 10 years old. That does not account for the 11 Boeing 777s that the airline already retired - Etihad used to fly six additional 777-300ERs and five additional 777-200LRs.

Etihad's 777s leaving the fleet potentially has big implications, both positive and negative.

Cutting 19 long haul aircraft will cause the airline to shrink. While not cutting edge, several of Etihad's 777s feature a first class cabin, so Etihad's first class footprint will be reduced even further. Etihad's 777s were the only long haul aircraft not to feature Etihad's new business class, so there will now be better product consistency.

