

Etihad Airways ups flights to New York

A Monitor Report

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Abu Dhabi : Etihad Airways, the national carrier of the United Arab Emirates, has increased flights to and from New York's JFK International Airport on the heels of the launch of the airline's new A350 aircraft, and an expanded partnership with JetBlue.

The carrier will add more flights starting November with travellers being offered seamless connectivity to new gateways.

On September 9, Etihad invited friends and partners to an event in New York to celebrate the airline's latest milestone and continued commitment to the US market and its North American partners.

On the occasion, Tony Douglas, Etihad Airways Group Chief Executive Officer, commented, "The US remains one of our leading markets and that is why New York and Chicago were amongst the first destinations to be serviced by Etihad's new A350. We are proud to continue to offer our guests a premier travel experience and enhanced connectivity through our growing partnership with JetBlue."

Also in attendance were executives from Etihad's longstanding codeshare partner, and New York's Hometown Airline, JetBlue Airways.

Etihad and JetBlue have been codeshare partners since 2014 and currently codeshare across 46 destinations throughout the Americas.

JetBlue recently began code sharing on Etihad flights from Abu Dhabi to Chicago and New York, with Washington, D.C to be added soon.

As Etihad prepares to increase flights to New York's JFK International Airport in November, the partners are planning to add additional destinations offering travellers seamless connectivity to new gateways.

In addition to increasing connectivity through the codeshare partnership, Etihad and JetBlue are developing a frequent flyer partnership that will allow both TrueBlue frequent fliers and Etihad Guest members to earn and redeem miles across both networks.

In addition to the introduction of the A350, increased services to JFK and expanded partnership with JetBlue, in June it was announced Etihad would be one of the first airlines, and first Middle East carrier, to be offered a permanent presence at JFK's New Terminal One, with the airline's leadership attending the groundbreaking ceremony on September 8.

Etihad passengers travelling to the US are able to take advantage of Etihad's US pre-clearance facility, the only United States Customs and Border Protection facility in the Middle East.

This allows passengers bound for the United States to process all immigration, customs and agriculture inspections in Abu Dhabi before they board their flight, avoiding immigration and queues on arrival in the US.