

Malaysia Airlines to retire Airbus A380 fleet

A Monitor Report

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Kuala Lumpur : Malaysia Airlines has become the latest entry to phase out the Airbus A380. The airline plans to retire its Airbus A380s over the coming months. Given the poor second-hand market for the jet, the airline is still figuring out its gameplan to retire the type.

On this note, the airline's Group Chief Executive Captain, Izham Ismail, said, "We are cognisant of the challenges to sell this aeroplane, but we are still looking at ways and means to dispose of our 380 fleet. At the moment, the management is convinced that the 380 doesn't fit the future plan."

Malaysia Airlines currently has a fleet of six Airbus A380 aircraft. Reports said that the airline's oldest jet is 9.5 years old, while the youngest is 8.5 years old. Reports also said the aircraft officially flew to London and Hong Kong at the time of its grounding. The jet has been seen operating other routes in the past. The aircraft was also used by the airline to operate Hajj pilgrimage flights between Kuala Lumpur and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

One of the more exciting roles played by the Malaysia Airlines A380 saw it drafted

in to help in the aftermath of the Thomas Cook collapse in September 2019. Alongside the only ever second-hand A380 operated by Hi Fly, one of Malaysia Airlines' A380s carried stranded passengers back to the United Kingdom as part of the UK's massive ATOL repatriation effort. Like Hi Fly's A380, the airline also used an A380 to carry cargo around a year ago, becoming the first airline to do so with the giant.