

Saudia prepares to resume int'l flights from May 17

A Monitor Report

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Jeddah : Saudia, the national flag carrier of Saudi Arabia, is preparing to resume international flights after the country's General Authority of Civil Aviation announced that international flights would resume from May 17, 2021.

On January 29, 2021, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia extended the travel ban on its citizens going overseas to help curb the spread of Covid-19. The statement added that the authority may continue to ban travel to certain countries that have a high proportion of coronavirus cases.

While international travel was suspended, Saudi Arabia's domestic carriers have seen demand pick up for flights within the Kingdom. At the CAPA Live event on March 10, it was noted that Saudi Arabia was recovering strongly when compared to its Middle Eastern neighbors.

According to CAPA data, domestic flights within Saudi Arabia had grown to around 3,000 per week. A figure representing a decline of only 23 per cent compared to January and February of 2020 before COVID-19 travel restrictions were implemented in Saudi Arabia.

Also known as Saudi Arabian Airlines, Saudia has a fleet of 158 aircraft with an average age of 6.7 years, including: 46 Airbus A320-200s, 15 Airbus A321-100s, 32 Airbus A330-300s, 6 Boeing 747-400s, 2 Boeing 747-8s, 35 Boeing 777-300ERs, 4 Boeing 777Fs, 5 Boeing 787-10s and 13 Boeing 787-9s.

