

Vistara increasing flights to 7 weekly on Dhaka-New Delhi route in March

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : From March 2022, once India resumes scheduled passenger flights, the neighbouring country's coveted airline Vistara will be increasing flight frequencies on Dhaka-New Delhi route to seven weekly, all scheduled.

Moreover, soon, the full-service airline will be launching two new routes: Dhaka-Mumbai and Dhaka-Kolkata, with seven weekly scheduled flights on each route. Already, the airline has slots taken for 21 weekly flights to New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

Shohag Hossain, Managing Director, Rhythm Group, GSA of Vistara in Bangladesh, said this while talking to The Bangladesh Monitor at his office in the capital recently.

"After Mumbai and Kolkata, gradually, we will be launching flights to Chennai too," he added.

Currently, under the air bubble agreement, Vistara is operating two weekly flights on Dhaka-New Delhi route with brand new A320 neo aircraft.

Launched on November 5, 2020, Vistara had 70 per cent passenger load on its maiden flight. Over time, the load factor on Vistara's flights increased to 90 per cent amid the pandemic and today it has reached the optimum level of 100 per cent, noted the Managing Director.

Notably, Vistara has been awarded as a leading five-star airline in India for the last five years by many global organisations.

Vistara is a joint venture with 49 per cent owned by Singapore Airlines and 51 per cent owned by TATA Group.

Furthermore, Vistara is one of the two airlines, other being Singapore Airlines, operating in Bangladesh, that offers Premium Economy Class onboard to the passengers. Premium Economy Class is a travel class offered as a middle-ground between standard economy class and business class in terms of price, comfort, and available amenities.

Passengers can avail Vistara's Premium Economy Class on Dhaka-Delhi route at BDT 17 thousand while the Economy Class fare is BDT 13 thousand one-way.

"Even though there is high demand for travel on the route as you can see from Vistara's full load factor, the airline has not increased its airfare to any unreasonably high amount, always keeping the fare at lower RBD," assured the MD.

Once scheduled flights resume to and from India, passengers can enjoy the huge network of Vistara beyond India to all the major destinations across the globe such as Dubai, Sharjah, Doha, Frankfurt, Narita, London and Paris, said the Managing Director, adding, the airline will be launching flights to the KSA point soon.

He further mentioned that Vistara has always ensured on-time performance in its operations to Bangladesh without any compromise in the airline's service.

Medical travellers occupy the lionshare of the traffic to India from Dhaka, and Vistara facilitates them with utmost service. For instance, Vistara offers wheelchair or stretchers to medical travellers at no cost unlike other airlines.

For these reasons, Vistara is the market leader on Dhaka-Delhi route, claimed Shohag Hossain.

Also, to encourage travel for leisure, business and medical travellers alike, Vistara never misses any occasion to offer promotional discounts to passengers, noted the MD.

In the near future, in phases, the airline will be launching flights from Ctg/Sylhet to Calcutta/Chennai as well, expressed Shohag Hossain.

Rhythm group is also the GSA of Ethiopian Airlines, the only African airline operating in Bangladesh, and Cambodia Airways, with many more to come.

Since its inception, Rhythm Group has been leading in sectors such as textiles, printing, chemicals, agro, aviation, tours and travels. The group's subsidiaries MAAS Travels and Tours Ltd and Gold Air are highly regarded as giants in the aviation and travel industry.