

## Air Arabia begins Vienna flights

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Sharjah: Sharjah-based low-cost carrier Air Arabia has expanded its European operations with the launch of direct flights to Vienna.

The airline, which operates an all-Airbus fleet, announced on Friday (Dec 20) that its A320 aircraft will serve the Austrian capital four times a week. This new route was first revealed in July this year.

The inaugural flight, which included distinguished guests such as Dr. Etienne Berchtold, the Austrian Ambassador to the UAE, and senior Air Arabia officials, departed from Sharjah following a ceremony. The event was attended by Ali Salim Al Midfa, Chairman of Sharjah Airport Authority.

Adel Al Ali, Group CEO of Air Arabia, said, "We are delighted to strengthen our presence in Europe, and the addition of Vienna to our growing list of cities reflects our dedication to providing affordable,

convenient and memorable travel experiences for our customers”.

Meanwhile, Julian Jäger, Joint CEO and COO of Vienna Airport said that the Vienna-Sharjah route serves a dynamic market and offers excellent transfer connections to international travellers. “Passengers travelling from Austria can head for the sun, whereas guests from the UAE can experience the festive atmosphere of Vienna. With the return of Air Arabia, we are continuing our successful cooperation,” said Jäger.

Air Arabia expanded its European network in September this year with new non-stop flights to Warsaw, Poland.

Air Arabia, one of the MENA region’s largest low-cost carriers (LCC), operates a fleet of Airbus A320 and A321 neo-LR aircraft.

According to OAG, LCCs now have a 29 per cent share of all airline traffic in the Middle East, accounting for a quarter of all flights at even the largest legacy hubs such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

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