

## Air India to Cut 60 India-US Flights in Nov-Dec

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**New Delhi: Tata Group owned Air India is cancelling around 60 flights on its India-US routes between November and December.**

Maintenance issues have led to aircraft unavailability, according to an airline source.

The flights, which have been cancelled during the peak travel period, include services to San Francisco and Chicago among others, the source said.

Air India in a statement said it has cancelled a "small" number of flights between November and December on account of delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints, without naming the destinations.

It also said that affected customers have been "informed" and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or

adjacent days.

"Air India has cancelled some 60 flights to and from San Francisco, Washington, Chicago, Newark and New York between 15 November and 31 December, as it does not have adequate wide-body aircraft to operate some of the flights to these destinations," the sources told agency.

As part of this, Air India has cancelled 14 flights on the Delhi-Chicago route, 28 flights on the Delhi-Washington route, 12 flights on the Delhi-SFO route, four flights on the Mumbai-New York route, and two flights on the Delhi-Newark route, the sources said.

"Air India is facing delays in getting aircraft from the MRO operator it is sending to for maintenance. Then some of its wide-body planes are also grounded owing to technical issues. This has resulted in the shortage of aircraft and consequently in flight cancellations," they added.

"Due to the delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints resulting in a temporary reduction in operating fleet, Air India regrets that a small number of flights have been cancelled between now and end-December," an Air India spokesperson said.

Affected customers have been informed and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or adjacent days, a free change to any other date or a full refund, the spokesperson said, adding, "Air India sincerely regrets the inconvenience caused by this constraint beyond our control".

Air India currently operates five flights between Delhi and Washington, while Delhi-JFK (New York) and Mumbai-JFK routes have seven flights per week. On the Delhi-Chicago route too, the airline operates seven flights per week.

Air India operates flights to San Francisco from three destinations — Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Of this, Air India operates 11 flights per week, including one daily service on the Delhi-SFO route, while from Mumbai and Bangalore, it operates four flights per week.

Besides, Air India also operates three flights per week to Newark from Delhi and Mumbai.

