

Cathay Pacific to launch direct flights to Riyadh

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Hong kong: Cathay Pacific is further strengthening its network in the Middle East by launching direct flights between Hong Kong and Riyadh.

Set to begin its service on 28 October 2024, Cathay Pacific will operate three return flights per week using its Airbus A350-900 aircraft, which has three cabin classes: Business, Premium Economy and Economy.

Flights operate on Monday, Thursday and Saturday. Flight CX647 departs Hong Kong at 15:05 and lands in Riyadh at 20.15. Flight CX648 departs Riyadh at 22:15 and lands in Hong Kong at 11:10 the following day.

The agreement was formalised at a signing ceremony in Hong Kong with Cathay chief customer and commercial officer Lavinia Lau, and Saudi Air Connectivity Program Aviation Development vice president Rashed Alshammari (pictured) in the presence of distinguished guests from

Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia.

Cathay Group chief executive officer Ronald Lam said: "This new service will offer more travel options and greater convenience for our customers travelling to and from Saudi Arabia, as well as promote opportunities for business, trade and tourism.

"With deep roots in Hong Kong, our role is to be an enabler, connecting Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland with the world. Cathay firmly supports the Central Government's Belt and Road Initiative, and we already serve 21 destinations in 14 participating countries."

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) comprises six urban development land corridors linked by road, rail, energy and digital infrastructure and the Maritime Silk Road linked by the development of ports.

Hamad Aljebreen, the Consul General of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Hong Kong, added: "This comes at a time when relations between the two sides are witnessing many positive developments and concrete achievements, with noticeable increase in the frequency of mutual visits on all levels between the two sides.

"There is no doubt that the launch of this route will contribute significantly to opening broader horizons of cooperation, increasing partnerships, bringing more investments, capital and visitors to the two sides, in line with achieving the goals of the kingdom's Vision 2030 and the Belt and Road Initiative."

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