

Etihad Airways and China Eastern Airlines Launch Historic Joint Venture

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Abu Dhabi: Etihad Airways and China Eastern Airlines have officially launched a groundbreaking joint venture, marking the first partnership of its kind between a Middle Eastern and a Chinese airline.

Key Highlights:

Inaugural Flight:

China Eastern's inaugural flight, MU237, from Shanghai to Abu Dhabi, landed on April 28, 2025, and was celebrated with a welcome ceremony at Zayed International Airport.

Flight Schedule:

The new service currently operates four times weekly (Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays) and will increase to daily flights

starting September 12, 2025.

Aircraft and Amenities:

Flights are operated using Airbus A330 aircraft, offering high-speed inflight Wi-Fi and a flight duration of approximately 9 hours and 20 minutes.

Loyalty Program Integration:

Starting June 1, 2025, members of Etihad Guest and Eastern Miles can earn and redeem miles across both airlines' global networks, enhancing benefits for frequent flyers.

Expanded Connectivity:

The joint venture enhances connectivity between major Chinese cities—including Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Xi'an, and Kunming—and key destinations in the UAE, Middle East, and Africa.

Strategic Significance:

This partnership aligns with the Belt and Road Initiative, aiming to strengthen economic and cultural ties between China and the UAE.

This collaboration sets a precedent for future bilateral aviation agreements, offering passengers enhanced travel options and integrated services between the two regions.

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