

Etihad Airways latest to retire Airbus A380

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Abu Dhabi: Etihad Airways is unlikely to welcome the Airbus A380 back to its fleet in the wake of the Covid-19 shutdown, chief executive Tony Douglas has confirmed.

In an interview with the National, the aviation chief said the largest aircraft in the world was no longer profitable to operate.

“We have now taken the strategic decision to park the A380s, I am sure it is very likely that we will not see them operating with Etihad again,” Douglas explained.

Airbus itself had previously said it expects to stop manufacturing the aircraft type this year, while only four were delivered last year.

Air France, Lufthansa, and Qantas are among the other carriers to have outlined plans to curtail the use of the A380 following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Etihad decision also means the end of the Residence, the ultra-exclusive private cabin offered on the A380.

Designed for up to two guests, the luxury three-room apartment features an en-suite shower room, private bedroom, and separate living area.

A VIP travel concierge and dedicated team are also on hand to take care of everything for travelers, from the chauffeur-driven limousine to a private airport lounge.

Before the pandemic, the service was offered on trips from Abu Dhabi to London, New York, Sydney, Paris, and Seoul.

Etihad, unlike fellow [UAE-based airline Emirates](#), did not have a large fleet of A380s and only operated ten prior to the pandemic.

The strategy was similar to Middle Eastern rival Qatar Airways, which is also downsizing its A380 fleet as it charts a post-pandemic recovery.

Qatar Airways has already retired half of its formerly ten-aircraft-strong A380 fleet, primarily used on routes to popular European and Asian-Pacific cities.

Both Qatar Airways and Etihad have invested more in twin-engine aircraft like the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, [Boeing 777X](#) and [Airbus A350 XWB](#).