

ETIHAD AIRWAYS CONNECTS EAST INDIA CORRIDOR BY RESUMING DAILY FLIGHTS TO KOLKATA



Over the years, India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) have enjoyed strong ties based on age-old cultural, economic partnerships and agreements between the two nations. A strong majority of the Indian diaspora now lives, works, and travels frequently to the UAE. With the changing economy, and the rising consumer propensity for the young population and middle class, India is making its way to become one of the most lucrative outbound tourism markers in the world.

As the global travel market is recovering to pre-pandemic levels, India is outpacing many other countries in the APAC and West as a source market. There is a rising appetite among Indian travellers beyond metros to spend on luxury experiences, and discover new cultures and international destinations.

This year, Etihad marks twenty years of service globally with nineteen years in the India market - one of our largest and busiest markets in the APAC region. On this milestone occasion, we reintroduced flights to and from Kolkata – a key source market and a vital link in East India.



The much-anticipated return to the city was announced earlier this month where we brought a total of seven weekly nonstop services, connecting this key cultural and commercial hub from the Indian subcontinent with the world through Abu Dhabi.

As we resume operations in Kolkata, Etihad passengers flying from Kolkata to the United States will also be able to benefit from the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) service at the Abu Dhabi International Airport. This US immigration preclearance service in the region exclusively allows Etihad passengers to clear US immigration while they are still in Abu Dhabi, meaning travelers can get home quicker and easier.



Re-establishing this vital air link with East India will support the growing demand from travelers in and around the region, offering them easy access to the UAE and connectivity to our global network alongside a world-class flying experience. The reintroduction of flights to Kolkata along with the addition of other frequencies are significant in the growth of Etihad's footprint in India.

Etihad will continue to work closely with the travel trade and leading private enterprises within the country to play a key role in the growth and development of travel and tourism between India and the UAE and across key destinations from the airline's global network.