## نشرة أيرباص الشرق الأوسط

# asfaar

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#### Ahlan!

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In this issue of Asfaar, we bring back our 'airline spotlight' section to shed light on Royal Jordanian (RJ), another successful and award winning carrier from the Middle East.

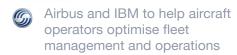
RJ has recently celebrated two important milestones. The first being its 50th anniversary and the second was witnessing a historic moment in Jordanian aviation with the opening of a new terminal at Queen Alia International Airport.

The new 103,000 square meters terminal is one of the most developed and advanced gateways in the region blending Islamic architecture with the latest technology. It increases the airport's capacity from 3.5 million to 9 million passengers per year and further establishes Amman as a dynamic aviation hub. Congratulations to RJ and Jordan.





## NEWS BITES







- Air Arabia A320
- Qatar Airways A330-200F
- Saudia A321
- Tunisair A320

## **SPOTLIGHT**

### Royal Jordanian

Established in 1963 as the national flag carrier of the Kingdom of Jordan, Royal Jordanian is a long standing Airbus customer with a strong relationship going back to our early years of presence in the Middle East region.

Royal Jordanian initially started operations using Handley Page Dart Heralds and a Douglas DC-7 to connect Amman to other cities in the Middle East, which included Kuwait City, Beirut, and Cairo. Soon after and by 1970's RJ's network was expanded from Houston to Vienna and Larnaca.

Royal Jordanian joined the Airbus customer family by taking delivery of its first A310 aircraft in 1986. Today, the airline operates a total of 32 passenger and freighter aircraft with a fleet of 24 Airbus aircraft from three families including 3 A310s, 14 A320 family aircraft, 3 A330s, and 4 A340 aircraft.



Over the years Royal Jordanian has attained multiple awards including the Phoenix Award in 2007, presented to airlines that have gone through a major transformation, the 'Airline of the Year' award in 2007 by Air Finance Journal and the Airline of the Year 2010 Award among others.

Presently, Royal Jordanian's network consists of some of 60 destinations in four continents. To learn more about Royal Jordanian, please visit www.rj.com

### The number of flying A380s reach triple digits

Time travels fast, and so do the number of newly born super jumbo birds finding their ways to their new homes around the world. This month we celebrated the delivery of the 100<sup>th</sup> A380 aircraft which is now flying with Malaysian Airlines.



Today, with 101 delivered, the A380s are flying on 66 routes and serve 30 cities around the world. In other words an A380 takes off or lands every 6 minutes. At Heathrow, the A380 now has its own show called 'The A380 Daily Show' owing to 12 A380 flights to LHR offering over 5,000 seats every day. In addition, A380s now link the world's aviation Mega-cities with 130 flights per day carrying around 1.5m passengers per month.

With more and more A380 aircraft flying, world's largest airports are welcoming them to more comfortable homes by preparing dedicated A380 terminals. Dubai Intl's concourse A, Doha's Hamad Int'l Airport are examples in our region.

The compliments for the A380 are not only coming from passengers who love their flights with the A380 but also our own customers are witnessing the benefits. 'A380 flights are almost always full. In all of my 40 years in the business, I've never known an aircraft to be so popular.' Said Tim Clark, CEO of Emirates, the largest A380 customer.

As of now, there have been 110 A380s ordered by our customers in Middle East which include 90 aircraft by Emirates, 10 by Etihad Airways, and 10 by Qatar Airways.

Stay tuned for more updates on Airbus A380 in future asfaar issues.