

# Emirates and Switzerland

**4** daily Emirates passenger flights to Switzerland

**831** thousand passengers on Emirates' flights to and from Switzerland in 2017

**31** thousand tonnes of cargo carried on Emirates' flights to and from Switzerland in 2017

**CHF 20.4** billion bilateral trade between the UAE and Switzerland in 2016

Emirates has been serving Switzerland for over 25 years since it first launched passenger flights to Zurich in August 1992. Currently, Emirates operates four daily passenger frequencies to Switzerland.

Throughout these years, growing demand has warranted successive increases in capacity. Emirates' Zurich flights became daily non-stop in January 2001, followed by a second daily non-stop frequency in October 2006. Daily non-stop flights were launched to Geneva in June 2011, followed by a second frequency introduced in June 2016. In January 2014, Emirates further upgraded the capacity and product on Zurich flights with the Airbus A380 aircraft, and since October 2015 both frequencies to Zurich are operated with the A380.

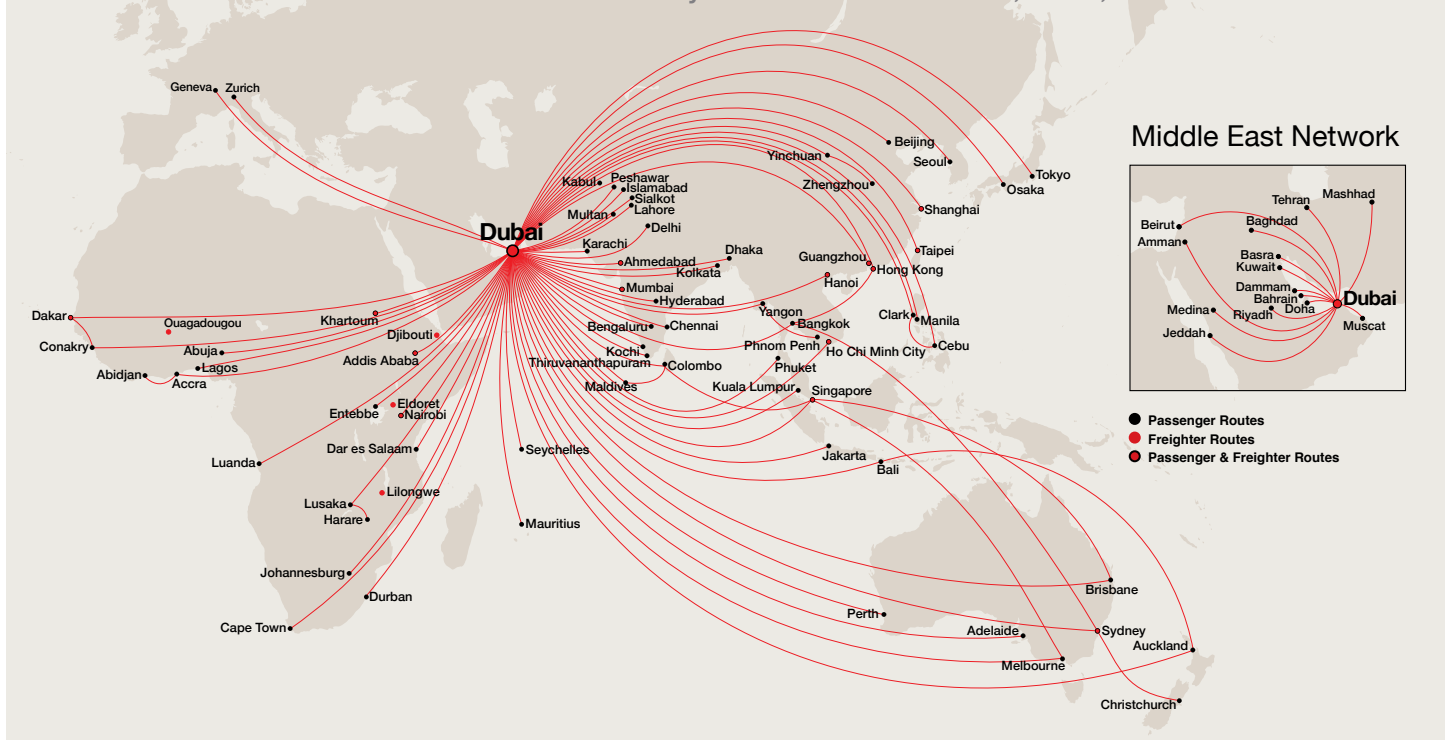
relationships, Foreign Direct Investment and international trade. In Europe, connectivity is mainly provided by a few large hub airports such as Frankfurt and Paris, as a result of which intercontinental connections from other cities in Europe often require an additional stopover. This creates a connectivity gap. Emirates helps bridge that gap by serving more non-hub centres through its global network.

Emirates offers several destinations from Switzerland to Africa and Asia Pacific via one stop in Dubai which would otherwise require two or more stopovers, often with less efficient routings via European hubs. Some examples are Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney, Auckland, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Cebu, Denpasar, Seoul, Durban and Entebbe.

## Emirates' connectivity

Connectivity plays an important role in enabling tourism, international business

Emirates contributes to Switzerland's connectivity needs in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Australasia



124 Swiss nationals employed by the Emirates Group

2,850 Swiss nationals living in the UAE

US\$ 20 billion Swiss foreign investments in the UAE

## Swiss-UAE bilateral relations

The UAE is Switzerland's largest trade partner in the Middle East and North Africa region and eighth largest globally. In 2016 alone, bilateral trade between Switzerland and the UAE exceeded CHF 20.4 billion. Swiss exports to the UAE primarily consist of precious stones and metals, jewellery and watches, as well as machinery and pharmaceutical products, while imports from the UAE include precious stones, precious metals and jewellery.

Several Swiss multinational companies have chosen Dubai as their Middle East headquarters due to its strategic geographical location and business-friendly investment conditions, as well as its role as a dynamic trading hub linking the Asian, African and European continents.

Switzerland is also a popular travel destination for Emiratis, particularly in the summer. According to Switzerland Tourism, the UAE is Switzerland's biggest source market in the Gulf region. In 2017, Switzerland saw an increase in tourism from the UAE, with overnights at 340,000, up 4% over the previous year.

## Investing in modern and efficient aircraft

Emirates continues to invest in the most modern, efficient aircraft and engine technology available, as well as ground equipment. In 2017, Emirates added 21 new aircraft to its fleet, including nine A380s and 11 Boeing 777-300ERs. Emirates has one of the youngest aircraft fleets in the industry with an average fleet age of 63 months (5.25 years) – which is significantly lower than the industry average of 140 months.

Investing in modern, wide-body aircraft has always been the cornerstone of our strategy, because these are more fuel-efficient to operate and also allow us to provide our customers with a better onboard experience.

## The importance of international aviation competition

International aviation competition is currently high on the European agenda. Open markets with main trading partners is an important element when seeking to ensure connectivity with the rest of the world. Switzerland's aviation

policy recognises that liberalised aviation markets create new routes for people to travel and work, and for goods to be exchanged. It is not surprising therefore that representative bodies, including Airports Council International (ACI Europe) with five Swiss airports among its members and the European Travel Commission which is supported by Switzerland Tourism, recently called on policy-makers to prioritise continuous free aviation market access, including with Gulf countries.

## About Emirates

Emirates is the largest airline in the world in terms of international passenger carriage. Established in 1985, the company's growth has been measured in line with the demand for air travel. With 269 efficient aircraft in service today, Emirates operates a global network of over 150 destinations in 85 countries across six continents, independently of the three global airline alliances. Emirates launched passenger services to three new destinations in 2017 – Newark in the US, Phnom Penh in Cambodia and Zagreb in Croatia and will launch services to London Stansted in June and Santiago de Chile in July 2018.

### Several Swiss multinational companies have a strong presence in the UAE



UBS

Lindt

ABB



Nestlé

CREDIT SUISSE

Schindler



Roche

IWC  
SCHAFFHAUSEN

ZÜRICH

## Myth vs. Fact: Setting the record straight



Some of our competitors claim that Emirates competes unfairly or negatively impacts the aviation market. Such misconceptions, when repeated often enough, can ultimately be accepted as fact. Below we aim to address some of these allegations levelled against Emirates.

**Myth:** Emirates is heavily subsidised by the Dubai Government.

**Fact:** Emirates is a consumer-focused, commercial airline, operating a financially transparent and non-subsidised business model. Our funds are raised on a fully commercial basis through a wide range of sources including operating leases, commercial asset-backed debt and equity from investors. Our financial accounts are audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers in full compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and are publicly available at [http://www.emirates.com/english/about/investor\\_relations/investor\\_relations.aspx](http://www.emirates.com/english/about/investor_relations/investor_relations.aspx) and have been since 1993-94.

Emirates has been profitable for the last 29 years and rather than receive subsidies as erroneously alleged, Emirates has in fact paid its state shareholder over US\$3.9 billion in dividends up to and including its 2015-16 financial year.

**Myth:** Emirates receives free fuel and does not pay to use infrastructure in Dubai.

**Fact:** In the 2016-17 financial year, Emirates' fuel costs totalled US\$5.7 billion and comprised 25% of operating costs, wholly comparable with other large long-haul carriers. Shell, one of Emirates' main fuel suppliers in Dubai and abroad, recently confirmed that it does not give Emirates preferential treatment. Emirates also pays the full published landing charges at Dubai International Airport – as do the 100 other airlines that fly to and from this airport. Similarly, Emirates pays the same airport handling fees to the ground-handling agent as would a similar high volume airline customer.

**Myth:** The social conditions in which some of Emirates' employees work are unacceptable.

**Fact:** As a responsible multinational company, Emirates complies with the labour laws in each of the countries that we operate in. To attract and retain top talent, Emirates offers competitive salaries and benefits. Emirates currently employs over 64,000 staff of over 170 nationalities worldwide. Emirates' status as an excellent employer is shown by its high staff retention rates with more than 15,000 staff having worked for the company for 10 years or longer, of which 3,000 have worked for over 20 years.

Please visit our website to read more on "Airlines and Subsidy: Our position"