

Robert J. Lee

From: Robert J. Lee
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 3:05 PM
To: infolist-owner@mailman13.u.washington.edu
Cc: traveluw@uw.edu
Subject: Global Travel Notice: Carriers Cut Service to Qatar

Global Travel Notice: Carriers Cut Service to Qatar

Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain have cut off diplomatic ties with Qatar and closed their air space and seaports to Qatari planes and vessels.

Air Arabian Airlines – Cancelled all flights to and from Qatar until further notice. *[Sharjah Carrier]*

Egypt Air – Cancelled all flights to and from Qatar until further notice. *[Egypt Carrier]*

Emirates – Cancelled all flights to and from Qatar until further notice. *[Dubai Carrier]*

Etihad Airways – Cancelled all flights to and from Qatar until further notice. *[Abu Dhabi Carrier]*

Fly Dubai – Cancelled all flights to and from Qatar until further notice. *[Dubai Carrier]*

Gulf Air – Cancelled all flights to and from Qatar until further notice. *[Bahrain Carrier]*

Qatar Airways – Cancelled all flights to and from Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and UAE until further notice. *[Qatar Carrier]*

Saudi Arabian Airlines – Cancelled all flights to and from Qatar from 6/5/2017 onwards, until further notice. *[Saudi Arabia Carrier]*

Emirates and Etihad are offering full refunds on unused tickets and free rebooking to alternate cities to customers booked on flights to and from Doha.

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eTravel - *In order to guarantee expenditures are charged to the expiring biennium,
Ariba payment transactions must clear the approval process by **5 p.m. on June 19th.**
This allows for central office processing.*

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BUSINESS INSIDER

One map shows how much trouble Qatar Airways may be in



BENJAMIN ZHANG

JUN. 5, 2017, 5:49 PM

As [Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates sever diplomatic relations with Qatar](#), the nations have also closed their airspace to their neighbor.

The lack of access to Bahraini, Emirati, and Saudi airspace could have a devastating effect on Qatar Airways' operations.

"Losing Saudi, Bahrain, and UAE airspace would effectively ground Qatar Airways," the [CAPA Center for Aviation](#) wrote in a report.

That's because Qatar actually has very little airspace relative to the size of the country.

"It is largely surrounded by Bahrain airspace (the Bahrain FIR), a slither on the south is managed by Saudi Arabia while the UAE is on the eastern border," CAPA said.

While losing access to Saudi airspace would force Qatar Airways into the costly maneuver of rerouting its Africa-bound flights, losing access to Bahraini airspace could be catastrophic because the country almost encircles Qatar.

That means, should the ban hold up, Qatar Airways flights would need to fly through airspace they are now barred from to reach their home base in Doha.



Qatar Airways Airbus.

REUTERS/Fadi Al-Assaad

AIRSPACE IN THE PERSIAN GULF



SOURCE: IVAO

BUSINESS INSIDER

Qatar airspace map.

BI Graphics

Qatar Airways did not immediately respond to a request for comment on how it plans to overcome this challenge.

While the countries are free to refuse landing rights, it is unclear whether Bahrain and the UAE can legally bar Qatar Airways from their airspace. The [International Air Services Transit Agreement](#), of which Bahrain, the UAE, and Qatar are part of, says the countries can't legally shut off their airspace to fellow signatories. The countries, however, could exit the treaty or try to enforce the ban with the treaty in place.

Saudi Arabia, however, is not an IASTA member country and can legally shut Qatar Airways out of its airspace.

According to [Flightradar24](#), Bahrain notified pilots that it would limit flights to and from Qatar by Qatari aircraft through its airspace to a single air route. This means even if Qatar Airways isn't grounded, it would be subject to heavy air-traffic congestion.

Over the past two decades, Qatar Airways has grown to become one of the most influential international airlines in the world. In 2015, the consumer aviation website Skytrax named it the best airline in the world.

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Qatar diplomatic crisis: How it affects air travel

Major airlines have suspended travel to and from Qatar amid diplomatic row - here are the details.

05 Jun 2017 14:58 GMT

[Saudi Arabia](#), the United Arab Emirates, [Egypt](#) and Bahrain have cut off diplomatic ties with [Qatar](#) and say they will suspend air, sea and land transport with Qatar.

The diplomatic rift has wreaked havoc with airlines in the region, with major long-haul carriers such as Doha-based Qatar Airways and Dubai's Emirates suspending flights, leaving many passengers stranded at airports in the Gulf.

Several people have expressed concern on social media over disrupted travel, with images posted of travellers stranded at airports.

Twitter user [@FahadBuwazir](#) posted a photograph which he said showed Qatari citizens stuck at Jeddah's King Abdulaziz International Airport.

How travel will be immediately affected?

Qatar Airways, on its website, said it has stopped flights to Saudi Arabia, starting at noon on Monday.

A spokeswoman said it was unclear if the suspension would be extended.

Qatar Airways flies to nine cities in Saudi Arabia.

Qatar's flag carrier has not yet said if there would be changes to flights to cities such as Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Cairo.

[READ MORE: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Bahrain cut ties to Qatar](#)

Dubai's Emirates and Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways are suspending all flights to and from Doha, starting Tuesday morning.

Emirates, in a statement on its website, said its flights to and from Doha on Monday will operate as normal.

Its last flight from Dubai to Doha will depart as EK847 at 02:30am on Tuesday. The last flight from Doha to Dubai will depart as EK848 at 3:50am on Tuesday.

Etihad Airways' last flight from Abu Dhabi to Doha will depart as EY391 at 9:35pm, while the last flight from Doha to Abu Dhabi will depart as EY398 at 10:50pm on Monday, the airline said in a statement.

Both airlines are offering full refunds on unused tickets and free rebooking to alternate cities to customers booked on flights to and from Doha.

The carriers operate four daily return flights to Doha.

FlyDubai, a Dubai-based budget carrier, said it is cancelling its flights to Qatar beginning on Tuesday.

Air Arabia, a Sharjah-based carrier, said its last outbound flight from Sharjah to Doha will depart at 6:30pm on Monday, while the last inbound flight from Doha to Sharjah will depart at 7:25pm local time.

Saudi Arabian Airlines (Saudia), in a Twitter post, said it has cancelled all flights to Qatar from Monday morning onwards.

Gulf Air, Bahrain's national carrier, said its daily service between Manama and Doha will be suspended until further notice. Its last flight from Bahrain to Doha, GF530, will depart at 8:55pm and its final flight from Doha to Bahrain, GF531, will depart at 10:40pm local time on Monday.

Egypt's flag carrier, Egypt Air, has delayed its flights to and from Doha on Monday. The country's ministry of aviation said it will "halt all flights between Egypt and Qatar and close off Egyptian airspace to Qatari aircrafts that seek to land or pass through" beginning on Tuesday at 04:00GMT.

At the time of publishing, it was not clear whether airlines of the Maldives, which also joined the measures against Qatar, planned to suspend flights.

Its main opposition party, the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), in a statement warned any restriction "will cause huge disruption to the tourism sector".

What are the likely implications of the new restrictions?

Many analysts and experts have said the current travel disruptions are "unprecedented".

John Strickland, a UK-based aviation consultant, told Al Jazeera the announcement "came as quite a shock" to the industry.

"There's been disruptions in the region before, such as during the Gulf War," Strickland said. "Flights had to be re-routed, but I cannot think of anything comparable to the current events."

Alan Peaford, editor-in-chief of Aerospace Magazine, like Strickland, said Qatar airways will see greatest impact.

"The real problem would be if airspace closes. Not just for Qatar Airways passengers, but also for cargo, like food and fresh fruit that is flown into the country," Peaford told Al Jazeera.

He added that there are two main air routes in and out of Qatar - over Saudi Arabia and Bahrain with the latter controlling most of the Gulf air space.

"If Qatar is banned, I can't see a way out of the country for Qatari aircraft," he added.

Saj Ahmad, an analyst with London-Based Strategic Aero Research, told Khaleej Times that the "damage here isn't a one-way street".

He said that airlines "like Emirates, FlyDubai and Etihad out of Abu Dhabi will end up reeling from the sudden collapse of traffic rights".

The long term-effects "are far from clear", Ahmad said. "This has the potential to be a long and drawn-out affair."

Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies

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Associated Press - Jun 05, 2017 2:40 am



Skift Take

It is quite rich for Saudi Arabia to claim other states support terrorism. Perhaps now the big three U.S. carriers can stop making equally ironic claims about subsidies and just watch the Gulf carriers fight each other?

— Jason Clampet

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Update: Four Arab nations cut diplomatic ties to Qatar on Monday over its relations with Iran and support of Islamist groups, isolating the tiny energy rich country by cutting off its land, sea and air routes to the outside world.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates began withdrawing their diplomatic staff from Qatar as regional airlines quickly announced they'd suspend service to its capital, Doha.

All the nations also said they planned to cut air and sea traffic. Saudi Arabia said it also would shut its land border with Qatar, effectively cutting off the country from the rest of the Arabian Peninsula.

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Qatar Airways, one of the region's major long-haul carriers that

Etihad and Emirates Suspend Flights to Qatar as Gulf State Rift Grows – Skift routinely flies through Saudi airspace, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Some of its flights were going through Iranian airspace Monday.

Etihad, the Abu Dhabi-based carrier, said it would suspend flights to Qatar "until further notice." Emirates, the Dubai-based carrier, announced it too would suspend Qatar flights starting Tuesday, as did budget carrier FlyDubai.

The original story follows:

The Latest on the Gulf Arab dispute with Qatar (all times local):

9:35 a.m.

The Abu Dhabi-based airline Etihad (<http://etihad.com>) says it is suspending flights to Qatar amid a growing diplomatic rift.

Etihad said on its website Monday its last flights "until further notice" would leave early Tuesday morning.

Etihad gave no reason for the decision. It is the flag carrier of the United Arab Emirates.

The airline's decision comes as Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE all cut diplomatic ties Monday to Qatar over its support of Islamist groups and its relations with Iran.

Qatar has yet to comment on the growing crisis.

7:10 a.m.

The United Arab Emirates and Egypt have cut diplomatic ties to Qatar.

The two countries have joined Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in cutting ties to Qatar amid a growing Arab diplomatic dispute with the small, gas-rich nation.

Both the UAE and Egypt made the announcement on their state-run news agencies within minutes of each other.



Qatari officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The dispute between Qatar and the Gulf's Arab countries started over a purported hack of Qatar's state-run news agency. It has spiraled since.

7 a.m.

Saudi Arabia says it is cutting diplomatic ties to Qatar and it has pulled all Qatari troops from the ongoing war in Yemen.

Saudi Arabia made the announcement via its state-run Saudi Press Agency early Monday. It appeared to be timed in concert with an earlier announcement by Bahrain similarly cutting ties.

Qatar had no immediate comment.

The dispute between Qatar and the Gulf's Arab countries started over a purported hack of Qatar's state-run news agency. It has spiraled since.

6:50 a.m.

Bahrain says it is cutting diplomatic ties to Qatar amid a deepening rift between Gulf Arab nations.

Bahrain's Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement early Monday saying it would withdraw its diplomatic mission from the Qatari capital of Doha within 48 hours and that all Qatari diplomats should leave Bahrain within the same period.

The ministry's statement said Qatari citizens needed to leave Bahrain within two weeks and that air and sea traffic between the two countries would be halted. It wasn't immediately clear how that would affect Qatar Airways, one of the region's major long-haul carriers.

Bahrain blamed Qatar's "media incitement, support for armed

Etihad and Emirates Suspend Flights to Qatar as Gulf State Rift Grows – Skift
terrorist activities and funding linked to Iranian groups to carry out sabotage and spreading chaos in Bahrain” for its decision.

Qatar had no immediate comment.

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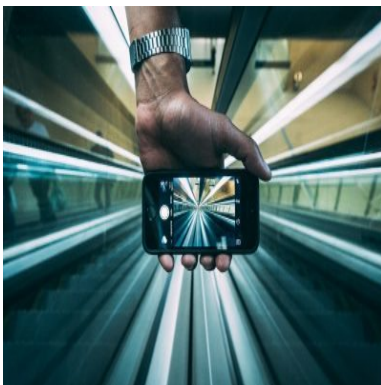
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Photo Credit: A promotional image of an Etihad Airways plane. The carrier will stop flying to Qatar over a political dispute in the region. Etihad Airways

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