

Dubai Airports 'good to go' for runway closure

Dubai Airports has confirmed that its operations teams at both Dubai (DXB) and Dubai World Central (DWC) airports are 'good to go' for the 45-day refurbishment of the southern runway at Dubai International.

The runway requires a complete upgrade to accommodate traffic growth, and it closes at 15.00hrs local time on April 16.

"Planning and preparations have been under way for almost two years in close coordination with Dubai Aviation Engineering Projects, airlines, dnata, the regulator and a host of other service partners to make sure this massive project goes off without a hitch," said Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports.

The main visible difference for passengers will be a potential change in airports, although scheduling experts have optimized DXB's one runway operation to the point where there will be only a 29% reduction in the number of available seats. Thanks to the additional capacity provided by DWC, the number of flights across the Dubai Airport system will see a reduction of just 19% and a seat reduction of just 20%.

Many customers will get to experience the speed and convenience of Dubai's second airport Dubai World Central (DWC) for the first time during the closure as it takes on additional traffic from affected scheduled, charter, cargo and general aviation operations.

DWC will handle an average of 145 passenger flights per day operated during the period by airlines including flydubai, Wizz Air, Aeroflot, Indigo, SpiceJet, Gulf Air, Ukraine International Airlines, Ural Airlines, Nepal Airlines, Kuwait Airways and flynas.