
Purpose-built A380 concourse boards first Pax in Dubai

By **Rick Lundstrom** on January, 2 2013 | Airline & Terminal News



Emirates today noted the departure of the first A380 flight from its purpose-built concourse at Dubai International Airport.

The departure of flight EK003 at 14:30 to London Heathrow marked the start of flights from four gates that opened at Concourse A. The concourse is scheduled to become fully operational during the first quarter this year.

More than 500 passengers became the first travelers to experience boarding through the double decker air contact bridges connected to the aircraft.

"We are confident that our customers will find the new concourse to be a remarkable world class facility befitting of our flagship Emirates A380 aircraft. I would also like to congratulate Dubai Airports on achieving this major milestone in the development of Concourse A," said His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Department of Civil Aviation, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group and Chairman of Dubai Airports.

With 528,000 square meters spread across 11 floors and the capacity to handle 15 million passengers a year, the concourse will increase comfort, convenience and choice of facilities. The lounge offers direct boarding for First Class and Business Class customers and an expansive area for duty free shopping, food courts, cafes and fine dining options in addition to a Timeless Spa. The concourse also has a dedicated hotel floor with both a four and five star offering. Passengers are transported between Terminal 3 and Concourse A by underground trains and shuttle buses from where they can depart through 20 gates when the facility becomes fully operational.

The concourse will send passengers to more than than 20 Emirates A380 destinations around the world, including A380 flights to Europe on Qantas through a global partnership announced recently 1

that is now awaiting approval of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.