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EID FIREWORKS LIGHT UP DUBAI FESTIVAL CITY

Dubai Festival City keeps visitors entertained with fireworks, events and artists throughout the long Eid Al Fitr holiday. Malls, parks, beaches and leisure destinations in the UAE are expected to be packed with visitors during the long holiday.

UAE airfares to drop by 60-70% after Eid

Last-minute travellers can benefit from rate dips starting April 15

DUBAI

BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN Chief Reporter

ost-Eid Al Fitr, UAE residents can anticipate 60-70 per cent fare drops to major holiday destinations until mid-June, with significant declines on high-traffic routes. Last-minute travellers can benefit from rate

dips starting April 15, following which fares will shoot up for the summertime.

Travel agents said fares to the Philippines, Egypt, Turkey, India, and Saudi Arabia routes remain steady until mid-May but are expected to rise in summer.

Going the other way

However, fares to the UK, US, and some Western European destinations remain in the Dh4,000 to Dh6,000 range and increase further during the summer.

The low-fare phase for some

destinations lasts until mid-May, which is ideal for budget-conscious travellers. Fares to Central Asian and Eastern European destinations will average from Dh493 (Baku) to Dh1,039 (Tsiblisi) and Dh682 (Bucharest) to Dh1,142 (Belgrade).

Return flights to Moscow are priced at Dh2,085. Manila to Dubai airfares will remain at a steady range of Dh1,708 to Dh1,800 until mid-May, compared to the highs of Dh5,000 travellers were forced to pay in Q4-23. **FULL REPORT: P5**

Israel on alert after Iranian strike threat

BIDEN PLEDGES 'IRONCLAD' SUPPORT FOR TOP REGIONAL ALLY

GAZA STRIP

srael was on alert yesterday after its arch foe Iran threatened reprisals over a strike in Svria this month that killed two Iranian generals, and as the war against Hamas ground on in Gaza.

Days after Israel strengthened its air defences and paused leave for combat units, the United States also warned of the risk of an attack by Iran or its allied groups at a time Middle East tensions have soared. Iran is "threatening to launch a significant attack on Israel," US President Joe Biden said Wednesday, pledging "ironclad" support for its top regional ally despite diplomatic tensions over Israel's military conduct in Gaza.

'No longer safe'

Israel was widely blamed for an April 1 attack that destroyed Iran's consulate building in Damascus and killed seven Revolutionary Guards, including two generals. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned Wednesday that Israel "must be punished and will be punished", days after one of his advisers said Israeli embasIsrael was widely

blamed for an April 1 attack that destroyed Iran's consulate **building in Damascus** and killed seven **Revolutionary Guards**, including two generals.

sies are "no longer safe". Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz swiftly replied on social media site X that "if Iran attacks from its territory, Israel will respond and attack Iran".

The Axios news site reported that US Central Command chief Michael Kurilla was to visit Israel to discuss the situation with Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

Moscow called on both Iran and Israel to exercise restraint, after earlier warning Russians to refrain from travelling to Israel, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on X, formerly Twitter, urged "maximum restraint", and Lufthansa said it had extended a temporary suspension of Iran flights until Saturday.

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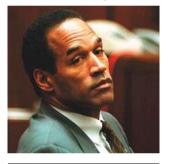
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ENTERTAINMENT

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