

RwandAir has become the first – and only – Sub-Saharan African airline to launch a loyalty partnership with Qatar Airways.

The two carriers have joined forces to offer RwandAir Dream Miles and Qatar Airways Privilege Club loyalty members access to each other's destinations with the opportunity to 'earn and burn' points across their reciprocal route networks.

Under the new deal, RwandAir Dream Miles members will be able to fly to more than 140 Qatar Airways destinations using miles earned by flights bought through RwandAir.

Qatar Airways Privilege Club members will have the ability to earn miles on RwandAir's flights, both within Africa and on long-haul routes, to destinations such as New York and London.

Yvonne Manzi Makolo, CEO of RwandAir, said: "RwandAir is incredibly proud to be the first Sub-Saharan African airline to enter into partnership with Qatar Airways Privilege Club.

"Customer loyalty is of huge importance to both RwandAir and Qatar Airways. We both strive to put the customer experience first and give recognition to our most frequent fliers.

"Now RwandAir Dream Miles customers will be able to earn and burn points to give them access to flights across Qatar Airways' extensive route network, with the same reciprocal benefits to Qatar Airways Privilege Club members.

"We believe this initiative is a major step forward to greater cooperation between Africa's most ambitious airline and one of the world's most prestigious international carriers, and we look forward to further enhancing the benefits of our Dream Miles members.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive H.E. Mr Akbar Al Baker said: "Our partnership with RwandAir opens up a world of possibilities for the customers of both airlines, allowing them to discover exciting destinations. Members of Privilege Club and Dream Miles can enjoy significant benefits including world class travel experiences on our strong complementary networks.

Since RwandAir launched its Dream Miles loyalty programme in 2011 it has grown in popularity and become a favourite of the airline's frequent fliers.

The Dream Miles programme has four tiers of membership, with Emerald forming the entry level, entitling members to a free ticket using award miles, eligibility for a flight upgrade, as well as last minute cabin upgrades and up to 40kgs excess baggage using award miles.

In addition, Silver tier members, who have earned 25,000 'Tier Miles' or taken 20 flights in a year, are entitled to an additional 10kg of checked-in baggage, can earn 25% bonus miles on all RwandAir flights and be given priority on the waitlist.

Gold tier members, who have earned 50,000 miles or taken 40 flights a year, enjoy a wide range of benefits, including 50% bonus miles on all RwandAir flights and 15kg extra checked baggage allowance.

They can also receive a free ticket and complimentary upgrade to the higher cabin using miles, as well as priority check-in, baggage tagging, Business Class lounge access and high priority on the waitlist.

RwandAir's most highly-valued frequent flyers can benefit from Diamond tier status in reward for earning 100,000 miles or taking 60 flights a year.

Benefits include 100% bonus miles on all RwandAir flights, an additional 23kg of checked baggage and one free upgrade to Business Class per year when travelling in the Economy cabin.

Following two years of consecutive Diamond status, their tier will be automatically extended for a further two years.