



CORPORATE TRAVEL NEWS

Friday, 18 December 2009



Qantas Engineers Industrial Action

Qantas said today that industrial action by Professional Engineers during December and January would not have any impact on airline operations.

The union plans to take industrial action, starting today, throughout the Christmas and New Year Period negotiations continue.

Qantas has contingency plans in place to ensure that passengers would not be affected by the action and there will not be any disruption to operations and customers can travel with confidence.



BA wins court battle to stop Christmas strikes

British Airways won a High Court battle on December 17 to prevent its cabin crew staging a planned 12-day walkout over the busy Christmas and New Year holidays.

Major Eruption for Philippines Volcano likely

A major eruption of a volatile volcano in the Philippines could be just weeks away, scientists are warning.

As a precautionary measure, the military and police have been evacuating an estimated 50,000 residents, mostly from farming villages in Mayon's foothills.

About 82 small earthquakes were recorded overnight, but the deep rumblings were mostly generated by the movement of lava and incandescent debris that lit up the peak.



Qantas International Fare Increase

Qantas has announced fare increases on selected International routes. The new fare levels will apply to point of sale Australia for ticket issued on/after 18 December 2009. The fare increases apply as follows;

First cabin fares will increase by up to 3% on the following markets: United Kingdom/Europe, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Africa.

Business cabin fares will increase by up to 3% on the following markets: Japan, United Kingdom/Europe, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, China, Africa, Indonesia and Philippines.

Premium Economy cabin fares will increase by up to 5% on the following markets: North America, Singapore,

Thailand, Hong Kong, United Kingdom/Europe.

Economy cabin fares will increase by up to 5% on the following markets:

Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, Hong Kong, China, Honolulu, South America, Singapore, Thailand, Africa, North America, and United Kingdom/Europe.



Jetstar launches Melbourne Tullamarine to Brisbane flights

From 1 July 2010, Jetstar will commence domestic flights between Melbourne Tullamarine Airport and Brisbane.

Once the new service commences, Jetstar will be operating 2 direct services daily from both Melbourne Avalon and Melbourne Tullamarine to Brisbane.

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Aussies to make mile-high mobile calls

Travellers may soon be able to make mobile phone calls and send texts on domestic flights throughout Australia.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority have released a discussion paper, which details a proposal for mid-flight mobile communication. Passengers are currently unable to use non flight-mode mobiles for fear signals may interfere with flight navigation systems.

Under the proposal, in-flight mobile phone usage could become a reality through pico cell technology, which allows mobiles to receive signals without compromising safety.



Qantas and BP Rebates for Mid-sized Companies*

Qantas and American Express have announced the expansion of the American Express Qantas Corporate Card (AEQCC) for mid-sized companies. Qantas offers companies who use the card a rebate on qualifying flights each year*. Now, companies can also receive a rebate on purchases at BP outlets* throughout Australia providing additional savings to the company's bottom line.

Amex is also expanding the Corporate Card Program for midsized companies with a new card, The American Express BP Corporate Card (AEBPCC). This card will offer the same benefits as the AEQCC, including the Qantas Rebate. Existing AEQCC customers are automatically eligible to receive the new BP rebate. *Rebate Terms and Conditions apply, details available via your Voyager Travel Account Manager.



V Australia and Delta Air Lines link Frequent Flyer, Lounge & codeshare agreements

V Australia and US-based, Delta Air Lines, have announced members of each carrier's frequent flyer programmes will enjoy reciprocal points accrual for travel with both airlines and reciprocal lounge access within Australia and the US. Velocity Members can now begin earning points to even more global destinations with the addition of the Delta Air Lines route network.



Qatar Airways flies into Australia

Qatar Airways is celebrating the launch of scheduled

services to Australia following the airline's inaugural flight into Melbourne.

The new Doha - Melbourne route signals the beginning of Qatar Airways' operations to Australia, and adds another continent to the airline's rapidly expanding global network. Melbourne becomes the award-winning airline's 85th destination and fourth new route of 2009. The carrier plans to launch flights to Sydney next year.

Qatar Airways is operating its aircraft on the route, flying initially three-times-a-week on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Melbourne flights are operated using brand new Boeing 777-200 Long Range aircraft, with 42 seats in Business Class and 217 in Economy.

The 2-2-2 configured Business Class seats convert into 180 degree horizontal flat beds, each with a 78-inch pitch on par with First Class of many airlines. In Economy Class, the 3-3-3 configuration means one less

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seat per row compared with competitors and a seat pitch of up to 34 inches offering unrivalled levels of space and comfort.

Qatar Airways now operates scheduled flights from Doha to key business and leisure cities across Europe, Middle East, Africa, South Asia, Far East, North America and Australia.



SMARTGATE – Clear customs quicker

SmartGate gives some travellers arriving into Australia's international airports the option to self-process through passport control. It uses the data in the ePassport and face recognition technology to perform the customs and immigration checks that are usually conducted by a Customs and Border Protection officer.

SmartGate can be used by Australian and New Zealand ePassport holders, aged 18 or over. It will be gradually opened to other nationalities that have ePassports.



Qantas cuts expiry of frequent flyer points in half

Members of Qantas' frequent flyer scheme will no longer be able to keep their loyalty points for three years, the carrier downsizing the expiry of points to 18 months.

The new scheme will kick in from 1 July 2010, where points earned from that date onwards will have an 18-month shelf life. Points earned before that date will still be valid for three years.

To keep the points, Qantas' 6.7 million frequent flyer members will have to make a transaction either by earning more points or redeeming them for flights or at any of the airline's 400 commercial partner outlets.



Qantas introduces brand new aircraft to its fleet

A brand new A330-200 aircraft has joined the Australian domestic network with individual on-demand In-flight entertainment screens in every newly designed seat. It's a new era of flying for the Qantas domestic experience – with over 300 entertainment choices.

With a configuration of 36 Business seats and 265 Economy seats, the new aircraft will operate the Australian domestic network, predominately between Sydney - Perth and Melbourne - Perth. A second next-generation A330-200 aircraft will join the fleet in February 2010.

Voyager Travel has 2 Leisure tools that allow you book your holiday packages online in real time as well as to research cruises that might be of interest to you.

Just go to http://www.voyagertravel.com.au/leisure_travel/

Make it your "favourite" and you can book and confirm a hotel, or a full hotel and flights package. On the same page under "Click here to search cruise options" you have the opportunity to search the widest cruise directory.



Voyager Travel wishes you all the best for a Safe & Happy Festive Season!

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