



**QF flying Canberra - Darwin**

QANTAS has commenced a direct thrice weekly return service between Canberra and Darwin, aimed at the government and business sectors.



**Virgin pact**

VIRGIN Atlantic and Virgin Blue have announced a new agreement under which Gold and Silver members of Virgin Atlantic's 'Flying Club' frequent flyer program will now receive priority check-in, priority baggage and lounge access when flying with V Australia and Virgin Blue.



**Malaysia Airlines Melbourne boost**

MALAYSIA Airlines will increase its non-stop services between Melbourne and Kuala Lumpur to 14 per week, with the three existing flights via Jakarta replaced by direct operations. The move is effective for the Summer 2010 scheduling period.



**BA debuts new First**

BRITISH Airways has introduced its brand new First Class product on Boeing 777 services operating between London Heathrow-Chicago this week. Key features of the cabin include a 60% wider bed at the shoulders, a personal wardrobe, a 15" in-flight entertainment screen, leather bound writing table and a new 'intelligent' mattress for bedding.



**Cathay Pacific off to Moscow**

CATHAY Pacific has announced that it's applying to the relevant authorities for flights between Hong Kong and Moscow. Cathay Pacific is planning for a thrice weekly two-class A340-300 service.



**Etihad granted 14 more flights into Australia**

Etihad Airways have secured 14 additional weekly flight frequencies from its Abu Dhabi hub to Australia. Of the additional flights, seven will be allowed to operate to any gateway in Australia including to Etihad's existing destinations in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. The remaining seven weekly flights have been granted to Etihad on the condition that the operation also flies via or onto a regional airport.

The new flight slots will be available from March 2011 and will increase the UAE carrier's access into Australia to a total of 42 flights a week.



**VietJet for Vietnam**

AIRASIA will launch a Vietnam based low cost carrier to be named VietJet Air Asia, after acquiring a 30% equity stake in VietJet Air Joint Stock Company. The new airline will compete directly with Qantas's Jetstar Pacific.



**British Airways cuts Singapore – Sydney April to June**

BRITISH Airways is cancelling its London Heathrow-Singapore-Sydney flights from 08-25 May. During this period BA's only

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Australian flights will be the daily operation to London via Bangkok. BA011/12 between London Heathrow and Singapore will also drop from daily to five per week between Apr and June.



**Hotham ski flights**

QANTASLINK will reintroduce a minimum of three weekly flights between Sydney-Mt Hotham from 12 Jun to 12 Sep for the 2010 winter ski season.



**oneworld wins the tug-of-war over Japan Airlines**

Japan Airlines has opted to keep its partnership with American Airlines in the oneworld Alliance, instead of

defecting to Delta Airlines SkyTeam. The decision brings an end to a fierce tug-of-war between American and Delta, both of which sought a relationship with JAL to strengthen their presence in fast-growing markets in Asia.



**Jetstar starts the ball rolling on pay-as-you-go airport lounge access**

Jetstar and Auckland Airport this week officially opened its pay-per-use airport lounge, and initial reactions from the public appear like the concept has been well received.

After announcing last December that it intended to launch airport lounges at both Wellington and Auckland, it appears that Jetstar may have more initiatives similar to this on the books.

Costing NZ\$15 per entrance, the Akarana Lounge offers travellers complimentary food and beverages

(including wine and beer), complimentary Wi-Fi access, and other entertainment options. Contrary to initial reports, there are even showers facilities in the lounge, and at the price point that Jetstar is launching the benefits appear to be quite well received.

The launch has prompted questions of whether more pay-as-you-go lounges should now be launched – considering most “complimentary” lounge access is built into the price of the premium ticket.



**ANA dumps drinks**

ALL Nippon Airways is doing away with beverage services on domestic Japanese flights, effective 01 April.

The carrier will still continue to offer water and Japanese tea.



**EY Japan launch**

ETIHAD Airways has started its first operations into Japan with the launch yesterday of the first Nagoya-Beijing-Abu Dhabi service.

Etiihad will expand its Japanese operations further with Abu Dhabi-Tokyo flights from 27 Mar.

**New OpenSkies flight**

BRITISH Airways’ all business class offshoot OpenSkies is adding a new route between Washington DC and Paris Orly from 17 May.

An EC 72-seat B757-200 jet will operate the route 5 times weekly.



**Mandarin Mideast**

MANDARIN Oriental Hotel Group will open its first property in the Middle East in 2013 after signing a deal to manage a new resort that’s

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## CORPORATE TRAVEL NEWS

under construction on Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Island. The hotel will feature 160 rooms and suites, as well as Residences.



### Radisson Plaza Hotel Sydney Redesign

Radisson Plaza Hotel Sydney we will be undergoing an exciting redesign across some of the public areas of the hotel. This redesign process will commence on 1st March 2010. Upon completion of this upgrade project in August 2010 the hotel will unveil a new Lobby, Restaurant, Bar and Plaza Club Lounge.

#### Lobby

Details include the redesign of the Lobby level which will come with some periodic noise; however the works will be limited to between the hours of 9am and 5pm on weekdays. The contractors have advised work causing

noise will be contained to the first 10 weeks of the project with no work on weekends. Reception and Concierge services will still be fully accessible.

#### Restaurant & Bar Facilities

The Bistro-Fax restaurant and ABX Bar areas will also be redesigned. During this redesign process Radisson will move these venues to the Lower Ground level, located directly one floor below Reception. The restaurant will serve breakfast and dinner as per normal operating hours. Lunch service though will not be available. The bar will continue to be open daily as per normal operating hours. The three hat fine dining Bilson's restaurant, located on the Lobby level will not be impacted during this project period. Additionally, an extensive 24 hour In-room Dining menu will still be available.

#### Plaza Club Lounge

The Radisson Plaza Club Lounge will be undergoing a complete redesign. To facilitate that redesign process the Lounge will be

closed for the duration of the project period.

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