



CORPORATE TRAVEL NEWS

Monday, 24 May 2010



New Strategic flights

STRATEGIC Airlines has today announced new direct flights to the Pilbara region of WA from both Brisbane and Melbourne. From 03 Aug Strategic said it will operate between Brisbane and Port Hedland each Tuesday, with the intention of increasing to two services a week in the near future. On the same day it will launch weekly return services between Melbourne and Port Hedland.



TAM joins Star

On the 13th May Brazilian carrier TAM Airlines officially joined the Star Alliance. TAM will be the alliance's 27th member.

US/TAM codeshare

US AIRWAYS and Brazil's TAM Airlines have agreed to a bilateral codeshare pact, which will soon provide a single-source booking, ticketing and baggage connection option for passengers on each other's services, effective July. Members of US' Dividend Miles loyalty program will also be able to earn and redeem mileage points on TAM services, as well as gain access to the Latin American carrier's airport lounges. The deal is subject to approval by government authorities.



Additional Qantas codeshare services on Airnorth

Effective 01Jun Qantas will codeshare on the additional Airnorth services that will operate Darwin-Broome-Karratha-Port Hedland twice weekly, Tuesday & Friday.



Jetstar Introduces Long Haul Flights From Singapore

Jetstar has announced plans to launch long haul services from Singapore to Australia, North Asia and/or European destinations later this year. As part of its pan Asian network growth plans, Jetstar will operate two Airbus 330-200 aircraft to its major Asian hub at Singapore Changi Airport. Jetstar's existing two-class A330-200 fleet flies long haul services from Australia directly to the Asia Pacific destinations of Bali, Tokyo, Osaka, Honolulu, Bangkok and Phuket.



Air Pacific adds flights

AIR Pacific has announced a new scheduled service between Melbourne and Nadi, to operate each Sat from 04 September. The flight will depart Nadi at 0800, arriving in MEL at 1150, then depart again at 1250 and arrive in Fiji at 1940. The carrier has also announced extra flights from Melbourne and Brisbane to Nadi on 17 and 24 September to meet increased demand.



Pacific Blue boots its Trans-Tasman services to Brisbane

Pacific Blue has announced plans to boost its trans-Tasman services to Brisbane from both Hamilton and Dunedin during its northern winter schedule, which will start in October. The carrier will add an extra weekly Hamilton to Brisbane flight, increasing the total number of weekly flights to four. Its

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Dunedin-Brisbane service will also increase by one flight a week from three to four, with an additional flight on a Friday. When the new northern winter schedule begins Pacific Blue will cease its direct flights from Hamilton to Sydney, adding extra frequency to Brisbane instead. The flights to Brisbane offer travellers a wide range of connections to Australia's domestic network, as well as onwards flights to the US on V Australia. Pacific Blue said it was currently finalising all flight times and would publish its detailed northern winter schedule shortly.



Emirates launches 'Reconstructed' Trans-Tasman airfares

In response to the burgeoning trans-Tasman airfare battle, Emirates Airlines launched a

"restructured offering" of fares. The new Emirates fares bracket Economy and Business Class fares into Super Saver, Saver and Flex categories. All First Class fares will fall under the Flex Category. The new structure also includes competitive new one-way fare options, enabling passengers to travel ex-Australia or New Zealand one direction only for exactly half the price of a return airfare. Emirates VP Australia, said: "There is real value-for-money without restrictions in the Economy Flex fares. The new Business Class Saver level is comparable to other fully-flexible Economy fares. "In addition our First Class Saver and Flex fares will now be on a par with the Business Class airfares offered by other carriers."

Seat Capacity to Jump as Emirates Upgrades

Emirates announced its plans to increase seat capacity on its Melbourne-Dubai and Melbourne-Auckland services from July and

August respectively. From July 2, larger Boeing 777-300ER aircraft will operate the three daily services between Melbourne and Dubai, via Kuala Lumpur. It will subsequently increase the seating capacity of the daily service by 41 percent. Overall, seat capacity on services between Melbourne and Dubai will be increased by 23 percent. Capacity between Auckland and Melbourne will also increase 37 percent from August 2. "The increases equate to more than 1,400 additional seats per week between Melbourne and Dubai, and close to 700 additional seats between Melbourne and Auckland."



New Aerolineas Argentina flight

AEROLINEAS Argentinas and its domestic offshoot Austral Airlines have announced the introduction of a new 'cross-country' service from 17 August this

year which will connect Argentina from north to south. The twice weekly flights will operate each Wed and Sat, with the itinerary Bariloche-Mendoza-Salta-Iguazu, connecting these key tourist destinations without having to return via Buenos Aires.



Lufthansa's First A380

GERMAN flag carrier Lufthansa overnight became the fifth airline to have Airbus A380 superjumbos in its fleet, after taking delivery of the 28th A380 to come off the production line. The airline said the plane, would enter commercial service from 11 Jun on the Frankfurt-Tokyo route. The Lufthansa A380 has 526 seats - 420 in economy class on the lower deck, and 8 first class and 98 business class seats on the upper deck. LH has another

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14 A380s on order, and becomes the second European carrier to operate the superjumbo after Air France.



Cathay to Haneda

CATHAY Pacific will commence a new twice daily service between Hong Kong and Tokyo Haneda airport in October, complementing its existing Narita flights. Cathay's return to Haneda comes 32 years after it switched operations to Narita in 1978.



AA's LHR lounge

AMERICAN Airlines has completed renovations to both the Admirals Club Lounge and the Flagship Lounge at London Heathrow Airport. Together the

lounges offer capacity for 371 guests.



V Australia to offer email, SMS

BUSINESS travellers across the Pacific will soon be able to work all the way to the USA, under plans by Virgin Blue's long-haul offshoot V Australia to equip its 777s with AeroMobile technology. The carrier's website boasts that passengers will be able to use email and SMS to stay in touch, utilising the Panasonic eXPhone system which links to satellites in flight. "All you need to send and receive text messages is a global roaming activated GSM mobile phone, and for email, a mobile data-enabled PDA device or laptop," the website says. V Australia said it will be one of the first airlines in the world to offer the system "across our entire brand-new Boeing 777-300ER aircraft fleet", in the not too distant future.



Transit Visa for South Africa

All non-visa exempt foreign nationals who wish to transit South Africa enroute to the below listed neighbouring countries will require a transit visa effective 01June2010, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland or Zimbabwe. TFOV facility will still be available for those transiting to a country other than those listed above.

US exit biometrics

THE US Department of Homeland Security has begun collecting fingerprints from non-US citizens departing the country. The digital biometric collection is part of a pilot program at Atlanta International Airport and Wayne County Airport in Detroit, and is expected to be expanded to all departure points within the next three

years. A DHS spokesperson said "Collecting biometrics allows us to determine faster and more accurately whether non-US citizens have departed the United States on time or remained in the country illegally". The department also confirmed that it's now collecting upgraded scans on all 10 fingerprints of each traveller at most major US ports of entry, rather than the previous two finger procedure.

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