



CORPORATE TRAVEL NEWS

Friday, 4 June 2010



Tiger Airways confirms November launch for Avalon

Tiger Airways has today confirmed that its first service out of Avalon will take place this November, and that upon launch, it also plans to base at least two aircraft at its second Melbourne base. The first flights will depart from Avalon Airport on 10 November 2010 with the inaugural flight en route to the Gold Coast.



Blue Zone Fees Revised

Blue Zone tier pricing structures have been

increased. Purchase of Blue Zone exit row seat is still subject to availability and Virgin Blue, Pacific Blue and Polynesian Blue safety requirements.

Blue Zone upgrade is available from all fare types with the exception of Premium Economy, as this product already includes extra personal space. Blue Zone boasts 39 inch (99 cm) seat pitch, on average 8 inches more than standard seating, Blue zone offers plenty of room to stretch out and relax.

Please see the following revised Blue Zone tier pricing structure.

Virgin Blue -

* Less than 90 minutes Short \$30

* 90-180 minutes Medium \$40

* More than 180 minutes and/or formal connection Long \$50

Pacific Blue & Polynesian -

* Domestic NZ Short \$30 NZD

* International and/or formal connection Long \$50AUD/NZD, \$90 FJD,

\$90TOP, \$120WST, \$125PGK, \$385SBD, \$45USD, 1500THB

*Fee is per person, one way, for each sector in the applicable

booking currency of country of origin or purchase.



Air New Zealand to slash check-in times with new kiosks

Air New Zealand has launched a new kiosk check-in experience for passengers flying to Australia. Passengers travelling to Australia from Auckland International Airport will now be able to check themselves in.

Passengers simply scan their machine readable passports at a kiosk, where they will then be issued with a boarding pass, and bag tags if they are checking in luggage. Customers then take their bags to the 'bag drop' area, where ground staff will scan the bag and check the passenger's ID.

There are 18 new self-service kiosks in the economy check-in area, and six new kiosks in the premium check-in area.

The check-in experience will be available to Air New Zealand passengers who are travelling to an Australian destination with: a New Zealand or Australian passport; any passport with a machine readable zone on their passport, or any passenger on another passport type holding a valid electronic travel authority (ETA).

Over the next nine months, the New Zealand carrier plans to progressively introduce new kiosks at its Wellington, Queenstown and Christchurch international check-in areas.



Continental to launch nonstop flights to Auckland

Continental Airlines plans to commence direct flights between Houston and Auckland from late next year. Subject to regulatory approval, the carrier plans to operate the flights from November 16, 2011. It will use its new Boeing 787

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Dreamliner fleet to serve the route and plans to operate a five times weekly service during certain periods in the first year of operation. Continental will join rivals Air New Zealand and Qantas on the route, becoming the third airline to fly nonstop between North America and New Zealand.



Qantas to operate seven supplementary services to Queenstown

Qantas will add seven supplementary services between Melbourne and Queenstown, to coincide with an increase in travel demand over the summer period.

The additional weekly flights will operate from 18 December 2010 until 29 January 2011. As part of the increased winter schedule, an extra Qantas Melbourne –

Queenstown service will operate weekly, as will a weekly flight between Brisbane and Queenstown. The Melbourne to Queenstown flight will operate for 13 weeks between 27 June 2010 and 19 September 2010.



Jetstar to increase New Zealand operations

Jetstar is set to further expand its New Zealand operations, when it introduces an additional Airbus A320 aircraft to its service later this year. The low cost carrier currently flies six A320 aircraft in New Zealand, evenly split between its fledgling domestic low fare operations and multiple daily Trans Tasman services from Christchurch and Auckland.



QF delays return of First

Premium travel is clearly taking longer to recover than expected, with Qantas pushing back the planned re-introduction of First Class service on three international routes.

The Sydney-Buenos Aires and Sydney-San Francisco services will now continue to have no First Class inventory available until 27 September – more than three months later than the previously planned 07 June reintroduction. Changes also apply to the Melbourne-Hong Kong-London route, which was originally offering First Class inventory from 08 June, and now only has First Class available from 02 August. Qantas originally suspended First Class on the three routes about a year ago citing plummeting premium numbers.

Since 06 July last year QF has been operating only Business,

Premium Economy and Economy cabins on the route, with some business class passengers in the First Class cabin but provided business class food and service.



Phuket 3 times a week with Pacific Blue

Pacific Blue, the international airline of Virgin Blue is pleased to announce an additional service from Perth to Phuket. This means that guests from the West can now fly direct to Phuket 3 times per week.

Flights depart Perth on a Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 1030hrs and arrive in Phuket at 1620hrs. For those that must reluctantly return home, the flights depart Phuket on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays departing at 1240hrs and arrive in Perth at 2010hrs.

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**Japan Airlines/
China Eastern
codeshare**

Japan Airlines has announced an increase in its codeshare pact with China Eastern Airlines, coming into effect from 03 June.

The expanded agreement will include seven daily China Eastern flights on JAL's aircraft between Shanghai (Pudong) and Xi'an, Wuhan and Shenzhen. Also the flight frequency, with China Eastern aircraft but Japan Airlines flight codes, between Shanghai and Chengdu/Chongqing will be increased from four daily flights to nine.



**Emirates London
Heathrow A380
boost**

Emirates has announced that its second daily A380 flight between Dubai and London

Heathrow will commence two weeks earlier than planned due to an accelerated delivery of another superjumbo from Airbus. The extra daily service will operate from 15 June, departing London Heathrow at 8.40pm and arriving in at Dubai at 06.30am the next day.



**AirAsia Kota
Kinabalu – Hong
Kong**

AirAsia this week launched a new daily A320 service between Hong Kong and Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.



**QF codeshare to
Timor**

Qantas has added its flight code to Air North's six weekly services between Darwin and Dili, East Timor. The codeshare applies to the

Top End carrier's outbound from Darwin flights TL510/518, and inbound TL511/519 services.



**Hawaiian Airlines
launches A330**

Hawaiian Airlines has held a formal ceremony to welcome the first of its new A330-200s, which will commence service tomorrow between Honolulu and Los Angeles. The two-class planes have capacity for 322 passengers.

**QF lifts Hong Kong
YQ tax**

Effective 01 June Qantas will increase its fuel surcharge YQ tax for tickets issued in Australia to Hong Kong from US\$55.65 to US\$67.20 per sector.



**Fly Dubai to Sri
Lanka**

Dubai's low cost carrier

fly Dubai has announced its 21st destination, with a four time weekly service set to launch to Colombo, Sri Lanka from 23 June.



**Jetstar and Air
France-KLM in new
interline agreement**

In a surprising new partnership, low cost carrier Jetstar announced a brand new Interline partnership with full-service carrier Air France-KLM, covering the Franco-Dutch airline's entire network.

This brand new agreement means that the travel trade will now be able to ticket all the destinations on the Air France and KLM global network alongside a Jetstar booking on the same ticket. Jetstar, Jetstar Asia/Valuair and Jetstar Pacific are all covered underneath this new interline agreement.

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Qantas to increase Melbourne A380 services and Johannesburg services

Qantas have announced at plans to introduce daily A380 services from Melbourne and step up the number of its flights from Sydney to Johannesburg.

At first, the carrier will increase its existing two return A380 services between Melbourne and London via Singapore to five services a week after it receives delivery of its eighth A380.

After its ninth A380 is delivered, Qantas will operate six services a week and then daily services when its tenth arrives. The ninth and tenth A380 will also increase the carrier's Melbourne - Los Angeles services by four and then six services a week.

The carrier will also introduce an extra Boeing 747 on its Sydney-Johannesburg

route and will operate a daily schedule from 21 September this year. South African Airways will codeshare on the daily services.



British Airways increases codeshare on Qantas services

British Airways will expand its codeshare agreement with Qantas on a collection of existing Qantas flights across Australia and New Zealand, effective from June 14.

The new agreement will enable British Airways customers to book seats on Qantas flights to Queenstown, Albury, Armidale, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Wagga Wagga for travel after Monday 26 July.

In addition, British Airways will develop its codeshare on existing Qantas services to a number of popular destinations including Auckland, Wellington, Canberra, Melbourne and Hobart.

Qantas will also increase its codeshare on British Airways flights between London and the wider Europe network including six new destinations: Rome, Milan, Toulouse, Prague, Warsaw and Budapest. BA will now offer Qantas customers connections to 29 destinations in total in the United Kingdom and Europe.



Holiday Inn

Mobile phones to be used as room keys for Holiday Inn

Intercontinental Hotels will soon begin trialing the usage of smartphones in place of the traditional room key at two of its North American Holiday Inn properties, claims a new report. Holiday Inn Chicago O' Hare Rosemont and the Holiday Inn Express Houston Downtown Convention Centre will in June launch a trial run of the technology which allows Blackberries,

iPhones, Android mobiles and other smartphones to avoid the front desk and go directly to their rooms.

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