



Friday, 24 July 2009

NEWS ITEMS



SmartGate opening in Sydney

SmartGate provides Passport holders the option to selfprocess through passport control. SmartGate uses face recognition technology to perform the customs and immigration checks usually conducted by a Customs officer. SmartGate is already operational in Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne, Auckland, Adelaide and Perth and will be available in Sydney in July, with Darwin to follow later this year. For more information go to: www.customs.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=5552

Auckland Express Path Immigration Trial

The New Zealand Government is introducing an Arrivals Express Path immigration trial lane at

Auckland International Airport. This will allow selected customers travelling in First or Business, along with Chairmans Lounge or Platinum Frequent Flyers travelling in any cabin, on Qantas flights from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to Auckland to be 'fast-tracked' through immigration, security and quarantine formalities. As this is a trial, only a limited number of invitations are available per flight. Similar to other ports offering Express Path arrivals, prior to disembarkation in Auckland, Cabin Crew will hand out the Arrivals Express Path 'invitation' onboard to eligible customers. Express Path Arrival is also available in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, London and Bangkok.



Emirates lifts fares by 7%

EMIRATES boosted its First Class, Business Class and Economy Class airfares

by 7 percent. The increase applies to all ongoing Emirates retail, published and wholesale fares. Mixed class Business/Economy fares for travel through to Europe, and Emirates/Virgin Blue published fares will also be impacted by the surcharge.



Singapore Airlines to fly daily Airbus A380 services to Melbourne

QANTAS faces renewed competition on the kangaroo route after Singapore Airlines announced it would fly daily Airbus A380 superjumbo services to Melbourne. The decision to make the Victorian capital its sixth A380 destination increases the Singaporean carrier's seat capacity into Melbourne by 10 per cent. It also makes Australia the first SIA market to boast dual superjumbo ports. The A380 has proved

popular with passengers, who in many cases will book a flight on it in preference to other aircraft. Qantas also flies the A380 into Melbourne, but only twice a week, and to Los Angeles, where it is fighting a price war. Qantas said it was sticking to its original schedule of daily A380 services to Melbourne after its sixth plane was delivered. Singapore says its new Melbourne service will offer good connections for people wanting to fly the superjumbo to London and Paris. The new service, due to start on September 29, will replace daily Boeing 747-400 flights between Melbourne and Singapore. The airline, which flies 21 weekly services between Melbourne and Singapore, has nine A380s in service, with firm orders for 10 more.



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CORPORATE TRAVEL NEWS



Qantas services moving to London Heathrow Terminal 3

Qantas has announced that from Thursday 29 October 2009

Qantas services to/from London Heathrow Terminal 4 will move to London Heathrow Terminal 3.

Terminal 3 has undergone a multi-million dollar transformation which will ensure customers using Terminal 3 will enjoy an enhanced customer experience. This new terminal will provide customers with:

- State of the art lounge facilities;
- A fabulous choice and range of shops and restaurants; and
- Convenient access for customers transferring from a Heathrow Terminal 3 Qantas flight to a British Airways Heathrow Terminal 5 departing flight.

Further information on how this move will affect Qantas

services will be provided closer to the move date.



You can now transfer Virgin Blue Velocity Points to family members

You can now transfer Points between the Velocity Accounts of your family members. If you have children with Points you'd like to transfer to your Account or Points you'd like to give to your wife, husband or partner etc., now you can. How do I transfer?

You are eligible to make four transfers per year which are easy and free to do online (a \$20 fee applies if you transfer through the Membership Contact Centre). Simply log in to Your Account and click on the 'Points Transfer' button on the right hand side of your screen. Then, simply ensure your transfer is to an eligible family member and is a minimum of 5,000 Points,

but no more than 100,000 Points. So why not transfer today!



V Australia to offer Limo transfers for Business Class Guests

V Australia is set to become the first Australian airline to offer chauffeured limo transport door to door transport for top tier Business Flexi fare paying Guest's travelling in International Business Class.

The chauffeur service will apply to Guests on both departing and arrival legs, within a 60 kilometre radius to the airport in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne or from any other Australian capital city if they have a connecting V Australia flight, and a 50 mile radius from Los Angeles International or San Francisco if connecting to V Australia with Virgin America.



Increase in "At Airport" excess baggage charges for Virgin Blue and Pacific Blue

Effective immediately the Excess Baggage Charge paid at the airport has increased for Virgin Blue and Pacific Blue New Zealand domestic Guests.

The current fee of \$8.00 per kilogram has increased to \$10.00 per kilogram.

Please note there has been no change made to the Pacific Blue International excess baggage charges.



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Delta Airlines and Virgin Blue Airlines Group Announce Plans to Form Joint Venture

Delta Airlines and the Virgin Blue Airlines Group announced they plan to seek regulatory approval to form a joint venture that will expand both carriers' reach between the U. S. and Australia and the South Pacific.

The alliance will allow the group to compete more effectively in those markets by collaborating on route and product planning, codesharing on their respective networks and extending frequent flyer program benefits and lounge access to customers of both airlines. Air New Zealand is expected to object to this venture.



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