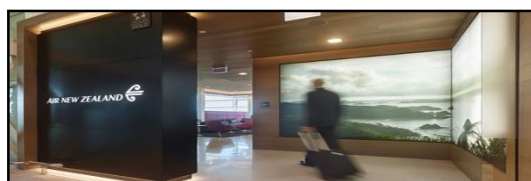




## Air News



## Air New Zealand moves to boosts trans-Tasman flights

Following the recent announcement that Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia will be ceasing their trans-Tasman alliance in October this year, the New Zealand-based carrier has unveiled a new schedule to follow. Two new routes from Brisbane to Queenstown and Wellington are on the map, plus twice-daily flights between Christchurch and Brisbane and Melbourne on peak days. Christchurch to Sydney will operate twice daily Monday-Friday, with the overall increase to Christchurch services representing about 35,000 extra seats annually. There will also be 125,000 additional trans-Tasman seats from Auckland including a new morning flight to Melbourne, more evening flights to Brisbane and a new midday Sydney service.

## Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand end 7 year trans-Tasman alliance

Announced this month, from 28 October 2018, Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand will cease their trans-Tasman union. With the current code sharing, passengers can earn and redeem frequent flyer points and have access to premium perks such as lounge access and priority check-in. After 28 October 2018 these benefits will no longer be available. Any affected customers travelling after this date will be contacted with new flight options and are advised to refrain from amending any bookings prior to being contacted.

## Qantas new Perth Airport T3 int'l terminal

With the launch of the non-stop Perth – London service in March, Qantas has opened its upgraded T3 international terminal at Perth Airport. The non-stop service, as well as Singapore and Auckland services will run from the new international wing with the rest of the terminal being domestic.



## Etihad to axe Perth-Abu Dhabi flights from October

Etihad Airways will end its Perth-Abu Dhabi flights from October 2 2018. A spokesman for Etihad Airways confirmed to Australian Business Traveller its decision to pull the plug on Perth, saying "the cancellation of the Perth route is one of several adjustments that we are making to our network in 2018 in order to improve system profitability." The airline's last flight from Abu Dhabi to Perth (EY486) will depart on September 30 2018, while the final Perth-Abu Dhabi flight (EY487) will take wing on October 1, reaching Abu Dhabi early in the morning on October 2 2018. Passengers affected by cancellation of these flights are advised to contact the airline or the travel agency responsible for their booking to discuss alternative arrangements.



## **Singapore Airlines set for non-stop flights to New York, Los Angeles**

Singapore Airlines will resume direct flights to New York and Los Angeles from the end of this year, with another North American destination tipped to appear on the non-stop map in early 2019. The move will also mean that Singapore Airlines will be flying three versions of the Airbus A350: its original 'standard' three-class edition, the two-class ultra long-range version, and a regional A350 variant fitted with all-new regional business class seat and economy, but without premium economy.



## **SQ receives new Boeing 787-10**

The first Boeing 787-10 has been delivered to Singapore Airlines. The newest and largest member of the Dreamliner family has longer fuselage and can carry 40 more passengers than its cousins. The new Dreamliner will make its debut in May, with routes to Osaka, Japan and to Perth



## **Qantas relocating to Terminal 8 JFK**

On 3 April 2018 Qantas relocated from Terminal 7 to Terminal 8 at New York's JFK, and now shares a terminal with partner American Airlines. The new terminal will gain Qantas customers access to a new range of food and retail outlets. Eligible customers will also have access to American Airlines' lounges within the terminal. The Admirals Club lounges are available for Qantas Club members, while Business customers can enjoy the newly renovated Flagship Lounge. American Airlines' lounges are also available to eligible Qantas Frequent Flyers and oneworld members.

## **Qantas eyes Chicago as next non-stop Boeing 787 route**

With the successful launch of their Boeing 787 between Perth and London, Qantas is already looking to extend the reach of their non-stop flights. They are expecting to add Paris to this service by the end of 2019.

## **Qantas automates Check-in at SYD International**

Qantas has partnered up with Sydney Airport's T1 International Terminal to launch more self-service check-in and baggage drop facilities, similar to those already used at Sydney's T3. With the kiosks now open, passengers will be able to collect their boarding pass and go directly to the security gates through to the lounges.



## **QF eyes off Brisbane-Chicago direct**

Following the launch of their direct Perth-London service, Qantas is now looking into further direct routes for the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner. Announcing the consideration of Brisbane to America, the Dreamliner could be flying direct through to Chicago. Qantas' newly announced Melbourne to San Francisco flights commence from September 2018.



## **BA upgrades business class to SYD and SIN**

British Airway's new Club World business class 'sleep experience' will make its way to Sydney and Singapore in the third quarter of 2018, with a new menu implemented by the end of the year. This is a part of the \$700 million refurbishment of BA's business class, which will lead into their new Club World seat in 2019. The White Company will supply bedding for the daily BA11/BA12 and BA15/BA16 flights.



## **Opening of Sydney's new affordable 24-Hour airport carpark (\$4 a Day)**

Located just 10 minutes from Sydney Airport, Sydney's new 24-hour carpark in Mascot has opened with an introductory rate of \$4 per day. This rate also includes a free shuttle bus to your terminal. The new carpark has 1600-plus spaces. Bookings can be made ahead of time online, there's even the additional option of having your car washed! However, the \$4 fee is for a limited time only, from May the price will increase to \$8 per day.



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### **Hotel News**

## **Mantra Albany**

Opening in early 2018, Mantra's Albany Hotel features 146 studio rooms and suites. Located in the CBD the hotel features a restaurant and bar, executive lounge, fully equipped gym and large conference spaces. There is also access to 24-hour reception and Wi-Fi.



## **Avani Central Melbourne**

The Minor Group have recently opened a new property in the heart of Melbourne. The Avani Central Melbourne, located on A'Beckett Street is host to 54 stories of one and two bedroom fully furnished suites. To celebrate the opening, they are offering a special on one-bedroom suites from just \$165pn.



## **Next IHG Indigo set for Sydney**

Intercontinental Hotels Group has revealed that Sydney will be the next location for its next Indigo brand hotel. Hotel Indigo Sydney Central will open its 168-rooms in 2021 in the CBD opposite Capitol Square. The hotel will feature a restaurant, café and bar, along with five suites, a roof top terrace and a gym.

## **Space station hotel will be 300km up and cost \$1 million per night**



Aurora Station, billed as the "first luxury hotel in space," may be for you. Houston-based Orion Span hopes to launch the modular station in late 2021 and welcome its first guests the following year, with two crew members accompanying each excursion. The platform would orbit 200 miles above Earth, offering six guests 384 sunrises and sunsets as they race around the planet for 12 days at incredibly high speeds.