

Melbourne, 12 December 2013

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Newsroom

Jetstar invests in tech to beat the Sunshine Coast weather

Jetstar has become the first airline to operate a flight to the Sunshine Coast using the airport’s new [Smart Tracking](#) technology.

Smart Tracking, or [Required Navigation Performance](#) (RNP), guides aircraft along precise flight paths using flight management systems and satellites.

Unlike conventional satellite navigation systems, RNP keeps aircraft within a tight block of pre-determined airspace allowing pilots to track around ground-based obstacles when visibility is poor or the weather is unfavourable.

Jetstar Chief Pilot Mark Rindfleish said inclement weather around the Sunshine Coast Airport traditionally caused up to 15 flights per year to divert to Brisbane.

“With the introduction of RNP in the Sunshine Coast, local weather will no longer have the impact on Jetstar flights it once did,” Captain Rindfleish said.

“This is great news because we know improved reliability is important to our customers.

“We welcome this move by the Sunshine Coast Airport to join the ranks of major Australian airports in adopting the latest technology.”

The introduction of the RNP system in the Sunshine Coast is also set to help Jetstar reduce fuel consumption.

“RNP flights fly along a more direct flight path, helping to reduce the distance travelled and, in turn, the fuel consumption,” Captain Rindfleish added.

“When flights are forced to divert to Brisbane they use a lot of fuel so any decrease in weather related diversions offers a welcome fuel saving.

“With this technology, we think we’ll save up to a tonne of fuel on flights into the Sunshine Coast that would traditionally be impacted by weather.

“We’re always looking for ways to safely reduce our operating costs as it allows us to pass on lower fares to our customers.”

Jetstar has been using Smart Tracking in Australian airports since early 2011, while other airlines are expected to gradually adopt the new technology.

The Sunshine Coast joins other major Australian ports such as Melbourne, Adelaide, Cairns Gold Coast and Brisbane in benefitting from the use of RNP on Jetstar flights.

Jetstar operates up to 45 return flights a week to the Sunshine Coast from Sydney and Melbourne.

Lead-in one-way fares from the Sunshine Coast to Sydney start at \$89 and \$125 to Melbourne.

Contact

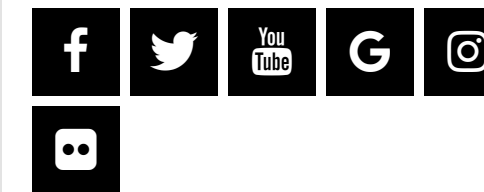
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About Jetstar

About Jetstar Group

Jetstar first took to the skies in 2004 and has since flown more than 350 million customers across an extensive international and domestic network. The Jetstar Group is made up of Jetstar Airways (subsidiary of the Qantas Group) in Australia and New Zealand, Jetstar Asia in Singapore, and Jetstar Japan in Japan. A leading low-fares airline, Jetstar is committed to offering everyday low fares to enable more people to fly to more places, more often. As one of Asia Pacific’s fastest-growing airline brands, Jetstar was voted Best Low-Cost Airline in Asia Pacific in 2021 and was recognized for its excellent flight safety records and services when listed on the “2022 World’s Top 10 LCC” released by Airline Ratings.

