

Sydney, 19 April 2021



Newsroom

Jetstar and Qantas say kia ora with opening of trans-Tasman bubble

- Quarantine-free Tasman flights resume after almost 400 days
- 630 Qantas and Jetstar employees coming back to work; more aircraft back in air
- Jetstar to operate first flight out of Sydney to Auckland - JQ201
- Qantas to operate its first international flight out of the Gold Coast

After more than a year of international border closures, Qantas and Jetstar will today resume regular flights between Australia and New Zealand with the opening of the two-way trans-Tasman bubble.

Flights are resuming to all pre-COVID destinations in New Zealand across 15 routes and Qantas will today start a new route between the Gold Coast and Auckland, marking the airline's first ever international flights from Gold Coast Airport.

The airlines will operate a combined 29 flights between Australia and New Zealand today, carrying thousands of customers, with around 200 flights to operate each week.

Jetstar's first departure is JQ201 from Sydney to Auckland at 6.15am will operate with its Airbus A320 aircraft while Qantas' first departure out of Sydney is QF143 to Auckland at 9.05am with its Airbus A330 aircraft. Both flights are operating to Auckland at close to full capacity, including a full Business cabin on Qantas. Qantas' first flight from Australia to New Zealand is QF151 Melbourne to Auckland departing at 8am.

Speaking from Sydney International Airport to farewell departing passengers, Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce said the opening of the two-way travel bubble was a significant milestone for both countries.

"Quarantine-free travel has been almost 400 days in the making. Reopening these flights across the Tasman is a very important milestone in the recovery from the pandemic for Australia and New Zealand but also aviation and tourism," said Mr Joyce.

"The opening of the two-way bubble is fantastic for the family and friends who are reuniting after so long apart and for the many jobs which are so heavily dependent on tourism. It means we'll be able to get more planes back in the sky and more of our people back to work.

"New Zealand was Australia's second biggest source of international visitors before the pandemic. Today, it's about to go straight to number one.

"We've seen strong demand since the bubble was announced, with tens of thousands of bookings made in the first few days. Qantas has also added more flights to Queenstown to meet expected demand during the peak ski season."

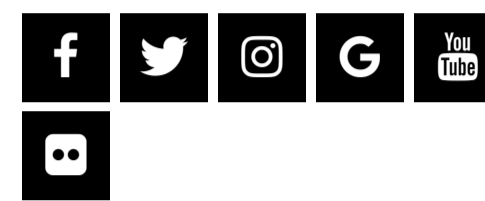
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About Jetstar Group

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.

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