



Melbourne, 13 December 2024

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Newsroom

# Jetstar kicks off New Zealand expansion, bringing Kiwis more choice and low fares

**Friday, 13 December 2024:** The first stage of Jetstar’s expansion in New Zealand is underway, with the airline launching new flights between Auckland and the Sunshine Coast (Maroochydore) this morning.

Jetstar flight JQ176 will depart Auckland at 6.15am (NZT) and arrive on the Sunshine Coast at 6.45am (AEST).

The new service will operate up to three times a week using the airline’s fleet of Airbus A320 aircraft and provide more than 58,000 new low fares seats for travellers every year.

It will be the only year-round service between the two cities and boost tourism economies on both sides of the Tasman.

## NZ growth

Today’s new service is the first of five new routes set to launch in New Zealand between now and June 2025, as Jetstar embarks on the [biggest expansion](#) of its operations in the country in more than a decade.

Combined, the new routes will unlock around 330,000 low fare seats for travellers every year, providing Kiwis with more choice and low fares when it comes to flying.

## Fleet expansion

To support this network growth, Jetstar is expanding its fleet in New Zealand, with an additional Airbus A320 aircraft set to arrive in Christchurch on Sunday, increasing the airline’s local fleet to eight.

The additional aircraft will provide an important boost to Jetstar’s operations over the busy Christmas travel period, increasing capacity on key domestic routes and supporting the start of daily flights from Christchurch to Melbourne and Christchurch to the Gold Coast.

This increased trans-Tasman frequency will also provide customers with better access to Jetstar’s extensive low-cost international network out of Australia.

**Jetstar Group CEO, Stephanie Tully** said it was really exciting to be embarking on a significant expansion in Aotearoa.

“2024 has been a huge year for us in New Zealand and today’s route launch is the beginning of an exciting period of growth,” Ms Tully said.

“With another aircraft arriving in Christchurch on Sunday and four more trans-Tasman routes launching in the next six months, we’re excited to be adding capacity and cementing our role as the leading low fares carrier in the country.”

**Queensland Minister for the Environment and Tourism Andrew Powell** said this flight enables better access between the Sunshine Coast and Auckland, which will significantly benefit the region.

“These regular flights, supported through the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, are expected to create more than 29,000 new inbound seats each year to the Sunshine Coast.

“Queensland welcomes the most visitors from New Zealand than any other country in the world, so we are proud to prioritise making this travel as easy and direct as possible.

“Our Kiwi neighbours can now get from the tarmac to the beaches quicker than ever, whether staying in Maroochydore or Noosa. Our 20-year tourism plan focuses on improving our accessibility and connectivity to the rest of the world, and this is a great example of this in action.”

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE

### Auckland to Sunshine Coast (Maroochydore)

From 13 December 2024

Flight	Frequency	From	To	Depart	Arrive
JQ176	Tue, Fri, Sun	AKL	MCY	6:15	06:45
JQ175	Tue, Fri, Sun	MCY	AKL	08:00	14:10

### About Jetstar Group

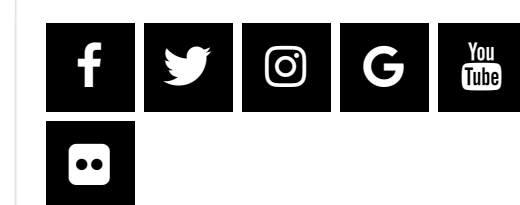
Jetstar first took to the skies in 2004 and has since flown more than 350 million customers across an extensive international and domestic network. The Jetstar Group is made up of Jetstar Airways (subsidiary of the Qantas Group) in Australia and New Zealand, Jetstar Asia in Singapore, and Jetstar Japan 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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