



Dear Steve,

Welcome to our March newsletter where you can view the latest industry news and travel deals.

This edition includes details on [Qantas fare increases](#), [Frankfurt Airport curfews](#) and an update on the [Virgin Blue name change](#).

And don't forget to have your say in our [online poll](#) on luggage security.

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Travel Industry News...

Virgin Blue and Qantas increase fares

Virgin Blue has announced price rises including an increase of between \$6 and \$10 per sector for domestic fares and an increase of up to \$20 per sector for international short-haul fares on Pacific Blue and Polynesian Blue. International long-haul fuel surcharges on V Australia flights are also rising from \$115 to \$165 each way to Los Angeles and other US destinations, while Abu Dhabi/Europe/UK fares will increase by \$20 to \$240.

Meanwhile, Qantas is increasing its domestic, regional and Tasman airfares sold in Australia. Increases of up to \$10 per sector will apply to domestic and regional fares for tickets issued on or after March 31. Increases of up to 8% will also apply to Tasman fares. Contact your travel manager or [enquire here](#) to find out more....

Hilton grows presence in Asia

Hilton Worldwide is strengthening its offering in Asia with two new properties tipped to open in China by 2013. The Hilton Garden Inn Shaoxing will open the doors to business at the end of 2011 while The DoubleTree by Hilton Shaoxing County will start operation by 2013.

Frankfurt Airport curfew under consideration

Aviation authorities are considering a night curfew for Germany's Frankfurt Airport. Early discussions indicate the curfew could be introduced in 2012 when a fourth Frankfurt runway opens. If the curfew is approved, airlines such as Qantas may need to review their schedules with the new restriction expected to disrupt Qantas' service that arrives at Frankfurt airport at 5.15am (local time) each morning and another service that departs at 11.20pm (local time). Contact your travel manager or [enquire here](#) to find out more....

Virgin Blue set for name change

Virgin Blue is preparing for a name change by mid-year, industry insiders say. Following the launch of the new Virgin Blue cabin crew uniforms, it's been revealed the new brand name for the carrier will be launched 30 June 2011. Many believe the Virgin Blue brand name will be changed to either Virgin Australia or V Australia.

Emirates upgrade Brisbane service

Emirates has boosted its Brisbane-Dubai evening direct service (EK435) by upgrading the aircraft servicing the route to a 777-300ER. The aircraft change means Emirates' evening service from Brisbane will now offer passengers first class private suites and fully lie-flat massage beds in business class.

More seats for regional Qld flights

The arrival of a new Bombardier Q400 aircraft 6 April for Qantaslink will see the carrier add an extra 5000 seats across its regional network in Queensland. Qantaslink's delivery of the new aircraft will see more capacity on routes servicing Brisbane to Barcaldine, Blackall, Bundaberg, Emerald, Gladstone, Hervey Bay, Longreach, Mackay, Moranbah, Rockhampton and Roma. Contact your travel manager or [enquire here](#) to find out more....

More luggage for Japan Airlines' customers

Japan Airlines has increased its baggage allowance. As of 1 April 2011, first and executive class passengers will be allowed three check-in pieces rather than two. The airline has also raised the permissible bag dimension from 158cm to 203cm. Contact your travel manager or [enquire here](#) to find out more....

Next-Generation expands regionally

Qantas is rolling out its Next Generation Check-in technology across regional Australia. Over the next four months 21 regional airports including 16 QantasLink ports, will receive the technology. Albury, Rockhampton, Karratha, Broome, Coffs Harbour and Mackay are the first ports to benefit from the introduction of Q Card Reader technology. These ports will be shortly followed by Emerald, Hobart,

Kalgoorlie, Port Hedland and Port Macquarie. Contact your travel manager or [enquire here](#) to find out more....

Qantas and American Airlines expand partnership

Qantas and American Airlines have announced an increase in the number of codeshare routes they'll share between major cities across North America and Australia. Qantas will codeshare on American Airlines flights to 28 new destinations from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. American Airlines will begin codesharing on Qantas services between Sydney and Dallas/Fort Worth as well as domestic services from Brisbane to Adelaide, Canberra, Cairns, Melbourne and Perth.

New Etihad service

From 1 November 2011, Etihad will start daily return services between Abu Dhabi and Male in the Maldives. An A320 aircraft will operate the route and offer 1,904 seats each week to Male.

Daily NZ to Singapore flights commence

Airbus A330 jets are being used to service Jetstar's new daily services between Singapore and Auckland.

Accor adds more boutique properties

Accor's boutique hotel brand MGallery Collection has added two hotels in Thailand, the Veranda High Resort Chiang Mai and Veranda Resort and Spa Hua Hin-Cha-Am. The brand is also making a foray into the UK market, opening St Ermins in St. James London, which was formerly the Jolly St. Ermins Hotel. St Ermins is reopening following a £30m restoration.



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