

Qantas launches first direct route between Australia and Southern India, set to team up with IndiGo

National, April 08, 2022: Australia's national airline Qantas will fly non-stop from Bengaluru to Sydney and is finalising a codeshare partnership with IndiGo to make travel between India and Australia easier.

From 14 September, Qantas will operate four weekly return flights between Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru and Sydney's Kingsford Smith International Airport with its widebody Airbus A330 aircraft.

These are the first direct flights between Australia and southern India by any airline, cutting almost three hours off the current fastest trip between Bengaluru and Sydney.

The Bengaluru community has strong connections with Australia for both business travel and people visiting friends and relatives. Famous for its beautiful beaches and iconic landmarks the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House, Sydney is one of the world's most iconic cities.

The new route is being supported by Bengaluru's award-winning Kempegowda International Airport.

Qantas will continue to operate up to five flights a week between Melbourne and Delhi, making it the only airline offering direct flights between both northern and southern India and Australia.

Travellers are also set to benefit from improved one-stop access to Sydney from more than 50 Indian cities, as part of a proposed codeshare agreement between Qantas and IndiGo.

Once finalised, customers will have more convenient access from not only the major Indian cities, but many popular regional cities such as Pune and Goa.

The proposed codeshare agreement will enable seamless connections via Bengaluru, Delhi, or Singapore into Australia's largest capital cities.

Qantas is Australia's leading premium airline, with all customers receiving complimentary food, drinks, baggage, and inflight entertainment.

As part of the proposed agreement, customers who join the Qantas Frequent Flyer program will be able to earn and redeem points on connecting IndiGo flights (QF code only) and IndiGo will recognise Qantas Frequent Flyer benefits for tiered members (Silver, Gold, Platinum and Platinum One) including priority check-in, additional baggage allowance and priority baggage.

Qantas customers travelling on IndiGo will enjoy the same baggage allowance for the entire journey as well as complimentary food and drinks.

The partnership will extend to Jetstar customers who will be able to book connecting flights on IndiGo services through its Jetstar Connect platform on jetstar.com, currently intended to start from late April.



IndiGo will introduce reciprocal benefits for its customers to connect on Qantas and Jetstar in the future.

Sydney-Bengaluru flights go on sale today starting from ₹78,380 return.

CEO COMMENTS

Mr. Ronojoy Dutta, Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo:

"We are pleased to announce our proposed codeshare partnership with Australia's flag carrier, Qantas Airways under Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement."

"Once finalised, this new partnership will enable the Qantas customers to fly to more than 50 unique cities on IndiGo via Bengaluru, Delhi, and Singapore with the access of 41, 33, and 6 destinations per station respectively."

"We believe that this strong partnership will not only create seamless connectivity between India and Australia, but also create opportunities for trade and tourism as both nations experience an influx of tourists again."

"We look forward to having Qantas's customers on our lean clean flying machine, as we extend our on-time, affordable, courteous and hassle-free travel experience."

Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce said demand for direct flights between Australia and India had grown steadily since both countries reopened their borders.

"For the first time southern India will have a direct connection to Australia, which will make travel between the two countries more convenient and much faster for customers."

"The signing of the Australia-India free trade agreement will also drive travel demand as trade and investment links expand between Australia and India's population of more than one billion people."

"Our new direct flights from Bengaluru to Sydney, combined with the proposed codeshare with IndiGo, have the potential to reshape the way many people travel between Australia and India."

Qantas continues to offer a Fly Flexible booking policy with unlimited flight date changes available on flights booked before 30 June for travel until 31 December 2022 (fare difference may apply).

Hari Marar, MD & CEO, Bangalore International Airport Ltd:

"We are delighted to welcome Qantas to BLR Airport, India's third busiest airport in terms of passengers and cargo."

"Australia is a very important market for South India and Bengaluru in particular, for corporates, students and leisure travellers."

"The newly announced non-stop Bengaluru-Sydney service will further strengthen the position of BLR Airport as the natural gateway for South and Central India."

"South India contributes the largest share of visitors between Australia and India with Bengaluru strategically located in the midst of the South Indian peninsula."



“With state-of-the-art infrastructure, including a second parallel runway and a new terminal, which will be operational later this year, the timing of this flight couldn’t be better.”

“In addition, we welcome the growing presence of OneWorld Alliance members at BLR Airport with Qantas becoming the 8th member airline to operate out of BLR airport.”

“The proposed code sharing arrangement between Qantas and IndiGo, BLR Airport's largest carrier with a large number of non-stop domestic routes, will open up many new one-stop city pairs between South and Central India and Australia.”

“This is a huge win for consumers across both regions. With BIAL’s commitment towards sustainability, community development, diversity, and inclusion, we are delighted to have Qantas, a global partner with shared values.”

“I am confident that the Bengaluru-Sydney route is just the beginning, and we look forward to seeing increased services between both countries.”

Flights are subject to government and regulatory approval.

About IndiGo

IndiGo is amongst the fastest growing low-cost carriers in the world. IndiGo has a simple philosophy: offer fares that are affordable, flights that are on time, offering a courteous, hygienic, and hassle-free travel experience. With its fleet of 275+ aircraft, the airline is operating over 1500 daily flights and connecting 73 domestic destinations and 24 international destinations. For more information, please visit www.goIndiGo.in. You can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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