

Qatar Airways wins anna.aero's "Platinum Planet Prize" for launching world's longest route: Doha – Auckland

Auckland, New Zealand - Qatar Airways has been presented with the anna.aero "Platinum Planet Prize", an award recognising the world's longest non-stop route, for launching a new direct service between Doha and Auckland, a distance of 14,526 kilometres. (All distances are calculated by anna.aero using OAG Analyser – the world's most comprehensive airline schedules database.) Qatar Airways takes the record away from Emirates' Dubai-Auckland service, which is 342 kilometres shorter according to OAG Schedules Analyser.

The award was officially handed to Qatar Airways' Group Chief Executive Officer, His Excellency Mr Akbar Al Baker, on arrival at Auckland by anna.aero's New Route Editor Jonathan Ford.

Paul Hogan, Publisher of anna.aero, said of the airline's win: "The award of the anna.aero Platinum Planet Prize, in association with our data partner OAG, gives distinction to Qatar Airways for its wave of pioneering route development. While ever-longer airline routes advance the cause of making the world even more connected, this prize also salutes the enterprise, entrepreneurship and marketing genius which goes into making these routes viable, lasting, and able to make a sustained contribution to the economies they serve."



Caption: 6 February 2017 - His Excellency Mr Akbar Al Baker, Group Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Airways, is presented with the anna.aero "Platinum Planet Prize" for the world's longest non-stop commercial air service on arrival at Auckland by the anna.aero's New Route Editor Jonathan Ford.



Caption: Air India’s Delhi to San Francisco service is not the “world’s longest non-stop route” – just the longest way of getting somewhere: Last September Air India changed the flight from an Atlantic/Polar direction to a less-direct routing over the Pacific for operational reasons (see Notes to Editors).

- anna.aero’s “Platinum Planet Prize” longest route methodology: Distances between world cities are calculated on a straight line geographical basis using OAG Analyser. OAG has the worlds’ largest network of air travel data including the definitive airline schedules database which holds future and historical flight details for more than 900 airlines and over 4,000 airports. See www.oag.com
- OAG Schedules Analyser defines that the new Qatar Airways connection between Doha and Auckland is 14,526 kilometres, 333 kilometres longer than Emirates’ 14,193-kilometre Dubai-Auckland route, previously the world’s longest non-stop air service.
- Air India’s Delhi to San Francisco service also stakes a claim for the “world’s longest non-stop route” for its 15,300 kilometre Delhi to San Francisco service. However, this is only because, for operational reasons in September 2016, Air India changed the route from an Atlantic/Polar direction to a much longer, less-direct distance over the Pacific. According to OAG Analyser, the distance between Delhi and San Francisco is 12,376 kilometres, based on the shortest transatlantic routing; 2,150 kilometres shorter than the new Qatar Airways Auckland service. (In other words, anna.aero does not give prizes for “going the scenic route.”)
- Qantas’ new route between London and Perth, scheduled to begin in 2018, is 14,498 kilometres, according to OAG Analyser, or 37 kilometres shorter than the anna.aero Platinum Planet Prize-winning new Qatar Airways Doha-Auckland connection.
- Qatar Airways will operate flights between Doha and Auckland with its 259-seat 777-200LR aircraft.
- With the first flight having departed Doha on Sunday 5 February, Qatar Airways will operate services on a daily basis. Flights leave Doha at 02:50, arriving into Auckland at 05:00 the following morning.
- Auckland becomes Qatar Airways’ fifth destination in Australasia, with it already linking its Doha hub to Melbourne (launched 6 December 2009), Perth (3 July 2012), Sydney (1 March 2016) and Adelaide (2 May 2016).
- As of 6 February 2017 Qatar Airways serves 153 destinations from Doha with over 1,800 weekly flights.
- Doha becomes the 38th non-stop international destination served from Auckland.

About anna.aero

www.anna.aero is Airline Network News & Analysis: a free and open news and analysis service dedicated to outstanding airline network planning intelligence, produced by a multi-disciplinary team including experienced airline and airport network planners. Launched in 2007, anna.aero has reported and analysed every new route launched in the world every week for the past 10 years (over 22,000 new air services).

anna.aero published by PPS-Publications Media and Events, a specialist air transport publisher and events organiser based near London's Gatwick Airport. Other activities include: ACI EUROPE publications and events; The Tax Free World Association Dailies; Future Travel Experience events; and the British-Irish Airports EXPO. PPS also manages the aviation development public relations for 50+ airports including Budapest, Cologne Bonn, Oslo, Milan Bergamo and Cornwall Airport Newquay.

[Read anna.aero's on-plane coverage of the Qatar Airway's inaugural Doha-Auckland flight.](#)

For more information:
Kerry Parks, Key Account Manager
PPS Publications, Media & Events
(44) 1293 783851 or kerry.parks@anna.aero

www.anna.aero