

[PRESS RELEASE]

Qantas launches first non-stop Australia-Europe “kangaroo route” Historic “non-hop” Perth–London Heathrow service wins anna.aero’s “Platinum Planet Prize”



CAPTION: London Heathrow Airport 25 March 2018: Alan Joyce, CEO of Qantas, is presented with the anna.aero Platinum Planet Prize on arrival by the Publisher of anna.aero, Paul Hogan (not Crocodile Dundee – that actually is his real name). The award recognises the world’s first-ever non-stop service from Australia to Europe for the new direct route between Perth and London Heathrow; a distance of 14,499 kilometres and a flying time of 17 hours and 20 minutes.

25 March 2018, London Heathrow Airport: On arrival at London Heathrow at 05.05 today, Qantas was presented with the anna.aero “Platinum Planet Prize”, an award recognising the world’s first-ever non-stop route from Australia to Europe. The historic new direct service, between Perth and London Heathrow, takes 17 hours and 20 minutes, and covers a distance of 14,499 kilometres (all distances are calculated by anna.aero using OAG Analyser – the world’s most comprehensive airline schedules database).

While Qantas has been serving Heathrow since the 1940s, this is the first time that the carrier has been able to link the far-flung continents without any kind of refuelling stop en-route.

The award was officially presented to Qantas CEO Alan Joyce on arrival in London by the Publisher of anna.aero, Paul Hogan (not Crocodile Dundee – that actually is his real name).

Alan Joyce, CEO of Qantas said: “Qantas has been preparing for this historical, record-breaking, new route for almost a century since we were founded in 1921. Now, on touchdown in London, with the presentation of the anna.aero Platinum Planet Prize, this historical new route is instantly an award-winning route. I’ll accept this honour on behalf of Qantas, but I dedicate it to all the people who have served this great airline throughout its history, and who have worked ceaselessly for the delivery of the first-ever non-stop route between Australia and London.”

Simon Eastburn, Director of Airline Business Development at Heathrow, said: “We are delighted to be supporting the very first direct air link between Europe and Australia, a true milestone moment, for a hugely popular route. We have been developing Terminal 3 to bring passengers new and exciting experiences and this new service from Qantas certainly enables that, being of real benefit to tourists, families and business travellers alike.”

Perth Airport Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Brown, said: The Qantas inaugural flight to London is an historic moment for Western Australia, as Perth becomes not only a gateway to the United Kingdom but Australia’s Western Hub. “We are delighted that this world-first service is happening at Perth Airport and will connect people to a world full of possibilities,” Mr Brown said.

The Publisher of anna.aero, Paul J. Hogan, said: “Linking Australia to Europe with a direct, non-stop service crosses one of the last remaining unconquered frontiers of air service development. With this historic new service the planet has just shrunk, and the award of the anna.aero Platinum Planet Prize gives full recognition to Qantas for its continued dedication to ground-breaking, long-haul route development.”



CAPTION: VIP passengers, including the Prime Minister of Western Australia Mark McGowan, and the Australian Tourism Minister, Steven Ciobo, joined CEO Alan Joyce and Qantas crew to accept the anna.aero Platinum Planet Prize on arrival at Heathrow Terminal 3.



Notes to Editors: Important Methodologies which define “First Non-Hop Route.”

- anna.aero’s “Platinum Planet Prize” longest non-stop route methodology: Distances between world cities are calculated on a straight line geographical basis using OAG Analyser. OAG has the world’s 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 Qantas connection between Perth and London Heathrow as being 14,499 kilometres, just 27 kilometres shorter than Qatar Airways’ 14,526-kilometre Doha-Auckland route, which was the winner of anna.aero’s “Platinum Planet Prize” for the world’s longest non-stop air service, in February 2017.
- When referring to OAG Traffic Analyser data, over 320,000 people travelled between the UK and Perth in 2017, with around 63% of this market travelling to London. Dubai (33% of connecting traffic – Emirates), Doha (18% – Qatar Airways), Singapore (16% – Singapore Airlines) and Abu Dhabi (13% – Etihad Airways) all hold a respectable share of the current one-stop market.
- Qantas will operate flights between Perth and London Heathrow with its 236-seat 787-9 aircraft.
- With the first flight having departed Perth on Saturday 24 March, Qantas will operate services on a daily basis. Flights leave Perth at 18:45, arriving into London Heathrow at 05:05 the following morning, a flight time of 17 hours and 20 minutes and covering a distance of 14,499 kilometres.
- Over the summer 2018 season, Qantas will offer close to 320,000 non-stop seats into London Heathrow. When all the airline’s one-stop services to the UK are included, the figure increases to 625,000 two-way seats.
- As of 13 March 2018, Qantas serves 17 domestic and international destinations from Perth, with nearly 400 weekly flights (week commencing 9 April 2018).
- This summer, London Heathrow will offer 199 non-stop destinations, including Perth.

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 over 10 years (nearly 25,000 new air services).

anna.aero is published by PPS Publications Media & Events, a specialist air transport publisher and events organiser based near London's Gatwick Airport. Other activities include the British-Irish Airports EXPO www.airports-expo.com – the largest UK & Eire airports trade show which is hosted by Heathrow Airport at London Olympia in June 2018. PPS also manages the aviation development public relations for over 50 airports including the airports of Budapest, Cologne Bonn, Oslo, Milan Bergamo, Cornwall Airport Newquay, East Midlands, Reykjavik/Keflavik, Billund and Cork.

Want another route to Heathrow? Attend HubLAB, the Heathrow Connectivity Conference with anna.aero and RABA

[HubLAB, the Heathrow Connectivity Conference](#), has been created in joint venture between anna.aero and the 40-airport Regional and Business Airports Group (RABA) to provide an intensive examination of new route propositions for an expanded Heathrow, including the planned new runway. HubLAB will hear plans from several airlines with ambitions to expand Heathrow services including easyJet, Virgin, Delta, Flybe and a host of airports. Opened by the UK Aviation Minister and the Transport Minister for Scotland, HubLAB takes place at the Heathrow-hosted [British-Irish Airports EXPO](#) at London Olympia 12-13 June 2018 (200 exhibitors, 3,000 visitors).

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