

More Air New Zealand flights between Hobart and Auckland as demand takes off

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Air New Zealand's direct trans-Tasman Hobart to Auckland service will return for its sixth season in October 2027, with more flights, more seats and an extended flying season giving Tasmanians greater choice when travelling to New Zealand and beyond.

The seasonal service will operate three times a week for most of the season, with the airline adding a fourth flight per week for the peak period between 27 February and 20 March. This expansion delivers a 28 per cent increase in the number of seats between the two destinations over the same period last year.

Hobart Airport Chief Executive Officer Norris Carter said strong demand for the ongoing seasonal service had enabled Hobart Airport and Air New Zealand, in partnership with the Tasmanian Government through the Aviation Attraction Fund, to secure the extended season and increased capacity planned for the next three years.

"This is a great result for Tasmanians and reflects the strong demand we're seeing for direct travel between Tasmania and New Zealand," Mr Carter said.

"The service will now run from 25 October through to the end of April, which is great for Easter and will also capture more school holiday traffic.

"Through our investment with Air New Zealand and the Aviation Attraction Fund we expect to see continued growth over the next three years.

"This will deliver up to 170 flights and over 33,000 seats this season, an increase of 36 flights (27 per cent) and 7,268 seats (28 per cent) compared with last years' service."

Mr Carter said the non-stop service provided Tasmanians with direct access to Auckland, with passengers able to clear customs in Hobart and be on an international holiday within around 3.5 hours.

"From Auckland, travellers can discover iconic attractions, national parks and water sports across New Zealand, or connect onwards to destinations including New York, Los Angeles, Vancouver and more without the need to transit through Melbourne or Sydney," Mr Carter said.

Traveller Shaun Wilson, who was on the first direct flight to Auckland in April 2021, said the service had become an important part of his and his families travel plans.

"We use the service regularly when it operates and it's a fantastic way to travel, making visits to family and friends across New Zealand much easier without connecting through Melbourne or Sydney."

Mr Carter said the continued growth of the service demonstrated the value of the partnership between Hobart Airport, Air New Zealand and the Tasmanian Government.

"We're pleased to be working with Air New Zealand to continue building this service and providing greater choice for Tasmanians," he said.

"The support of the Tasmanian Government through the Aviation Attraction Fund, together with strong demand, has enabled us to secure this next stage of growth."

Air New Zealand's General Manager Short Haul and Domestic, Lucy Hall said the airline was pleased to be returning to Hobart for a sixth season, with the expanded schedule reflecting the continued popularity of the route.



"We've seen strong support for the route over successive seasons, and this growth is a great example of how we can work with our partners to build sustainable connectivity where there is clear customer demand," Ms Hall said.

"We look forward to welcoming more Tasmanians on board and bringing more New Zealanders across to experience everything Tasmania has to offer."

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