

# Qantas to launch longest non-stop passenger flight

May 2 2022



Qantas announced it will launch the world's longest non-stop commercial flight.

Qantas announced on Monday it will launch the world's longest non-stop commercial flight, with passengers set to spend 19 hours in the air traveling from Sydney to London by the end of 2025.

After five years of planning, the airline said it was ordering 12 Airbus A350-1000 [aircraft](#) to operate the "Project Sunrise" flights to cities including London and New York.

Non-stop flights will start from Sydney by the end of 2025, it said, with long-haul trips later planned to include Melbourne.

"New types of aircraft make new things possible," said Qantas chairman Alan Joyce, according to a statement.

"The A350 and Project Sunrise will make any city just one flight away from Australia," he said.

"It's the final frontier and the final fix for the tyranny of distance."

Qantas operated research flights for the long-haul route in 2019, including a trial London-Sydney trek of 17,800 kilometers (11,030 miles), which took 19 hours and 19 minutes.

A trial New York-Sydney flight in the same year covered 16,200 kilometers (10,200 miles) and took a little over 19 hours.

Singapore Airlines currently operates the world's longest non-stop commercial [flight](#) from Singapore to New York, covering 16,700 kilometers (10,400 miles) in a little under 19 hours.

Qantas already operates a 14,498-kilometer Perth-London trip that takes 17 hours.

## **'Maximum comfort'**

"As you'd expect, the cabin is being specially designed for maximum comfort for long-haul flying," Joyce said.

Qantas said the new A350 aircraft would be configured for 238 passengers with first-class suites offering a separate bed, recliner chair and wardrobe.

It promised spacier economy sections and a "well-being zone" designed for "movement, stretching and hydration".

Airbus listed the price of the A350-1000 at US\$366.5 million (348 million euros) on its 2018 catalog, the last one it published.

Qantas said it was also ordering 40 A321 XLR and A220 aircraft from Airbus.

In addition, it bought options for another 94 of these planes until the end of 2034.

The A220 models were listed at between US\$81 million and US\$91.5 million in 2018. The A321 was unveiled after Airbus stopped publishing catalog prices.

Qantas said the total cost of the deal was a matter of commercial confidence, though it indicated it had obtained a significant discount on the standard price of the aircraft.

"The A320s and A220s will become the backbone of our domestic fleet for the next 20 years, helping to keep this country moving," Joyce said.

The newer aircraft would reduce emissions by at least 15 percent if running on [fossil fuels](#), and more if using sustainable aviation fuel, he said.

"We have come through the other side of the pandemic a structurally different company," the airline boss said.

"Our domestic market share is higher and the demand for direct international flights is even stronger than it was before COVID."

The A350-1000 planes will be powered by Rolls-Royce Trent XWB-97 turbofan engines, designed to be 25 percent more fuel efficient than the previous generation of aircraft, Qantas said.

© 2022 AFP

Citation: Qantas to launch longest non-stop passenger flight (2022, May 2) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2022-05-qantas-longest-non-stop-passenger-flight.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.