

Wednesday 3rd Mar 2021

## Content produced in collaboration with Qatar Airways

**QATAR** Airways is reflecting on five years of flying from Sydney today, with the route launching in early Mar 2016 (*TD* 04 Mar 2016).

The destination was the third for the airline in Australia, after Melbourne and Perth, beginning with a daily service operated by a Boeing 777-300ER, which was upgraded to a daily A380 flight in Sep 2016 (*TD* 19 Sep 2016) before a second daily flight was added in Feb 2018 (*TD* 12 Feb 2018), which continues on to Canberra.

Sydney was also the first route in Australia which Qatar Airways flew with its Business Class product, QSuite (*TD* 06 Jul 2018).

Of course, the pandemic has had a huge impact on the carrier over the last 12 months, with a need to evolve and adapt to border restrictions, as well as changes to Qatar Airways' network, adjusting schedules to help passengers return home.

According to Qatar Airways Regional Manager Australasia Cassandra Kerr (**inset**), the airline has helped carry over 250,000 Australians home including 92,000 to and from Sydney, never ceasing services to Australia, and the trade has been an essential part of these efforts.

"We are very thankful to know that [the trade], and their clients, knew that they could rely on us during the pandemic, to help get them where they needed to be," Kerr said.

Even before the pandemic hit, the trade was important to Oata



Airways, according to Kerr.

"The trade have been so critical to our success here in Sydney, and we certainly wouldn't be here without their support.

"Our relationship with the trade is very much interdependent; we rely on them to sell us, and they rely on us to consistently deliver our award-winning service to their customers," said Kerr.

Qatar Airways believes that travel will return steadily, limited by entry restrictions, rather than consumer confidence, and it expects the trade to be a key part of the industry's recovery.

To celebrate Qatar Airways' five year anniversary, from Sydney, the carrier will be running special anniversary flight offers, with a generous flexibility policy offering unlimited date or destination changes and fee-free refunds - CLICK HERE for details.

## Travel with confidence

QATAR Airways has been one of the few airlines that has remained in the sky during the pandemic, bringing 250,000 Aussies home and flying more than 3.1 million international passengers.

During the pandemic, travellers expect flexible

booking options and Qatar Airways has responded with a range of policies.

For bookings made before 30 Apr for travel before 31 Dec, travellers can access unlimited date and destination changes at no cost, as well as refund unused tickets for no fee.



