

QANTAS LAUNCHES THE WORLD'S FIRST NONSTOP FLIGHT FROM SYDNEY TO LAS VEGAS

News / Airlines



Australian airline Qantas announced on February 26 the launch of seasonal nonstop flights between Sydney (SYD Airport) and Las Vegas (LAS Airport). The flights will begin on December 29, 2026 and run through March 12, 2027. A Boeing 787-9 will operate the service three times a week, and Las Vegas will become the carrier's 101st international destination and the eighth city in the Americas in its route network.

Up to five hours saved compared with typical connections

Until now, passengers from Australia traveling to Nevada's capital have had to connect to a domestic U.S. flight, most often via Los Angeles or San Francisco. The new nonstop route cuts total travel time by up to five hours by eliminating waits at transit airports and a second security screening.

For frequent flyers, this is not just a convenience but a step-change in trip logistics, especially for travel with a packed schedule of events at the other end of the journey.

A focus on CES and the NRL festival as key demand drivers

The seasonality of the flights is no coincidence. The period from late December to mid-March coincides with several major events that draw sizable delegations from Australia every year.

Among them are the Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the world's largest consumer electronics trade show, and the National Rugby League Las Vegas Festival, which attracts tens of thousands of fans. It is precisely the peak demand in these months that makes the route commercially viable from the outset.

New opportunities for corporate travel and global mobility teams

For companies that regularly send employees to the U.S. Southwest's tech and convention hub, the nonstop flight offers significant advantages:

- the ability to avoid the congested hubs of Los Angeles and San Francisco, where delays are common;
- shortening the journey to a one-connection itinerary when traveling to almost anywhere in the region;
- streamlined planning for business trips to trade shows, conferences, and business meetings.

Outbound travel from Australia is gaining momentum

The launch of the route fits into a broader trend. Australian outbound demand on a number of routes has already exceeded pre-pandemic levels, and airlines are seeking to capture growing niches.

Nevada's tourism authority called Qantas's decision strategically important. Australians are already Las Vegas's second-largest international source market, delivering more than 250,000 visitors a year, despite the lack of nonstop flights. The introduction of a nonstop service could significantly increase that flow.

Visitors from Australia come to Las Vegas to walk the Strip, dine at famous restaurants, and attend concerts and shows. But the main reason many Australian tourists come to Vegas is still to gamble in casinos.

Australians choose this form of entertainment even though online gambling is becoming increasingly popular in their country. Data from a review site we found via search queries suggests that numerous [no deposit casinos](#) are available to Australians. Online casinos are becoming a common form of entertainment for the country's adult population. However, in Las Vegas, Australian tourists see clear advantages—for them, it is a way to have a good time with friends and enjoy the atmosphere.

A schedule designed for convenient connections

Departure from Sydney is scheduled for 21:00, with arrival in Las Vegas at 15:55 the same day. The return flight departs LAS at 20:20 and lands in SYD at 06:35 two days later. These timings provide passengers with connections to major U.S. business hubs, including Houston and Chicago, while the early-morning arrival in Australia is convenient for onward connections along the country's east coast.

Members of the Qantas Frequent Flyer program will be able to earn and redeem points under standard long-haul terms. Corporate fares and agreements are available now.

Travel managers should revisit routing rules

For companies whose internal rules default to routing trips via LAX or SFO, it makes sense to update preferred-carrier logic in online booking tools. Factoring in the new nonstop segment when planning business trips to trade shows and conventions can materially reduce both travel time and the overall cost of the trip.

Boeing 787-9 belly hold for trade-show electronics

Qantas Freight plans to use the flights' belly hold to carry high-value cargo, primarily electronics. For companies shipping equipment to CES and other events in Las Vegas, this means simplified logistics: demo units and booth equipment will be able to fly on the same flight as employees, without complex transfers at intermediate airports.

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