

## New direct India link welcomed

Australia's first ever Dreamliner passenger flight has touched down at Sydney Airport, introducing Air India direct services between Delhi and Sydney.

"Sydney Airport is pleased to welcome Air India back to Sydney after a 22-year absence," Sydney Airport CEO Kerrie Mather said at a welcome event. "India is Australia's largest unserved market. Around 140,000 passengers travelled between Delhi and Sydney via Asian hubs last year."

Air India's daily direct service uses a 256-seat Boeing 787-800 Dreamliner with lie-flat business-class seats and large windows.

There are also daily Melbourne services.

## grades website

details, in Microsoft Excel format.

There are two tiers of access: "travel arrangers" can manage company bookings and travellers, while "travel administrators" have a higher level of access.

But there are limitations, says *Business Traveller*. Any modifications to the company's contact or traveller details are not completed on a live basis, but go to the airline for manual processing and verification, which can take up to three business days to actually appear online.

## flight changes

is being upgraded to an Airbus A380 aircraft (five a week), while the Brisbane-Los Angeles run will have an extra flight a week.

There will be a time change for the Sydney-Christchurch service so it connects with more international services from Sydney and complements the Emirates service on the route.

### EXECUTIVE TRAVEL



An inside look at high-end travel.

#### The judge

Corporate speaker/author Rob Salisbury in the Qantas T3 Business Lounge at Sydney Airport.

#### What's cool

Morning barista service, ultramodern Marc Newson interior, open space to relax, work or chat iMAC computers, super-fast WiFi internet access, clean showers, fluffy towels, free pre-flight massage service, great views of aircraft.

#### What's not

Nearly full between 6am and 8pm, and at 6pm to 9pm. Hot breakfast service stops at 9am.

#### Why I'd visit again

Free newspapers and magazines, gluten-free Bircher muesli, eggs Benedict, pancake machine, brownies (midday), club sandwiches, calamari, steaks, top beers, wines, champagne, open space.

### AIR POINTS

- International hotel chain Accor is taking over the running of most Qantas domestic lounges. The group has managed the airline's first- and business-class lounges in Melbourne and Sydney for more than five years. The roll-out starts in November.
- Malaysia Airlines will launch a third daily service between Sydney and Kuala Lumpur from February 5. In November, the carrier will add an extra four services a week to its double daily flights from Sydney.
- Chengdu, in south-west China, is introducing a visa-free policy. Australia is among 45 countries covered by the scheme.
- More corporate travellers are using their smartphones to check in, Cathay Pacific sales and marketing manager Australia Julie Reid has told the CAPA Australia Pacific Aviation Summit.