



Fiji Airways' inaugural flight from Canberra takes off

Fiji Airways, The Best Airline in Australia & Pacific, launches twice-weekly direct flights from Canberra to Fiji.

Friday July 21st 2023: Australia's Capital, Canberra has become the newest destination to join Fiji Airways' comprehensive network of direct international services, with the airline's inaugural flight departing Canberra today at 1.35pm (AEST) for the tropical paradise of Fiji.

The momentous Fiji Airways service marks the first commercial international flight to depart Australia's capital since March 2020. Travellers onboard, escaping the cold, are scheduled to land at Nadi International tonight at 7.40pm (FJT) on the modern Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft.

Guests can book return Lite airfares on this new service from just \$539 AUD via fijiairways.com, with the introductory rate available until 31st July for select travel dates up to May 2024.

Recently named the **SKYTRAX Best Airline in Australia and Pacific**, Fiji's national airline has seen strong forward bookings for the new service which operates on Tuesdays and Fridays, and is on track to increase capacity from 1st October 2023, adding an additional service on Sundays.

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Mr Andre Viljoen says with its world-renowned hospitality and award-winning service, Fiji Airways is set to deliver an exceptional Fijian experience to guests flying between the two vibrant destinations.

"The new direct service from Canberra will provide customers with enhanced connectivity and convenience, offering seamless access between the stunning islands of Fiji and the capital city of Australia. It also opens up a new transit point for the people of Canberra to travel onwards to other parts of the world including North America, Vancouver and East Asia."

"We are thrilled with the strong uptake of this new service, which further establishes our presence in the Australian market. It will undoubtedly boost the tourism industry in both countries, and will open up further opportunities for Australians to explore the stunning landscapes and warm hospitality that Fiji has to offer. Additionally, it will provide a convenient gateway for Fijians to discover the unique attractions and experiences Canberra has in store," said Mr Viljoen.

The new service will help to strengthen tourism, trade, people-to-people connections, government relations, and cargo transportation between the two countries. The direct flight offers a seamless transport link for the exchange of goods and services, enabling businesses to expand their markets and explore new trade opportunities.

"Fiji Airways is the first airline to re-commence international flights to and from Canberra after the COVID-19 pandemic - demonstrating our unrivalled connectivity for Australian travellers. Our extensive network coupled with our commitment to exceptional service are





likely some of the reasons we've been named the SKYTRAX Best Airline and Best Airline Staff in Australia and the Pacific," Mr. Viljoen added.

ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism, Andrew Barr MLA explains that "Re-establishing Canberra's international aviation connections is a critical part of our Tourism 2030 Strategy to reach \$4 billion in visitor expenditure by 2030. The direct connection to Fiji is opening up the north American market and we look forward to working with Fiji Airways and the Canberra Airport and our industry partners to make the most of this opportunity."

Canberra Airport's Managing Director, Stephen Byron, is delighted to welcome the additional service from October.

"The strong forward bookings for this new route are a clear indicator of the demand for international travel both to, and from Canberra. This partnership between Fiji Airways, ACT Government and Canberra Airport signifies the return of direct international services to our city and puts Canberra back on the map. We are excited to relaunch our international operations and thank Fiji Airways for their strong show of support for the Nation's Capital."

Fiji Airways continues to expand its network across the nation, with the new twice weekly service to Canberra marking the fifth direct service from Australia to Nadi International including:

- 14 to 18 weekly flights from Sydney
- 10 weekly flights from Melbourne
- 8 weekly flights to Brisbane
- Twice weekly flights to Adelaide
- Twice weekly flights to Canberra

NEW CANBERRA SERVICE DETAILS

Fiji Airways, FJ950

- Direct service operates on Fridays & Tuesdays
- Departs Canberra 13.35 (CBR)
- Arrives Nadi International 19.40 (NAN)
- BOEING 737 MAX 8
- Total duration: 4hrs 5mins

Fiji Airways, FJ951

- Direct service operates on Fridays & Tuesdays
- Departs Nadi International 09.30 (NAN)
- Arrives Canberra 12.35 (CBR)
- BOEING 737 MAX 8
- Total duration: 5hrs 5mins

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About Fiji Airways: Founded in 1951, Fiji Airways Group comprises of Fiji Airways, Fiji's National Airline and its subsidiaries: Fiji Link, its domestic and regional carrier, Pacific Call Comm Ltd, and a 38.75% stake in the Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa on Denarau Island, Nadi. From its hubs at Nadi and Suva International Airports, Fiji Airways and Fiji Link serve 108 destinations in over 15 countries (including code-share). Destinations include Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, the US, Canada, the UK, Hong Kong (SAR China), Singapore, India, Japan, China, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. The Fiji Airways Group brings in 70 percent of all visitors who fly to Fiji, employs over 1000 employees, and is targeting to earn revenues of over FJD\$1.5 billion (USD \$680m) in 2023. Fiji Airways rebranded from Air Pacific in June 2013. Visit www.fijiairways.com for more information

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