



YEARS OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
FLYING  
1935-2025

# Qantas International History Snapshot



**1935**  
17 April

First Qantas international passenger flights began flying between Brisbane and Singapore. Qantas operated 10-passenger DH86 aircraft to and from Singapore where passengers connected with Imperial Airways flights to India, the Middle East and Europe. Flights took 3.5 days each way with night stops at Cloncurry, Darwin and Rambang. No cabin crew were carried on the first international services operated by the DH86 aircraft. The First Officer handed out drinks and sandwiches prepared on the ground although the passengers usually chose to eat meals at one of the many fuel and overnight rest stops along the way.

**1943**  
10 July

The first 'Double Sunrise' Catalina flight departs Perth for Ceylon (Sri Lanka). This remains the longest scheduled passenger service in the world by elapsed time. It was also the longest non-stop flight by distance at the time and the only scheduled civilian wartime air link to Australia. Service later extended to Karachi.

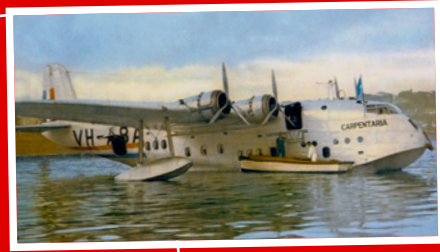


**1944**  
17 June

Qantas begins flying Liberator aircraft between Perth and Ceylon. This new 'Kangaroo Service' was the first use of the iconic kangaroo logo on a Qantas aircraft.

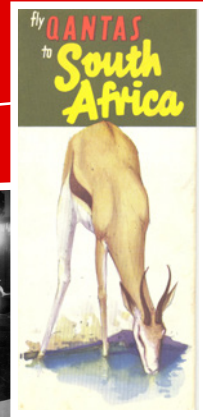
**1938**  
4 August

Inaugural Empire flying boat service from Rose Bay, Sydney to Singapore. Rose Bay becomes Sydney's first international airport.



**1952**  
1 September

Inaugural Qantas service to Johannesburg, South Africa via Indian Ocean.



**1949**  
29 June

Qantas services between Hong Kong and Sydney commence using DC4 aircraft.



**1947**  
1 December

First all-Qantas Kangaroo Route service from Sydney to London with the Lockheed Constellation.



**1954**  
15 May

First Qantas Trans-Pacific service from Sydney to San Francisco and Vancouver via Fiji and Hawaii using Super Constellation aircraft.



**1961**  
3 October

First Qantas service to New Zealand using Lockheed Electra aircraft.



**1959**  
29 July

First Qantas Boeing 707 jet service departed Sydney for San Francisco via Fiji and Hawaii. This was also the first Trans-Pacific jet service.



**1958**  
14-20 January

Qantas began the first scheduled round-the-world service via both hemispheres with Super Constellations.



**1979**  
September

Qantas is the first airline to introduce Business Class travel.



**1971**  
17 September

Qantas Boeing 747 services begin on the Kangaroo Route to London via Singapore. By the late 1970s Qantas operated an all-747 fleet.



**1989**  
16-17 August

The first Qantas Boeing 747-400 arrives in Australia after a record-breaking non-stop flight from London to Sydney.



**2008**  
24 October

First Qantas A380 service from Melbourne to Los Angeles.



**2011**  
16 May

Qantas services from Sydney to Dallas begin. This was the longest non-stop scheduled air route in the world at the time.



**2012**  
26 March

Inaugural Qantas service to Santiago, Chile.



**2022**  
2 May

Qantas confirms an order for 12 Airbus A350-1000 aircraft to operate non-stop flights from the east coast of Australia to major cities of the world including London and New York. Project Sunrise, as the research program behind these flights is known is named in honour the 1943-45 non-stop flights across the Indian Ocean and a legacy of pioneering long-range flying.



**2018**  
25 March

Inaugural Perth-London non-stop service with the Boeing 787-9. This is the first time Australia and Europe have been linked by a scheduled non-stop air route. Later Rome and Paris are also linked directly by Qantas non-stop flights.

