

Japan star destination

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JETSTAR has launched its first daily flights between Australia and Japan with services in Sydney and Brisbane.

The daily service will fly direct between Sydney and Osaka and return to Brisbane and on to Sydney.

A fleet of Airbus A330-200 aircraft, each with 303 seats, will fly the route, offering two classes of service, including business class.

The low-cost carrier said the daily return service, Osaka-Brisbane-Sydney, was the air-

Flights from Cairns may start in August

line's first long-haul international route into Queensland, which would enhance inbound tourism opportunities.

Subject to regulatory approval, Jetstar expects to start flights between Cairns and Nagoya in August and Cairns to Osaka in September.

Tourism Minister Margaret Keech said the State Government was working closely with Jetstar to make the the services a success.

"Almost 400,000 Japanese visitors came to Queensland last year, continuing to make it one of our key international markets," Mrs Keech said.

"The majority of these visitors flew directly into Queensland, so it is vital that a constant airline service is offered between Japan and our State.

"Tourism Queensland has been working with Jetstar, the Department of State Development, Gold

Coast Tourism and Tourism Tropical North Queensland to actively market the new Jetstar international brand in Japan."

Mrs Keech said the budget carrier provided a cheaper alternative for Japanese travellers, who are increasingly being lured to visit cheaper destinations.

"The new Jetstar services will make travelling to Brisbane and Cairns more cost effective and more convenient for Japanese visitors,

Jetstar: High-tailing it into Japan.

which in turn allows them to spend more while they're here in Queensland," she said.

Qantas said it expected Jetstar's international operations between western Japan and Australia would lift the Qantas Group's operated capacity by 30 per cent.

Jetstar chief executive Alan Joyce said the flights to Japan were part of the tourism industry's attempt to halt a slide in the number of Japanese tourists to Australia.



Standout: Restaurateur Brendan Sheridan has opened a cafe-bar in Port Douglas called Skase's Bar.

Skase mixes it in revamped bar

SKASE is back in Port Douglas. Well, sort of.

Restaurateur Brendan Sheridan has used the infamous businessman as the inspiration behind the name of his new bar at Marina Mirage.

The waterfront bar is the result of extensive remodelling of the Marina Views restaurant.

"It was my dad's idea to use the Skase name, and it's a name that stands out from the rest," Mr Sheridan said.

"We're right at the marina where he stood and opened this place, it's a family restaurant and bar and we've got a lot of ideas in terms of different promotions we want to try.

"People can sit here and look out at the ranges and the boats so it's a beautiful scenic location."



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