



Connecting South Australia: Aviation Update

Adelaide Airport Passenger Statistics

March 2026

	Monthly			Rolling 12 months		
	Mar-26	Mar-25	Variance (%)	Mar-26	Mar-25	Variance (%)
Domestic* <i>*Including regional</i>	689,464	661,545	4.2%	7,862,599	7,679,001	2.4%
International	99,776	78,856	26.5%	1,239,503	991,534	25.0%
Total	789,240	740,401	6.6%	9,102,102	8,670,535	5.0%

The Middle East conflict, and the impact to Emirates and Qatar Airways, has so far failed to dampen international growth at Adelaide Airport with international passenger numbers in March increasing by more than 26 per cent on the previous year.

Adelaide Airport again achieved record passenger numbers for March 2026, with 789,240 people passing through the terminal, a 6.6 per cent increase on the previous year.

International passenger numbers further increased, despite the absence of Emirates and Qatar Airways due to issues in the Middle East. The significant increase in capacity over the past year resulted in 99,776 international passengers passing through the airport in March, a 26.5 per cent increase on the year prior.

The figures point to the success of new services in recent months including United Airlines flights to San Francisco, Qantas to Auckland, Air New Zealand to Christchurch and Indonesia AirAsia to Bali, as well as the return of Cathay Pacific to Hong Kong, while China Southern is now operating year-round. The numbers indicates that travellers bound for Europe have responded to the suspension of services via Middle Eastern hubs by connecting instead through Asian cities like Singapore, Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Kuala Lumpur.

Domestic and regional passenger numbers have increased by 4.2 per cent year-on-year to 689,464. After a period of slow but steady growth in recent months, March figures have picked up speed – supported by ongoing major events including the Adelaide Fringe Festival, the Adelaide Festival, WOMADelaide and the start of the AFL season. Seasonal international services to San Francisco with United Airlines and Cathay Pacific to Hong Kong concluded in late March, while seasonal services to Christchurch with Air New Zealand and Qantas to Auckland will continue until early May. Qatar Airways services will resume on June 17. Emirates hopes to resume services to Adelaide effective 1 May.

Indonesia AirAsia operated an increased number flights to Bali in March and will now increase frequencies to daily in July this year. Jetstar commenced flying between Adelaide and Avalon from 26 March, while China Eastern will commence flying to and from Shanghai from June 2026 on a seasonal basis.

Adelaide Airport welcomed more than 8,800 Indian passport holders in March, overtaking China with 7,900, while 6,100 passport holders travelled from New Zealand, overtaking the United Kingdom with 3,700. Rounding out the list of top 10 nationalities were Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, United States, Vietnam and Nepal.

While demand for travel over the Easter and April school holiday period has been resilient, the impact of the Middle East conflict on consumer confidence and travel for the remainder of the year remains unknown.



Read the full story

China Southern Airlines:

[China Southern Airlines expands to year-round service between Adelaide and Guangzhou](#)

China Eastern Airlines:

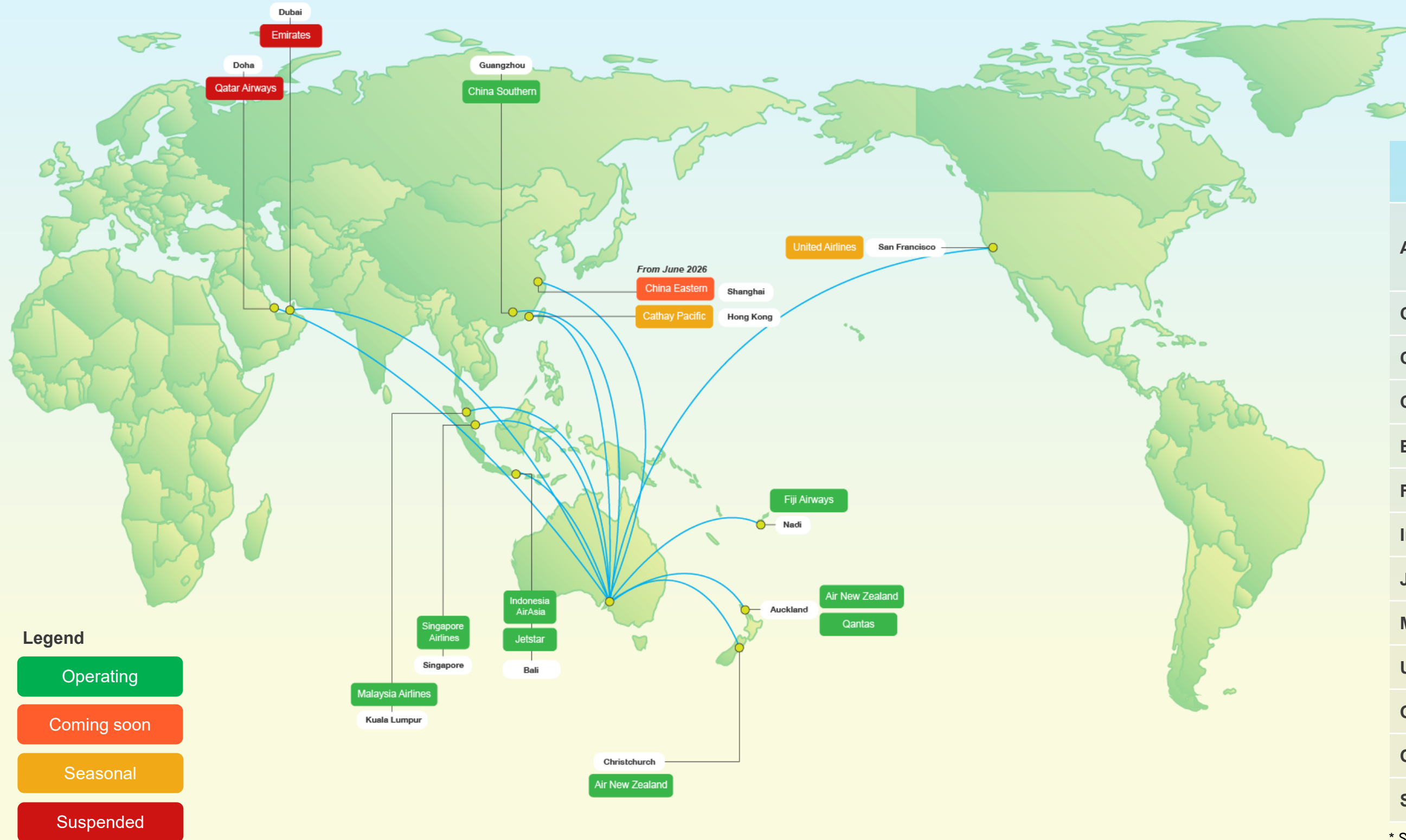
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Our International Destinations

Airlines and Frequency

April 2026



Legend

- Operating
- Coming soon
- Seasonal
- Suspended

Airline	Destination	Avg weekly frequency
Air New Zealand	Auckland	5
	Christchurch*	2
Cathay Pacific	Hong Kong*	-
China Eastern	Shanghai*	-
China Southern	Guangzhou	4
Emirates	Dubai	Suspended
Fiji Airways	Nadi	3
Indonesia AirAsia	Bali	4
Jetstar	Bali	14
Malaysia Airlines	Kuala Lumpur	7
United Airlines	San Francisco*	-
Qantas	Auckland*	4
Qatar Airways	Doha	Suspended
Singapore Airlines	Singapore	10

* Seasonal service