

The Northern Territory: An Aviation Factsheet¹

BACKGROUND

The Northern Territory (NT) is serviced by airports capable of handling passenger, cargo and military aircraft types. Today, Darwin International Airport serves as the NT's primary gateway to Southeast Asia and China, with easy access to connecting flights around the world. On the inbound direction, Darwin International Airport serves as the hub for international visitors traveling to intra-Territory regional destinations such as Alice Springs, Uluru and Gove (Nhulunbuy).

There are a number of other airports within the NT serving towns and regional communities through charter air services, regional airlines and general aviation carriers, including helicopter charter operators.

ACTIVITIES TO YEAR-ENDING MARCH 2020

Aviation access is an important driver that not only supports NT's tourism sector, but is also vital for the Territory's economic development through the facilitation of trade, investment and migration, and improves liveability for residents.

Qantas Group

The Qantas Group, which is made up of Qantas (Domestic) and Jetstar Australia connects the Territory with all Australian State and Territory capitals (except Canberra and Hobart), plus Cairns, Broome and Bali to either Darwin, Alice Springs or Uluru. Due to the NT's vast and expansive geography, aviation service is a vital infrastructure for the Territory, particularly from a healthcare and education perspective.

From an international access standpoint, there is seamless connectivity between Qantas (Domestic)/Jetstar Australia and Qantas/Jetstar (International) that provides one-stop access to the Territory from Japan, Hong Kong, the United States and a number of other key cities via Sydney and Melbourne.

The Qantas Group also operates an international subsidiary under the Jetstar Asia brand. This airline has been connecting Darwin with Singapore (and beyond) for over a decade, making available low-cost options for international travel between the two cities.

Virgin Australia

As Australia's second largest passenger airline, Virgin Australia connects the Territory with all Australian State and Territory capitals (except Canberra and Hobart), with either Darwin, Alice Springs or Uluru. The airline has an important presence in the Territory as it ensures sufficient capacity, especially during peak travel periods. Aside from capacity, Virgin Australia also plays a role in maintaining consumer choice and keeping fares affordable by creating a competitive airline landscape.

Virgin Australia's international network include flights from Japan (from late March 2020), the United States and New Zealand to Australia. This allows one-stop connections between these countries and the NT via Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

¹ Information does not take into account adhoc capacity adjustments due to COVID-19, and is correct as at March 2020. The Department is closely monitoring the aviation environment which is extremely fluid at present due to COVID-19.

SilkAir

Operating seven flights a week between Darwin and Singapore since July 2019, SilkAir provides connectivity to the world through their parent company, Singapore Airlines. With its wide ranging global destination network, international travellers from most major cities are now able to reach Darwin with only one-stop in Singapore.

Donghai Airlines

The first and only Chinese carrier operating non-stop flights to the Territory, Donghai Airlines has carried 6,587 passengers² into Darwin since starting its services in May 2018. This directly contributed to the Territory's increase in Chinese visitors and supports the local economy with a lift in Chinese tourist spend. Donghai Airlines operate two flights a week from Shenzhen, China throughout the year and has operated additional flights over peak travel seasons.

Airnorth

As the Territory's regional carrier, Airnorth serves regional towns and communities throughout the Territory, with an expanded internationally network to Dili and interstate to Queensland and Western Australia.

Chartair

Primarily an airline charter operation, Chartair is expanding its operations of passenger flights in the NT, introducing regular scheduled services between Groote Eylandt and Darwin in November 2019.

Alliance Airlines

Alliance is a Queensland-based airline, which mostly offer aircraft charter services for the resources industry, but is also active in the tourism sector through its wet-lease partnership with Virgin Australia, and also fly-cruise charter itineraries.

² From May 2018 to December 2019.

FLIGHT NETWORK



There are a host of international, interstate and intra-state flights that connects the Territory with the rest of Australia, Asia-Pacific and globally.

International

As the international gateway for the NT, Darwin International Airport has flight operations to and from Singapore (SilkAir, Jetstar Asia), Bali (Jetstar Australia), Shenzhen (Donghai Airlines) and Dili (Airnorth). Travellers from most major cities around the world are able to reach Darwin with a one-stop option, connecting in Singapore for a convenient four and a half hour flight to Darwin. As alternative options, visitors from North America, China, Japan and New Zealand can also use Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane gateways to reach their final destination in the NT, while visitors from the United Kingdom/Europe could also travel through a hub in the Middle East (Dubai or Doha) or directly to Perth, to then fly to the NT.

Domestic

Domestically, Darwin, Alice Springs and Uluru are the three main airports servicing interstate flights. Depending on the route, travellers have a choice of up to three domestic Australian carriers, ranging from full serviced airlines to low cost carriers offering non-stop flights from all Australian State and Territory capitals, except Canberra and Hobart; which are accessible through hubs such as Sydney or Melbourne.

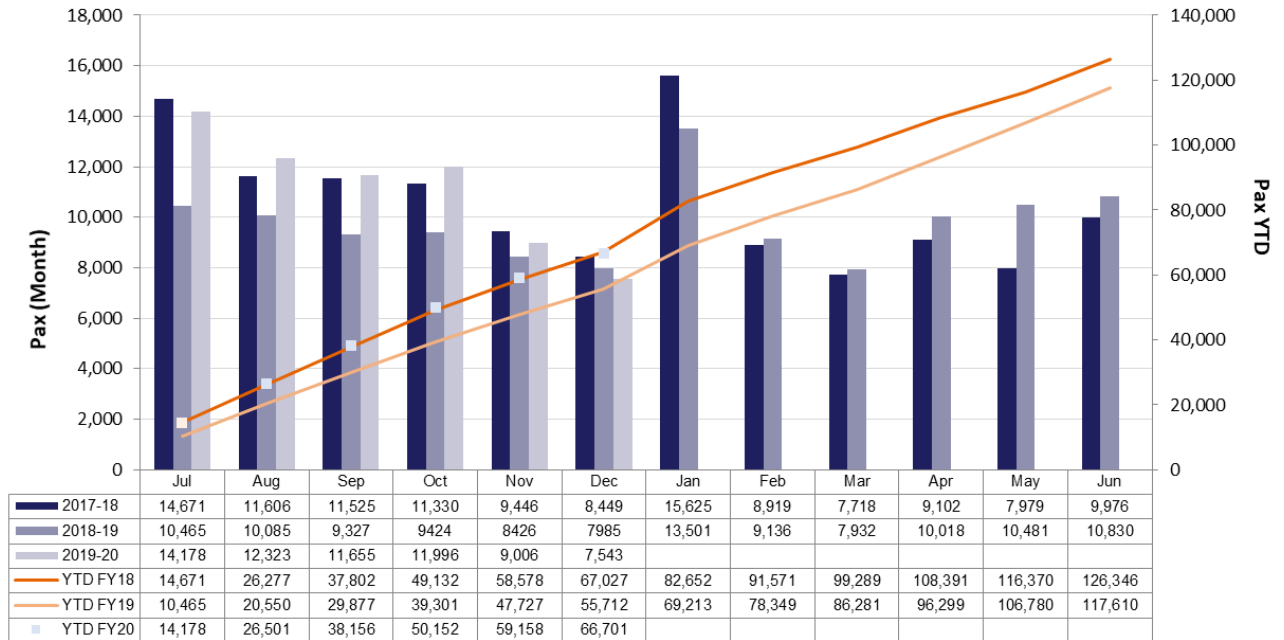
Regional

An extensive network of intra-state routes connect regional Territory points, served mostly by Airnorth, Chartair and Alliance Airlines. Due to the low volume demand for these routes, there are a number of charter operators fulfilling the demand.

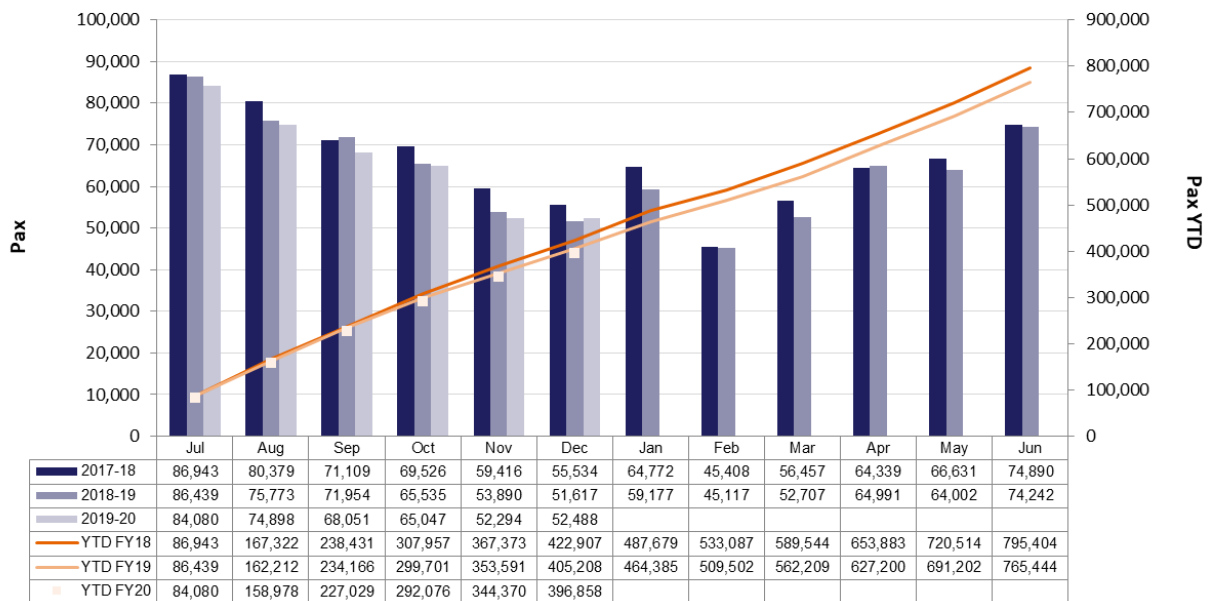
Refer to Appendix 1 for all the Regular Public Transport (RPT) air services published in the International Air Transport Association timetable, including scheduled charters, operating to/in the Territory.

NT AIRLINE PASSENGER TREND

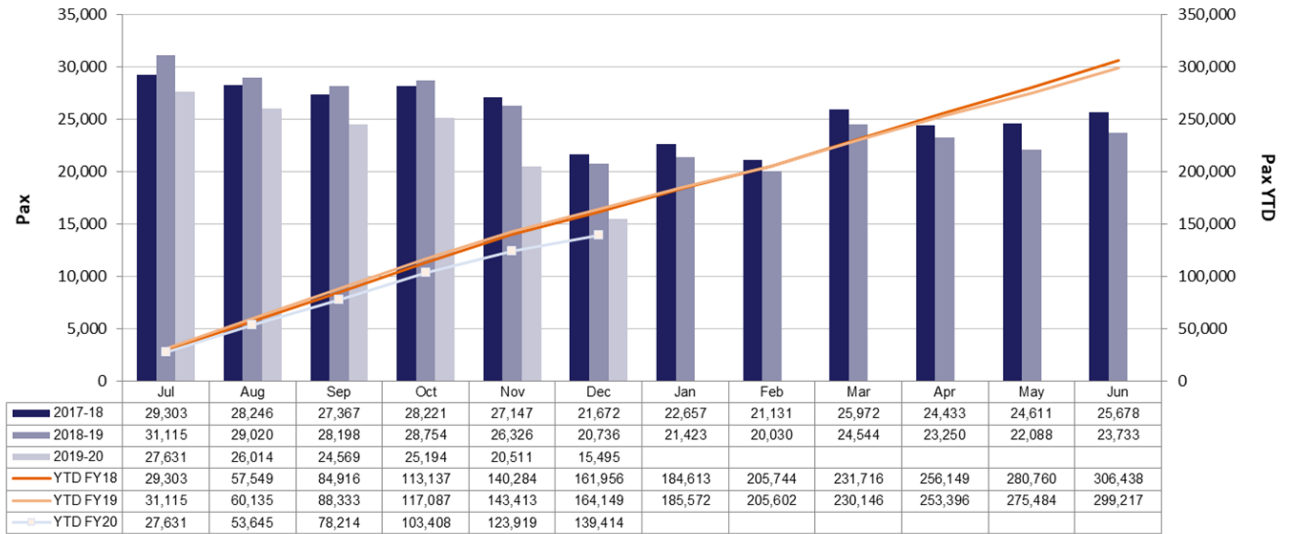
Darwin Airport – international arrivals



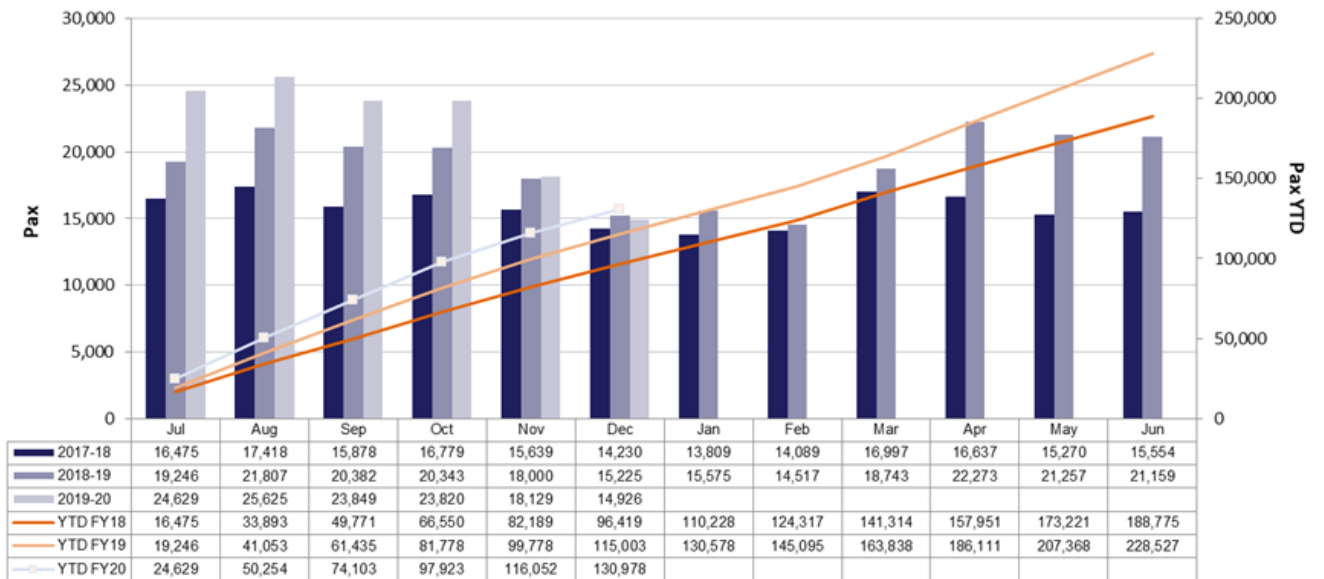
Darwin Airport – domestic arrivals



Alice Springs Airport – domestic and regional arrivals



Ayers Rock Airport – domestic and regional arrivals



Appendix 1³

Origin Name	Destination Name	Airline Name	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Alice Springs, NT, AU	Adelaide, SA, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		Virgin Australia International	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Ayers Rock, NT, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		Alliance Airlines Pty Limited		1					
	Brisbane, QL, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.						1	1
		Virgin Australia International		1		1			
	Darwin, NT, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Melbourne, VI, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Perth, WA, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.						1	1
	Sydney, NS, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Tennant Creek, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1		1		1		
	The Granites, NT, AU	Alliance Airlines Pty Limited		1					
Ayers Rock, NT, AU	Adelaide, SA, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.			1			1	
	Alice Springs, NT, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Brisbane, QL, AU	Jetstar Airways	1		1		1		
	Cairns, QL, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Darwin, NT, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.			1			1	
	Melbourne, VI, AU	Jetstar Airways	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Sydney, NS, AU	Jetstar Airways	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		Virgin Australia International	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Darwin, NT, AU	Adelaide, SA, AU	Jetstar Airways	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		Qantas Airways Ltd.	1	1		1	1	1	1
	Alice Springs, NT, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Ayers Rock, NT, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.			1			1	
	Brisbane, QL, AU	Jetstar Airways	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		Qantas Airways Ltd.	1	2	2	1	2	2	1
		Virgin Australia International	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Broome, WA, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.			1		1		1
	Cairns, QL, AU	Jetstar Airways	1		1	1	1	1	1
	Denpasar-Bali, ID	Jetstar Airways	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Dili, TL	Capiteq Limited	3	1	2	2	1	1	1
	Elcho Island, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1	1		2		1	
	Groote Eylandt, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	2	1	1	2		1	
	Katherine, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1		1		1		
	Kununurra, WA, AU	Capiteq Limited	1	1	2	1	2	1	1
	Maningrida, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	2	2	2		2		
	Mcarthur River Mine, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1	1	2	2			
	Melbourne, VI, AU	Jetstar Airways	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		Qantas Airways Ltd.	1	1	2	1	2	1	1
		Virgin Australia International	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Milingimbi Island, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited		1					1
	Nhulunbuy, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
	Perth, WA, AU	Qantas Airways Ltd.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		Virgin Australia International	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Shenzhen, CN	Donghai Airlines			1				1
	Singapore, SG	Jetstar Asia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		Silkair	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Sydney, NS, AU	Jetstar Airways	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		Qantas Airways Ltd.	3	2	2	2	3	2	1
		Virgin Australia International	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	The Granites, NT, AU	Alliance Airlines Pty Limited		1			1		
	Townsville, QL, AU	Capiteq Limited	1		1	1	1		1
Elcho Island, NT, AU	Darwin, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1						
Groote Eylandt, NT, AU	Maningrida, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1	1	1	2	1	1	
	Cairns, QL, AU	Alliance Airlines Pty Limited	1	4		1			
Darwin, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	2	2	1	1	1		1	
	Nhulunbuy, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited				1	1	1	
Katherine, NT, AU	Darwin, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1		1		1		
	Tennant Creek, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1		1		1		
Maningrida, NT, AU	Darwin, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	2	2	2	2	2	1	
	Elcho Island, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1		1		1		
	Milingimbi Island, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1		1		1		
Mcarthur River Mine, NT, AU	Darwin, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1	1	2	2			
	Milingimbi Island, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1	1	1		1	1	
Nhulunbuy, NT, AU	Cairns, QL, AU	Capiteq Limited	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	Darwin, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1	1	1	2	2	2	
	Groote Eylandt, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited		1				1	
Tennant Creek, NT, AU	Alice Springs, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1		1		1		
	Katherine, NT, AU	Capiteq Limited	1		1		1		
The Granites, NT, AU	Alice Springs, NT, AU	Alliance Airlines Pty Limited		1					
	Darwin, NT, AU	Alliance Airlines Pty Limited		1			1		
	Perth, WA, AU	Alliance Airlines Pty Limited		2			2		

*Capiteq Limited is Airnorth

³ Sample weekly schedule for July 2020 (Northern Summer 2020), correct as at March 2020.