

28 February 2008

TIGER AIRWAYS LEAPS INTO CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

The long awaited launch of Tiger Airways' Melbourne - Alice Springs services will take place this Saturday, with Alice Springs becoming the latest Australian destination to be served by the low fare airline.

Travellers on the inaugural flight will be greeted with a champagne and camel BBQ courtesy of Tourism Central Australia and Tourism NT, while the younger travellers can expect face painting and a display of native animals. Activities at Alice Springs Airport will commence at 12.30pm, with Tiger Airways scheduled arrival at 1.25pm. Alice Springs residents and travellers to Melbourne on Saturday's service are encouraged to arrive at the airport early to check in, and enjoy the festivities.

Tiger Airways will operate three flights per week between Melbourne and Alice Springs, with flights every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The new services will be a huge boost to Central Australia, providing significantly increased capacity of over 50,000 seats per year. Not only will this benefit the local community with low fares to Melbourne and beyond, but will also increase opportunities for local tourism operators with an expected increase of inbound tourists.

Alice Springs will now have vastly increased capacity to Victoria, which is Australia's second largest source market for domestic tourists. Melbourne is also Australia's second largest international gateway, and it is expected that Tiger Airways will capture a significant portion of international travellers wanting to travel between Melbourne and Central Australia.

Visitors from many international markets are well aware of low cost carriers and are familiar with internet booking systems in arranging their own travel.

Tiger Airways Schedule, Melbourne - Alice Springs (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday)

		1 Mar – 5 April 2008	6 April – 5 Oct 2008
TT 7554	Depart Melbourne	1205	1205
	Arrive Alice Springs	1325	1425
TT 7555	Depart Alice Springs	1355	1455
	Arrive Melbourne	1805	1805

Travellers are reminded that check-in opens two hours prior to departure time, and **closes 45 minutes** prior to the schedule time of departure (without exception). In 2008 some Australian states will be extending daylight savings, and travellers are advised to check their itineraries for up to date arrival and departure details.

Ian Kew
Chief Executive, Northern Territory Airports

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