



## Travel Numbers Up

Due to a 20% increase in USQ travel so far in 2011, our April newsletter has had to take a back seat and will be a very 'lite' edition.

## First time travellers at USQ

Any new staff who are required to travel for USQ business need to be set up in the USQ Travel Portal. Please contact the Travel Office to have a profile added. The Portal is totally separate to any other database on campus and has its own login and password requirements – it is **not** part of UConnect.

## The Australian Government's travel advisory and consular information service.

## Travel advice for Syria

We advise you not to travel to Syria. Australians in Syria should depart immediately by commercial means. See our [travel advice](#) for more information. Australians remaining in Syria are urged to remain in contact with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra on +61 2 6261 3305 or the Australian Embassy in Cairo on +202 2575 0444.

## Information for Australians in Japan

On 11 March 2011, there was a large earthquake off the east coast of Japan which generated a tsunami. We recommend travellers to Japan, including Tokyo, exercise a high degree of caution. Australians should not travel to Ibaraki, Tochigi, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures, including the 80km exclusion zone. Australians in these Prefectures should leave unless their presence is essential.

You should see our [travel advice for Japan](#) and [travel bulletin](#) for further information.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) has issued advice on exposure to radiation arising from nuclear incidents in Japan on the [ARPANSA website](#).

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has agreed to waive fees for Australians whose passport has been lost or damaged in the earthquake and tsunami. You should contact the Australian Embassy in Tokyo on 03 5232 4111 to arrange for a replacement.

**A must see destination.**

## ***Travelling for business?*** **travel smart, travel safe**

As a business traveller, your overseas trips are often organised by your employer. While they might take care of your flights and hotel bookings, your personal safety overseas is your own responsibility. There are three important things you need to do.

### **Insurance**

Travel insurance is as essential as your passport. Your destination may be low-risk or familiar, but you still need to be covered for accidents, illness and bad luck. If your employer has arranged insurance for you, make sure you fully understand its coverage.

### **Stay smart and connected**

As a business traveller you don't always get to choose when and where you travel. Subscribing to the travel advice on [smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au) gives you access to the latest information before and during your trip. You may have visited your destination many times before but it's important to stay informed. The travel advice will also provide information on how to increase your safety when in high-risk countries.

Registering with [smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au) is simple and free and means that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will try to contact and assist you in the event of an emergency such as a natural disaster or civil disturbance. Ask your employer to register you when they book your flights or go online to register yourself.

### **Cultural respect and legal awareness**

Just as observing local customs makes good business sense, it's important to respect the social customs and laws of your destination for your own security.

Always conduct yourself in a way that is consistent with the culture and laws of the country you're in. If you get into trouble or are arrested, contact the nearest Australian diplomatic office for assistance.

**Take these simple steps to travel smart, travel safe  
and focus on your business.**



## *Qantas tightens baggage allowances*

Qantas has revealed plans to tighten its domestic and international checked baggage allowance system as of 1 June 2011. Qantas currently allows passengers to check any number of bags onto their flight provided they fall between the 23kg and 45kg weight limit, depending on class and Frequent Flyer status. The new system will ensure passengers are limited by the number and weight of bags they can check-in and new fees will apply for exceeding this limit.

The changes are coming into effect as a result of the recently introduced do-it-yourself Qantas Next Generation Check-in system which has already launched in Sydney and will be rolled out to each capital city airport this year.

The current and new baggage allowance limits are outlined for domestic and international travel below.  
Domestic

	Current total checked baggage allowance	As of 1st June 2011
Economy (non-frequent flyers, Bronze Frequent Flyers)	Any number of bags totalling 23kg	One item of checked luggage weighing a maximum of 23kg
Economy (Qantas Club members, or Silver or Gold Frequent Flyers)	Any number of bags totalling 33kg	One item of checked luggage weighing a maximum of 23kg
Economy (Platinum Frequent Flyers)	Any number of bags totalling 38kg	Two items of checked luggage weighing up to 32kg each
Business (including Qantas Club members)	Any number of bags totalling 30kg, or 40kg if you belong to the Qantas Club	One item of checked luggage weighing 32kg
Business (Silver, Gold or Platinum Frequent Flyers)	Any number of bags totalling 40kg for Silver and Gold Frequent Flyers or 45kg for Platinum Frequent Flyers	Two items of checked luggage weighing up to 32kg each

Passengers will have to pay to check extra bags above their one or two bag limit listed above, and there is a strict limit of only two extra bags. The cost will be \$15 for the first bag and \$30 for the second if you pre-pay online using the [Manage my Booking](#) page on the Qantas website. It will cost passengers \$30 for the first bag and \$60 for the second if they pay at the airport.

Additional checked bags are limited to 23kg each. Under the current system if this limit is exceeded, passengers pay a flat rate of \$10 per kilogram for each kilogram their bag exceeds the limit. When the changes come into place, they will now only have to pay a \$20 heavy charge fee for bags over 23kg and up to 32kg. This charge is waived for business class passengers, Qantas Club Members and passengers with Silver, Gold and Platinum Frequent Flyer status.

International

	Current total checked baggage allowance	As of 1st June 2011
Economy & Premium Economy	23kg	23kg
Economy & Premium Economy (Qantas Club members, Silver & Gold Frequent Flyers)	33kg	32kg
Business	30kg	32kg
Business (Qantas Club members)	40kg	42kg
Business (Silver & Gold Frequent Flyers)	40kg	64kg
First	40kg	40kg
First (Qantas Club members)	50kg	50kg
First (Silver & Gold Frequent Flyers)	50kg	64kg
Platinum Frequent Flyers (All classes)	Economy/premium economy (38kg) Business (45kg) First (55kg)	64kg

These allowances are relevant for all destinations except North and South America. Passengers travelling to America in international economy or premium economy can check two pieces of baggage at a maximum of 23kg each. Business and first class passengers can check two pieces of baggage at a maximum of 32kg each. Qantas Club members and Silver, Gold and Platinum Frequent Flyers can add one extra item to each of the above, with the same weight limits.

The USA places more emphasis on the number of bags checked than their weight. Passengers travelling to America can expect to pay \$150 per bag above your limit or (\$105 online thorough the [Manage My Booking](#) page on the Qantas website) provided the bag is less than 23kg. If your bag is over 23kg, an additional \$50 heavy charge fee will be applied for economy and premium economy passengers only.

The rest of the world places more emphasis on the weight of checked baggage and charges for each kilogram over your total allowance. This fee is \$10/kg for flights to and from New Zealand, \$35/kg for Asia and \$50/kg for flights to and from Europe and Africa.

For more information regarding the changes to checked baggage allowance please visit the [Qantas website](#).

## What in the World ??

Source –Travel Daily

**VIRGIN** Atlantic is jumping on the Royal Wedding bandwagon, with passengers who fly on the day of the nuptials set to enjoy an “onboard street party”. Flights departing the UK on 29 Apr heading to the US and Caribbean will be served an afternoon tea of wedding cake and English Breakfast tea - all served in a “souvenir Union Jack lunch box.” The festive atmosphere will be reinforced with bunting and Union Jack headrests to create a “patriotic atmosphere,” and all passengers will also receive special Kate and William

### Best Loo

the annual America’s Best Restroom Award. Nominations for the hotly contested competition are now open, with the organisers from toilet product supplier Cintas saying: “we found that many establishments have realised that creating opulent restrooms creates great word-of-mouth marketing”. A special website inviting the public to speculate on “who will be crowned king of the throne” is online at [bestrestroom.com](http://bestrestroom.com)

## Travel News

Source –Travel Daily, USA Today

### Slippery Conditions

A Southwest 737 slid off a runway at Chicago Midway Airport this week, with the aircraft eventually coming to rest in mud alongside the tarmac. Nobody was injured in the incident, which is currently under investigation by the NTSB. Passengers were refunded their fares by Southwest and given complimentary roundtrip passes.

### Atlantis shuttle home

**VISITORS** to Kennedy Space Center will be able to get up close to the space shuttle Atlantis after NASA announced overnight it would retire the aircraft to the Florida base. The US\$100m Atlantis exhibit is planned to launch in 2013.

## Dates to consider when booking Accommodation and/or flights in 2011

25 May	State of Origin 1, Brisbane
13 June	Queens Birthday Holiday
15 June	State of Origin 2, Sydney
24 June - 11 July	Qld State School Holidays
6 July	State of Origin 3, Brisbane
17 August	Brisbane Show Holiday - Ekka
6, 7, 8 September	Ag Show, Toowoomba
16-25 September	Carnival of Flowers, Toowoomba
1 October	AFL Grand Final, Melbourne
2 October	NRL Grand Final, Sydney
1 November	Melbourne Cup

### Parliament of Australia 2011 Sitting Schedule

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/work/sitting/2011/sitting\\_text.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/work/sitting/2011/sitting_text.htm)