

## Kia Ora Auckland! Air Canada Inaugurates Seasonal Service From Vancouver

VANCOUVER and AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Dec. 13, 2019 /CNW Telbec/ - Air Canada's inaugural flight AC51, 787 Dreamliner service which departed last night from Vancouver has arrived in Auckland, marking the carrier's launch of seasonal service between Canada and New Zealand. Flights operate four times weekly until the end of March 2020.

"We are excited to launch our newest South Pacific route to Auckland which offers additional opportunities for North Americans travelling to enjoy New Zealand's summer season, and for New Zealanders travelling for a Canadian winter vacation. Our Auckland flights are timed to conveniently connect at our extensive Vancouver trans-Pacific hub to and from a multitude of non-stop destinations throughout North America including New York-Newark," said Mark Galardo, Vice President, Network Planning at Air Canada.

"We are very excited to welcome this new service from Air Canada which further connects Vancouver to Auckland using the amazing Dreamliner aircraft," said Craig Richmond, President and CEO, Vancouver Airport Authority. "This addition to Air Canada's growing network at Vancouver International Airport will not only open up more business and travel opportunities in Canada and New Zealand, it will also facilitate valuable connecting traffic between the two airports. We appreciate Air Canada's continued commitment to utilizing Vancouver as their trans-Pacific hub."

"We're proud of the contribution this new service will make to growing travel and trade between the two countries. The seamless connections Air Canada provides through its hub in Vancouver will further promote a growing market. In 2018 alone, Canadians choosing to holiday in New Zealand grew by 6.7 percent to 70,000 visitors. Similarly, New Zealand visitor numbers grew by an impressive 12 percent with 34,000 people visiting Canada during the same period," said Scott Tasker, General Manager of Aeronautical Commercial at Auckland Airport.

"Canada is one of New Zealand's closest international partners. The new Air Canada non-stop service between Vancouver and Auckland will contribute to strengthening our close connections, further increasing our people-to-people links and tourism links," said Amy Tisdall, New Zealand's chargée d'affaires.

"I'm thrilled that Air Canada will be offering direct flights from Auckland to Vancouver. B.C. is a sought-after destination for international visitors, with Vancouver International Airport as the gateway to exploring our beautiful province. And now, with the HSBC Canada Sevens set to take place in Vancouver for another four years, this is the perfect time for rugby fans from around the world to visit B.C. To our friends in New Zealand, we say Kia Ora!" said Lisa Beare, British Columbia's Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

Air Canada's state-of-the-art Boeing 787-8\* Dreamliners feature 20 Signature Class lie-flat seats, 21 Premium Economy and 214 Economy Class seats with upgraded in-flight entertainment at every seat throughout the aircraft. All Air Canada flights provide for Aeroplan accumulation and redemption and, for eligible customers, access to priority services, Maple Leaf Lounges and other benefits.



Flight	Departs	Arrives	Days of Week
AC51	Vancouver (YVR) 23:45	Auckland (AKL) 11:05 + 2 days	Mon, Tue, Thur, Sat
AC52	Auckland (AKL) 14:30	Vancouver (YVR) 06:30	Mon, Wed, Thur, Sat

\*Air Canada's inaugural flight operated with a Boeing 787-9 exceptionally

Air Canada's Vancouver-Auckland service is the latest of three new international routes the carrier just inaugurated, following Air Canada's launch of the only flights from Montreal-Sao Paulo on Dec. 11 and from Toronto-Quito on Dec. 8.

## About Air Canada

Air Canada is Canada's largest domestic and international airline serving nearly 220 airports on six continents. Canada's flag carrier is among the 20 largest airlines in the world and in 2018 served nearly 51 million customers. Air Canada provides scheduled passenger service directly to 62 airports in Canada, 53 in the United States and 101 in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America and South America. Air Canada is a founding member of Star Alliance, the world's most comprehensive air transportation network serving 1,250 airports in 195 countries. Air Canada is the only international network carrier in North America to receive a Four-Star ranking according to independent U.K. research firm Skytrax, which also named Air Canada the 2019 Best Airline in North America. For more information, please visit: [aircanada.com/media](https://aircanada.com/media), follow @AirCanada on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/AirCanada) and join Air Canada on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/AirCanada).

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