

Cathay cancels some passenger flights in January

A Monitor Report

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Hong Kong : Cathay Pacific will cancel some passenger flights in January because of operational and travel curbs at a time when the Asian financial centre has tightened quarantine requirements, the airline said on December 22.

"The new consolidated schedule will result in several flight cancellations," the company said in a website notice, without giving details.

Reports said the cancellations included many long-haul flights to and from Australia, North America and Europe.

Cathay's Australian website said it would only fly to Sydney from Hong Kong in January, with no flights to Melbourne, Brisbane or Perth, which had been destinations in December.

For December, Cathay planned to fly no more than 12 per cent of its pre-pandemic passenger schedule, having cancelled many flights because it could not find enough crew members to volunteer for tough rosters involving five weeks locked in hotel rooms.

Hong Kong has tightened travel rules since the Omicron coronavirus variant emerged, and arriving passengers from many countries are limited to citizens and residents who are now subject to three weeks of managed quarantine even if fully vaccinated.

The Hong Kong government has a "zero-Covid" policy in line with mainland China as it hopes to persuade Beijing to allow cross-border travel.

