

AUSTRALIAN
TRAVELLER
READERS' CHOICE
2011 AWARDS



WINNER

BEST REGIONAL AIRLINE IN AUSTRALIA

Regional Express

Hundreds of readers voted for Regional Express but very few used its formal name. You prefer to call it Rex, a warm and fuzzy company nickname that conveys the affection many travellers have for the little turboprop planes that comprise this country-bound fleet. Born from the sad collapse of Ansett, Rex is the company that formed to save the Ansett-owned regional airlines Hazelton and Kendell, two very

important carriers that serviced regional towns, linking country-based businesspeople to major centres. Rex is one of the few airlines that still provides travellers with a complimentary snack and a cup of tea on their journey. One reader also loves that "the hostie asks who needs a taxi, then rings ahead to make sure there are enough waiting for you at the airport". It's five-star service on a small scale, and from genuinely friendly flight staff. And Rex's frequent-flyer program is beautiful in its simplicity: fly nine legs, get the tenth free – however, the program is currently being "revamped" so we hope it doesn't become unnecessarily complicated.

THE DETAILS 13 17 13; rex.com.au

RUNNERS-UP:

2 QANTASLINK

Country cousin to the big guys at Qantas, and Australia's largest regional airline. qantas.com.au

3 SKYWEST

Western Australia's largest regional airline, with regular flights to various parts of outback WA as well as Denpasar, Bali. skywest.com.au

4 SHARP AIRLINES

Victoria's largest regional airline also services Adelaide, Port Augusta, Flinders Island and Launceston. sharpairlines.com

5 BRINDABELLA AIRLINES

Brindabella started in 1994 as an executive charter service, and it now has hubs in Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane.

brindabellaairlines.com.au ■