

Beds, aisle access for all — and very competitive pricing

Air New Zealand revamps long haul fleet with all-new three-class configuration

AIR NEW Zealand's current first and business class will be scrapped later this year when the airline revamps its current long-haul product.

The carrier's fleet of B747-400 aircraft and eight new B777-200s will be configured into a new three-class layout of 'Business Premier' — a new class for the airline called 'Pacific Premium Economy' and 'Pacific Economy'.

Business Premier will be a new premium cabin product to replace the current first and business class long-haul product. It will offer new generation lie-flat beds, direct aisle access for all passengers, in-seat power and a high-resolution screen to view the on-demand entertainment system.

Air New Zealand says the new cabin will provide features equivalent or better than first class on many major airlines, but continue to be sold at current business class levels.

Similarly, the carrier's new Pacific Economy will remain at current economy class prices.

Pacific Premium Economy fares are now available at an average 25 per cent more than standard economy fares.

Prices to LA (excluding taxes, levies and surcharges) start from A\$2599 return ex Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane and A\$2984 ex Perth. Starting prices to San Francisco are A\$2699 from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane and A\$3084 from Perth.

Pacific Premium Economy will offer passengers priority check-in, more room between seats, greater recline and Business Premier bar service and self-service snack facilities

The new product will be available on all Auckland- San Francisco services from August 07 this year. It will be next available on Los Angeles and London B747-400 flights NZ1 and NZ2 from November 05.

Australian customers will be able to connect with these services from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth on the carrier's flights to the US.

"We look forward to being able to introduce our new long-haul product full-time on the San Francisco route," said Ed Sims, Air New Zealand general manager international airline.

The NZ\$160 million upgrade of the B747 fleet is already in progress, with the refitted aircraft being configured with 36 Business Premier seats at the front of the main deck and a further 10 on the upper deck, 23 Pacific Premium Economy seats also on the upper deck and 324 Pacific Economy seats on the main deck.

"We fully anticipate demand for our new Pacific Premium Economy seating to grow and as such we are already reviewing longer-term opportunities to expand availability onto the 747's main deck," added Sims.

From November, Air New Zealand will double the number of flights it operates between Auckland and San Francisco from three to six weekly return services - increasing capacity on the route by 62 per cent from 2352 seats return up to 3756.

The increased schedule will take effect from November 29, when the airline will begin utilising its new B777-200 aircraft, which start to arrive later this year. They will offer 26 Business Premier seats, 18 Pacific Premium Economy and 269 in Pacific Economy.



— NZ's new Business Premier —



— Premium Economy Class —