

Air New Zealand to launch Skynest sleep pods for Economy passengers on long-haul flights



Passengers access the Skynest sleep pods, designed to provide private, lie-flat rest during long-haul flights

[Air New Zealand](#) is set to redefine long-haul travel with the introduction of its Economy Skynes, a world-first lie-flat sleep solution for Economy and Premium Economy passengers, available to book starting May 18, 2026.

The innovative concept will debut onboard the airline's new 787-9 Dreamliner from November, initially operating on flights between New York ([JFK](#)) and Auckland ([AKL](#)), one of the longest commercial routes in the world.

Designed to improve rest on ultra long-haul journeys, Skynest features six lie-flat pods arranged in a bunk-style layout between the Economy and Premium Economy cabins. Each pod offers a private

space equipped with a full-length mattress, fresh bedding, ambient lighting, ventilation and charging ports.

Passengers will be able to book dedicated four-hour sessions, with two sessions initially available per flight, allowing time to settle, sleep and wake gradually. Pricing is expected to start at US\$495 per session.

Air New Zealand Chief Executive Nikhil Ravishankar said the concept reflects the airline's focus on innovation in long-haul travel.



A passenger relaxes inside an Economy Skynest pod as a crew member assists, highlighting the service and comfort features onboard

“On some of the world’s longest flights, Skynest is designed to make a real difference to the journey,” Ravishankar said, noting the product gives travelers the opportunity to lie flat and get proper rest regardless of cabin class.

The Skynest experience also includes a “Nestcessities” amenity kit, featuring an eye mask, socks, ear plugs, skincare products and dental items, alongside personal comfort controls such as reading lights and privacy curtains.

The launch builds on the airline’s history of cabin innovation, following the introduction of the Skycouch, and forms part of a broader upgrade to its Dreamliner interiors. Enhancements include new Business Premier Luxe seats with privacy doors, redesigned Premium Economy seating and upgraded inflight entertainment screens in Economy.



Inside the Skynest pods, passengers can lie flat, read and rest in a private, low-light environment designed for sleep

Premium Economy and Economy passengers will also have access to the Sky Pantry, a self-service area offering snacks and hydration throughout the flight.

First revealed as a concept that earned a Crystal Cabin Award for innovation in 2023, Skynest signals a shift in how airlines approach passenger comfort, particularly as demand grows for better rest and wellbeing on long-haul journeys.

With its upcoming launch, Air New Zealand is positioning itself at the forefront of cabin innovation, offering a new level of flexibility and comfort to travelers across all cabin classes.