

8 of the best business class airlines

Thursday, 11 January 2018

Fiona Harper

So you're planning your holiday, or scheduling your work trip and you've decided to spring for a Business Class seat, but as you check your flight options you're struck by one important question:

Which airline offers the best business class seats?

Typically Etihad Airways, Emirates, and Singapore Airlines are widely considered to offer the best business class seats, but competition among airlines has grown fierce, and you'll find that lots of carriers are stepping up to provide luxury services and amenities to attract business class passengers to their airline.

So if you're looking for a comprehensive list on the pros and cons of booking a business class ticket, and want to know who is the best business class airline to book with, look no further, as [Skyscanner Australia](#) has done the homework.

1. Etihad Airways

Etihad Airways emphasise that their business class seats are 'not business as usual' and with their luxury Business Studio suites and flatbed seats, we'd have to agree. In terms of design, think: boutique hotel and muted Arabian elegance. In terms of comfort, think: oh mama.

Seats: The seats are generous, able to fully recline to just over 2 metres, and because the airline has redesigned the seats to meet back to back, you can choose a private nook off to the side, or select the side-by-side seat options if you're travelling in a couple or with colleagues (don't worry, all seats come with a retractable screen so you still have privacy when you need it). There are USB and power bar connections, and a generous 47cm touch screen entertainment unit for every seat to boot.

Dining: One of the best features of booking this business class fare is the ability to decide when you want to eat. You are given a menu, and just like in a restaurant, you order when you feel hungry.

Extra features: A business class ticket doesn't just include your seat, and with Etihad, you are given the option of being transported to and from the airport in a private car, full use of their excellent lounge, and some upmarket freebies like luxe amenity kits as well as slippers and PJs. On the Airbus 380 you can also make use of the Lobby lounge and bar, which comes with mobile and Wi-Fi service.

Our recommendation: best business class seats for travelling with colleagues.

2. Garuda Indonesia

[Garuda Indonesia - Explore Indonesia's Culinary Wealth with Chef Chris Salans](#)

Garuda Indonesia is not as high-tech or as glamorous as some of the other options on this list, but this airline consistently wins awards for its business class cabin, and that's purely down to its service and its value. If you want a premium seat for a reasonable price, Garuda Indonesia has the best value business class flights on the market.

Seats: Garuda's ergonomic seats are a dream, with a generous 55cm width, and the ability to convert into a full-flat bed with mattress, duvet, pillows and an ottoman. So if you are travelling on business, you will be able to get a great night's sleep. Sliding doors and adjustable dividers between middle suites control privacy, and all seats have aisle access, which is a major plus. The seats come with 60cm LCD touch-screen TV's and noise-cancelling headsets, personal wardrobe, and storage compartments.

Dining: You will be treated to a choice of Indonesian or international cuisine prepared by an on board chef – expect vintage wine before take-off, and options like lobster souffle and pan fried wagyu tenderloin mid-flight.

Extra features: Loungewear is styled for men and women's fit, and includes slippers. Lovely L'occitane amenity kits are provided, plus the exclusive stationery to record inflight musings are available

Our recommendation: best business class seats for value.

Read more: [Top 5 airline first class cabins](#)

3. Qantas

[Qantas Sydney International Business Lounge](#)

Australia's national carrier is frequently cited as offering some of the best business class seats in the world, and you'll find the pick of the bunch are the Skybeds found on the Qantas A380.

Seats: These babies have won awards for their design, and it's easy to see why. The cocoon design affords you privacy from your neighbour, and when you're ready to sleep you can convert the seat into a 2 metre long bed (with an included turn-down service). But perhaps the most coveted feature of these loungers is their multi-zone massage function, just adjust the settings and away you go! Personal telephones, USB and power outlets, as well as 30cm touch screens complete the set.

Dining: An 8-course tasting menu created by Qantas Chef Neil Perry is served by silver service trained cabin staff. Qantas Rockpool Sommeliers and mixologists have been tasked with keeping travellers hydrated, providing onboard tasting notes and recommendations.

Extra features: Amenities like soft pyjamas and skincare by ASPAR are provided, with the nifty bonus that the bags they come in are designed by Australian artists. There's also an onboard lounge if you fancy stretching your legs, having a meeting, or watching a movie on the larger 58cm screen. Also, if you're flying out of Sydney or Melbourne, you can access the Aurora Spa located in the First Lounges, and snap up a free signature 20-minute treatments focusing on muscle relaxation and skin hydration pre-flight.

Our recommendation: best business class seats for relaxation.

4. British Airways

[British Airways - A glimpse inside our new A380](#)

British Airways carries their renowned British efficiency and impeccable manners into the sky in a no-nonsense sort of elegantly refined fashion. Expect understated style and first class comfort.

Seats: British Airways provides lounge chairs with a generous 63.5cm width and 183cm long bed complete with quilted mattress, and cotton duvet. The bed also uses latest technology with a sprung diaphragm significantly increasing comfort levels. Two concealed tables include a writing desk that allows travellers to work while snacking and storage compartments keep belongings neatly stored. A 25cm TV screen, USB and RCA ports allow your own digital content to be viewed on the main screen.

Dining: Signature a la carte menu designed by some of the world's top chefs or indulge in a mile high English afternoon tea as only the British know how.

Extra features: Soft cotton pyjamas and a luxury collection of Elemis skincare products are presented in a bespoke BA washbag. If flying in or out of New York or London Heathrow, you'll also get to enjoy Elemis Travel Spa treatments.

Our recommendation: best business class seats for efficient service.

5. Virgin Australia

[Virgin Australia's new 777 Business Class](#)

Virgin Australia has always striven to be the best of the best, and its new business class seats and cabin, simply called 'The Business', is aptly named. Luxury and modernity are the name of the game here, and its clear Virgin Australia are pushing to secure the title of best business class airline.

Seats: The cabin is beautiful, and with the new 1-2-1 layouts on their 777 planes, everyone has aisle access. The 54cm wide leather seats recline to over 2 metres, and you can request a turn-down service complete with mattress pad when it's time to sleep. There is a 45cm touchscreen for entertainment (over 500 hours worth!), a good-sized table for working on, power and USB outlets, as well access to storage compartments.

Dining: You can choose off the a la carte menu, or go for the Luke Mangan designed dining experience depending on what you fancy. And as for drinks, you can wind down with champagne and vintage wine selections, or wake up with a Nespresso coffee.

Extra features: There is a dedicated bar in the cabin for business passengers where you can unwind, or even hold a meeting. Amenities include pyjamas, and a Madarina Duck kit with REN skincare products. You may also be eligible for a limousine service on either side of your journey if you want to continue travelling in style.

Our recommendation: best business class seats for entertainment.

6. EVA Air

[EVA Air Royal Laurel Class \(English\)](#)

EVA Air is not as well known as some of the other airlines on this list, but this technologically advanced Taiwan-based airline is always topping lists of best business class airlines. And you'll find that this carrier utilises the best high-tech systems to enhance the passenger inflight experience. Look for the Royal Laurel Class tickets, which cover both first and business class flights.

Seats: In Eva Air's version of business class you will have be able to retract your armrests and cocktail table to create a 2 metre long flat bed at the touch of a button. Space and

privacy are maximized here, and the reverse herringbone configuration with fixed panels will enable you to create your own private space. The airline has also upgraded all their touchscreen entertainment screens to HD, and added power sockets, USB and iPod ports to complete the high-tech setup.

Dining: Expect a glass of champagne, and a rich choice of dishes which include gourmet options like fresh lobster and prime steak, or low calorie options if you're looking for something healthy. You're also able to book your meal well in advance if you want something specialised.

Extra features: You'll get a lovely RIMOWA amenity kit filled with skincare goodies from the French brand Melvita. You'll also be given pyjamas, and our personal favourite: noise cancelling earphones. We also love the glittering star lighting on the ceiling of the cabin during overnight flights.

Our recommendation: best business class seats for high-tech amenities.

Read More: [8 ways to score a flight upgrade](#)

7. Singapore Airlines

[Introducing the Next Generation Business Class | Singapore Airlines](#)

Type into any search engine 'who has the best business class seats?' and Singapore Airlines will pop up in every listicle going. Singapore Airlines set the bar for luxury flying and has kept it there. Known throughout the industry for its impeccable, [elegant service and facilities](#) you can count on their Business Class seats to be at the very pinnacle of comfortable flying.

Seats: The latest seats in the New Business Class on Singapore Airlines features handcrafted leather loungers that extend to 2 metres when laid flat, and come with all the bed-linen trimmings. Sleeping on a flight has never been so easy. If you'd prefer to remain awake, there's plenty of space to work and relax, as the seats boast a width of about 85cm. There's also the 45cm LCD screen and non-stop on-demand entertainment system which should help while away the hours.

Dining: On Singapore Airlines, you can 'Book the Cook', meaning you can peruse the menu up to 24 hours before you board – plenty of time to look through the wide selection of meals and wines created and selected by the airline's International Culinary Panel. And if that doesn't impress, if you fly from Singapore you can choose from over 60 dishes!

Extra features: We can't talk about Singapore Airlines without mentioning their award-winning service. This is a real hospitality airline, and you'll notice that when you meet the excellent staff. On the ground you can expect fast-track services, and premier lounge access.

Our recommendation: best business class seats for first-class service and fine dining.

8. Emirates

[Business Class Seat Preview | Boeing 777 | Emirates Airline](#)

We couldn't make a list on the best first class airlines, or the best business class seats without mentioning Emirates. Operating one of the youngest aircraft fleets in the world (read: suuupper modern), Emirates, since the very beginning, has focused its sights on providing top rate passenger comfort.

Seats: Emirates business class seats come in an ergonomic and leather-bound package and stretch to almost 2 metres when laid fully flat. The generous 58cm entertainment screen offers a staggering 2,000 entertainment channels to choose from, which show the very latest new releases along with breaking news to keep travellers updated in real time. Send an email or update social media, write up a business report, or kick back and choose a beverage from your personal mini bar all from the comfort of business class seating.

Dining: A gourmet menu inspired by regional and international dishes come served on Royal Doulton bone china with Robert Welch cutlery, and if that isn't enough to tempt you, you can match your meal with a Sommelier-selected wine list.

Extra features: The A380 onboard lounge is the place to unwind in the sky and is for the exclusive use of first and business class passengers. Canapes and cocktails, coffee and cake are all on offer in a convivial lounge area where guests can stretch their legs or socialise. Bulgari designed kit bags come with perfumes and skincare, one of the most luxurious amenities bag on the market. You will also have access to complimentary airport chauffer-driven car service as well as being fast-tracked through immigration.

Our recommendation: best business class seats for slick amenities and on the ground transport services.

Want to see how prices stack up? Emirates versus Etihad? Singapore Airlines versus EVA Air? British Airways versus Virgin Australia? You can review all the best business class seats listed above and compare them with other airlines on [Skyscanner Australia](#).

Hero image courtesy of British Airways