

Qatar Airways tops AirlineRatings.com 2026 World's Best Airline Awards

- A Monitor Report

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Sydney : Airline Ratings.com has announced its World's Best Airline Awards for 2026, celebrating excellence in passenger experience and onboard service.

Unlike safety-focused rankings, these awards are based solely on measurable inflight products and services.

Full-service airlines

Qatar Airways has once again claimed the top spot among full-service carriers, praised for its exceptional economy product and award-winning business class. Close contenders include Cathay Pacific in second and Singapore Airlines in third.

Other notable performers include STARLUX Airlines, which has rapidly emerged as a premium competitor, and New York-based JetBlue and

Poland's LOT, which moved from the hybrid to full-service category due to their expanded onboard offerings.

Top five full-service airlines 2026 in order: Qatar Airways, Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines, Korean Air, and STARLUX Airlines.



Hybrid airlines

Lufthansa leads the hybrid category, combining low-cost short-haul routes with premium long-haul experiences, including its award-winning Allegris business class seats. Other major carriers in the hybrid segment include WestJet, Virgin Australia, Delta, and United Airlines.

Top five Hybrid airlines 2026 in order: Lufthansa, WestJet, Virgin Australia, Delta Air Lines, and United Airlines.

Low-cost airlines

HK Express has claimed the title of World's Best Low-Cost Carrier, recognized for its outstanding cabin crew and highly praised onboard menu. Jetstar and AirAsia Group followed closely, noted for inflight entertainment and connectivity innovations.

Top five low-cost carriers 2026: HK Express, Jetstar, AirAsia Group, AirBaltic, and Scoot.

Vietjet Air was also named the World's Best Ultra-Low-Cost Carrier, with Wizz Air Group in second place. Jetstar Airways earned the accolade for World's Best Low-Cost Long-Haul Airline.

Specialty awards

- World's Best Regional Airline: Porter Airlines - noted for no-middle-seat layouts, free Wi-Fi, and complimentary beer and wine on board.
- World's Best Branded Cargo Operations: Cathay Cargo - recognized for its global network and specialized freight solutions.
- World's Best Airport: Singapore Changi Airport - celebrated for operational excellence, connectivity, and passenger experience.