

Singapore Airlines redefining luxury in skies with First Class

- A Monitor Report

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Singapore : When it comes to redefining luxury air travel, few names command as much respect as Singapore Airlines (SIA). In 2025, the carrier once again claimed the title of World's Best First Class Airline at the SKYTRAX World Airline Awards, reaffirming its long-standing dominance in premium service and design.

For decades, SIA has been synonymous with refinement and innovation. From introducing one of the first flat beds in the sky to offering private suites on the Airbus A380, the airline has continually pushed the boundaries of what first class can be.

Legacy of luxury

The concept of first class has evolved dramatically since the early days of aviation, but SIA has consistently stayed ahead of the curve. When

the airline introduced its A380 Suites in 2007, it changed the conversation about luxury flying altogether. These were not just seats - they were private sanctuaries in the sky.

Each suite came with a large, fully reclining leather chair, a separate bed, and sliding doors that ensured total privacy. Couples traveling together could even combine adjoining suites to create a double bed, something unheard of at the time. Designed by French yacht designer Jean-Jacques Coste, the original suites were as much about craftsmanship as they were about comfort.

Even as other airlines added bars and showers to their A380s, Singapore Airlines deliberately chose elegance over excess. "Customers value privacy, comfort, and space above everything else," the airline said when the product was first unveiled. That philosophy remains at the heart of its service today.

2017 reinvention

A decade later, in 2017, SIA introduced a complete redesign of its A380 First Class cabins-this time with only six suites instead of twelve. The decision reflected a growing focus on exclusivity and space.

Each suite now features a large swivel chair that can rotate up to 270 degrees, a separate full-size bed positioned by the window, and a 32-inch entertainment screen. The suites occupy the upper deck's forward section, with just three on each side of a central aisle. For couples, adjoining suites (1A and 2A or 1F and 2F) can still be joined to create a shared space.

The cabin also includes two lavish bathrooms for just six passengers, one equipped with a vanity area and large mirrors. The design, crafted by Zodiac Aerospace, represents understated sophistication-clean lines, soft tones, and an abundance of personal space.

Beyond the physical comforts, SIA's hallmark remains its service culture. Cabin crew assigned to First Class receive extra training to anticipate passengers' needs, from converting the bed in under three minutes to orchestrating gourmet meals curated by the airline's International Culinary Panel of renowned chefs.

Flying flagship A380

Today, Singapore Airlines operates 12 Airbus A380s, all featuring the new-generation Suites. The double-deckers primarily serve the airline's busiest long-haul routes, including Singapore-Sydney, London, Frankfurt, Tokyo, and New York.

According to aviation data, the Sydney route remains the A380's busiest, with over 700 flights scheduled in 2025. Each journey offers passengers a glimpse into how the airline continues to blend innovation with tradition.

Even as the A380 approaches two decades of service, it continues to hold a special place in the airline's identity.