

## Kuwait Airways first time sends A330-800neo to New York JFK

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: Beginning on March 15, 2023, Kuwait Airways will deploy the A330-800 to JFK - 6,352 miles (10,223 km) from Kuwait International Airport - for the first time. Running daily, its A330neos have 235 seats in a two-class layout: 32 in business and 203 in economy.

The schedule when the A330 replaces the 777 is as follows, with all times local: Kuwait to JFK: KU117, 08:30-14:55 (13h 25m block time); and JFK to Kuwait: KU118, 19:00-14:00 (+1) (12h).

It will replace the 777-300ER and should improve route performance by reducing trip costs. It will be very much the world's longest A330-800 airport pair and the second longest globally for the A330 generally.

Switching from the three-class 777-300ER means 89 fewer seats per departure (-38 per cent). There is no more first class (eight seats), 87 fewer in business (-30 per cent), but six more in economy (+23 per cent). Using the

A330neo will reduce costs greatly.

Downgauging obviously means far fewer seats to sell, which should theoretically mean less discounting and stronger yields. However, Kuwait Airways' A330-800s do not have crew rest areas, so some business class seats will not be able to be sold, further reducing sellable capacity. It is also possible that it may have a payload restriction en route to JFK, flying into the wind on the long sector.

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