

Business Traveler

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FARM TO PLANE

How plant-based cuisine is revolutionizing in-flight meals



SPORT

Cycling through Scotland with an Olympic champion

Inside the NBA superstar's galaxy of businesses, from wine to entertainment to philanthropy

Wade's World

LOOSE

Which carry-on is best for you?



SHAMIN ABAS
COMMUNICATIONS FOR ULTRA-LUXURY BRANDS



Snooze Control

Air New Zealand launches a new economy-class pod for a refreshing nap

▶ “LIE-FLAT” IS not a term often thrown around in the same sentence as “economy-cabin seats.” But Air New Zealand—the airline that brought you the venerable Skycouch—is introducing a new economy-cabin sleep-pod concept to long-haul flights starting in 2024. Enter the Skynest.

While it is not a seat per se, it is a possible solution for many economy-seat woes. The Skynest is a work in progress that started in 2018 as part of a general evolution in cabin design by Air New Zealand that will include a new Business Premier Luxe suite, a Business Premier seat and an enhanced economy seat with more storage, added body space and a much larger screen (with enhanced technology) for entertainment. The economy areas will see new Sky Pantries with DIY



Air New Zealand's new Skynest sleep pods

snacks and libations that passengers can enjoy as desired. Stretching one's legs will soon include heading to a bunk compartment where back-of-the-plane travelers can lie down comfortably and catch a nap in a private pod.

The Skynest could be a prop out of a *Mission to Mars* action drama. Each of the six compartments extends approximately 6.5 feet in length and nearly two feet in width. Each pod includes a full-size pillow, sheets and blanket, earplugs and lighting designed for sleep.

Air New Zealand started on this path more than a decade ago with the introduction of the Skycouch. That economy-cabin seat design involves footrests that can be raised individually or across the row to create an even platform for sleeping or entertaining little ones. But it means booking the row, although without paying full rate for three seats. A quick scan of pricing from Los Angeles to Auckland added \$1,400 each way for the Skycouch option, making it competitive with an upgrade to Business Premier, but useful if that class is sold out.

The airline has not committed to price points for the Skynest amenity, nor inked a location for these bunks. It has noted that the beds will be rented in four-hour segments. Air New Zealand's longest flight, New York to Auckland, will launch in September and clock in at 17 and a half hours, allowing for a maximum of 24 passengers to enjoy some private time in one of the six pods. Air New Zealand will reconfigure its Boeing 787s arriving in 2024 to include Skynests.

SAVE THESE DATES September's must-attend events

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The Armory Show

New York City

• One of the largest art fairs in the country returns to the Javits Center. Visit booths from more than 240 global galleries, including powerhouses David Zwirner and Marlborough. Through September 11. thearmoryshow.com

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The Bridge at Topping Rose House

Bridgehampton, New York

• This brunch, hosted by automotive club The Bridge, invites the public to enjoy bites provided by chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, surrounded by an exhibition of classic cars. thebridgehamptons.com

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C2 Montréal: Commerce + Creativity

• The immersive conference brings together business innovators, industry disruptors and next-generation thinkers. Dubbed “the Davos of Creativity,” the event allows companies and brands to learn about emerging trends and the future of the business sector. c2montreal.com

