

Abu Dhabi bound

Expect signature Etihad service on a Dreamliner flight from Sydney to Abu Dhabi, where comfort is key, writes Emily McAuliffe.

Flyer: Emily McAuliffe

Airline: Etihad

Class: Business

Route: Sydney-Abu Dhabi

Code: EY450

Duration: 14 hours 40 minutes

Aircraft: Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner

Seat: 6D

The cabin

The Dreamliner has 28 business class seats in a one-two-one configuration. I'm prone to motion sickness, but seated in 6D – a middle, rear-facing seat – I needn't worry as the taxi, take-off and landing were smooth. A separation screen can be raised between the two middle seats, and some window seats have a slide panel for privacy.

The seat

The 205-centimetre bed fully reclines, and the seat slides forward, so you can reach the footrest when seated. The seat cushion can be adjusted for firmness, and there is a gentle massage function for the ultimate in relaxation. The storage compartment next to the seat fits a book, water bottle and other loose items, and there is additional storage under the footrest.

The service

Check-in at Sydney airport was swift and hassle-free. Once aboard, the cabin manager introduced himself, and a glass of Duval-Leroy Brut Reserve champagne was promptly poured. Staff are all pleasant and responsive.

The entertainment

The E-Box entertainment system includes 220 movies, eight live TV channels and a range of television shows and Android games. Magazines can be read via an eLibrary. All are accessed through an 46-centimetre touch screen, and each seat comes with noise-cancelling headphones and two USB ports.

The drinks list

The beverage list included champagne and wine sourced from France, Italy, South Africa and New Zealand. Spirits and apéritifs included Glenlivet Master Distiller's Reserve single malt whisky and Caorunn Small Batch Scottish gin.



The dining

I travelled during Ramadan, when Emirati chef Khaled Alsaadi had created a new menu in partnership with Etihad. The meat of the smoked duck breast (entrée) and braised beef short rib (main) were flavoursome and tender.

The amenities

Guests receive a stylish Acqua di Parma bag with hand cream, a toothbrush, socks and an eye mask, along with a wellness pack including sanitiser and a snood face mask, which is comfortable for sleeping.

The baggage

There is a generous baggage allowance of 40 kilograms, plus one 12-kilogram cabin bag and a five-kilogram personal item.

The glam factor

Before taking off, champagne is served. White tablecloths are laid for dining, served with silver cutlery. Top-shelf spirits and fine wines are offered. Your seat has settings for increased comfort, from adjusting the firmness to a gentle massage to ease you into relaxation mode. Expect signature Etihad service and a myriad entertainment options. Carefully curated amenities will ensure you arrive feeling fresh, prepared to unpack and dive straight into your escape.

The checklist

Lounge Yes

Pyjamas No

Chauffeur service Yes (Mercedes-Benz)

Amenities Acqua di Parma

Signature champagne Duval-Leroy

Brut Reserve

etihad.com



The ultimate rewards

It's been a long time in the making, but Singapore Airlines has announced that Business Reward seats will resume for Velocity Frequent Flyer members. This means you can use your saved Velocity Points on Singapore Airlines flights, as well as with partners like Virgin Atlantic, Air Canada, Etihad Airways, Hawaiian Airlines and South African Airlines. Happy spending. singaporeair.com



Kangaroo Route returns

British Airways has recommenced services to Sydney, after almost two years since the airline was forced to suspend its popular 'Kangaroo Route'. The journey between London and Australia's largest city takes in a familiar stopover at Singapore's Changi Airport, aboard a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner. britishairways.com

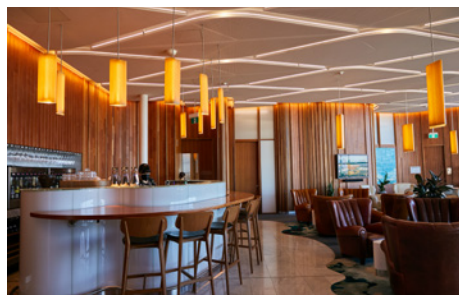
Aman for all seasons

An extension of the Aman resort philosophy, the Aman Private Jet is an intimate, personally tailored experience where every element is bespoke to the passenger's wishes. Aman concierges can create exclusive private jet itineraries for up to 12 guests, perfect for group, family or corporate travel and catering to both short and long-haul trips, as well as multi-destination itineraries. Guests can fly between Aman properties, return home or jet off to other destinations. Until 31 March 2024, Aman's curated 'Amanpuri to Amansara' journey explores Southeast Asia, visiting Thailand and Cambodia in serious style. Flights are on a Bombardier Global 5000, one of the world's most luxurious and spacious personal aircraft, and accommodation is in the brand's luxe resorts. aman.com



South Australia in the spotlight

Qatar Airways is now operating a route from Adelaide to Auckland as an extension of the current service between Doha and Adelaide. The connection runs three times a week. The new route takes the carrier's weekly quotient of Australian flights to 34, including Qatar's recently doubled Brisbane service (now operating seven flights per week) as well as its expansion into Perth. qatar.com



Virgin's revamp for VVIPs

Virgin Australia has unveiled its invitation-only, private lounges in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Reserved for corporate partners, high-status Velocity Frequent Flyer members and VVIPs, access to the Beyond Lounges is through discreet doors in a location only members know. The lounges have been designed for comfort, with plush armchairs and secluded privacy pods. virginaustralia.com



Canada calling

Air Canada is rolling out its expansion plans into the South Pacific. Sydney to Vancouver flights ramp up to daily beginning early May, Brisbane to Vancouver flights resume from 3 July (four times weekly), and Auckland to Vancouver flights resume 12 November (three weekly). There is no requirement to collect or recheck baggage when transiting beyond Vancouver. aircanada.com