

# Air New Zealand named world's best airline for third year in a row (but British Airways drops out of the top 10)

- Airline won because of its environmental commitment and motivating staff
- Australian carrier Qantas came second after rising two spots since 2014
- Virgin Australia were awarded best cabin crew for the second year running

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Air New Zealand has been named the best airline in the world for the third consecutive year. The Auckland-based airline received the award from [AirlineRatings.com](#) - a website that rates carriers on safety and in-flight experience - beating the likes of Qantas, Etihad Airways and Virgin Atlantic. Australian flag carrier [Qantas Airways](#) rose two spots to second after coming in fourth last year, while Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways rounded out the top three.



Air New Zealand was named best airline for the third time (pictured: its three-seat economy Skycouch)

## THE TOP 10 AIRLINES IN THE WORLD

1. Air New Zealand
2. Qantas
3. Etihad
4. Cathay Pacific
5. Singapore Airlines
6. Emirates
7. EVA Air
8. Virgin Atlantic/Australia
9. All Nippon Airways
10. Lufthansa

Source: AirlineRatings.com

Hong-Kong based Cathay Pacific Airways was named fourth best airline, followed by Singapore Airlines in fifth and Emirates in sixth.

Taiwan's EVA Air, Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Australia, Japan's All Nippon Airways and Cologne-based Lufthansa were all also in the top ten.

British Airways was dropped from last year's tenth place position and did not make this year's list.

AirlineRatings.com, based in Australia, said it chose Air New Zealand because of its environmental commitment, record-breaking financial performance, motivational staff and operational safety.

The airline also won the website's awards for best premium and best economy classes.

Etihad Airways took home the title for the best first class, Singapore Airlines won best business class and best cabin crew was awarded to Virgin Australia along with partner airline Virgin Atlantic.

## Air New Zealand: The story of 'Where to next?'

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Etihad's award-winning first class features individual private 'apartments' for passengers on its A380 aircraft

The winners in the best low-cost category were Virgin America (Americas), Scoot (Asia/Pacific), Kulula.com (Middle-East/Africa) and Norwegian (Europe).

Etihad (Middle East/Africa), Cathay Pacific (Asia/Pacific), Lufthansa (Europe) and Delta Air Lines (Americas) were named the top long-haul carriers.

Virgin Australia/Atlantic claimed bragging rights for best cabin crew.

Air New Zealand Chief Executive Officer Christopher Luxon credited the airline's staff for its best airline award. He said in a statement: 'None of this would be possible without the contribution of our 10,500 employees globally who turn up every day with the most fantastic attitude and the passion for making Air New Zealand a truly great company.'



Winner: Air New Zealand also won awards for having the best premium and best economy classes  
Endorsed by the International Civil Aviation Organization, AirlineRatings.com rates the safety and in-flight product of 450 airlines using a seven-star rating system.  
AirlineRatings.com Editor-in-Chief Geoffrey Thomas said: 'Air New Zealand's focus on its staff has resulted in outstanding performance right across the airline at every touch point.  
'The innovation at Air New Zealand continues to dazzle and the airline has rolled out some stunning new technology including innovative tracking of unaccompanied children and a wonderful App to get you a perfect cup of coffee before your flight.'

## **WORLD'S BEST AIRLINES FOR 2016**

Airline of the Year: Air New Zealand  
Best First Class: Etihad Airways  
Best Business Class: Singapore Airlines  
Best Premium Economy: Air New Zealand  
Best Economy: Air New Zealand  
Best Low Cost Airlines: Virgin America (The Americas), Scoot (Asia/Pacific), Kulula.com (Middle-East/Africa) and Norwegian (Europe)  
Best Lounges: Qantas  
Best Catering: Qantas  
Best In-Flight Entertainment: Singapore Airlines  
Best Domestic Class: Qantas  
Best New World Carrier: Virgin Australia  
Best Cabin Crew: Virgin Australia/Virgin Atlantic  
Best Long-Haul Airline: Etihad (Middle East/Africa), Cathay Pacific Airways (Asia/Pacific), Lufthansa (Europe) and Delta Air Lines (The Americas)  
Source: AirlineRatings.com

Read more: [http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel\\_news/article-3340793/Air-New-Zealand-named-world-s-best-airline-year-row-British-Airways-drops-10.html#ixzz3tdZoHgPI](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel_news/article-3340793/Air-New-Zealand-named-world-s-best-airline-year-row-British-Airways-drops-10.html#ixzz3tdZoHgPI)

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