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# Flight Review: Helsinki to Bangkok in Finnair's New Business Class (Part 2)

Where: Helsinki, Finland

June 6, 2013 at 4:20 PM | by [JasonD](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)



Having [talked](#) you through the basics of our time in **Finnair's** latest business class, we're finishing up today with more on the **airport experience, seat comfort, and in-flight service** during our two, 11-hour runs between Helsinki-Vantaa and Bangkok-Suvarnabhumi airports.

## Airport experience

Helsinki's Vantaa airport must be one of the easiest in Europe for passengers rushing to a connecting flight, with a minimum time required between flights of about 30-40 minutes. The business class lounge, however, is not one with which we're super impressed, owing to the fact it's one large open space that's often so crowded you can barely find a seat. If you do magically have your choice of seats, head for the recliners facing the windows. There are at least shower facilities if you want to freshen up before catching your next flight.

### Gallery: **Onboard Finnair's latest business class**



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Bangkok Suvarnabhumi (which we recently [compared](#) to its predecessor Don Mueang) is a sprawling multi-wing affair that will take you some time to get through. Walking off our flight, we were met by a printed list of business class passenger names and two airport attendants who were handing out **premium lane vouchers to speed through immigration**. At the time the Finnair flight departs, the normal Oneworld lounges are closed, but you're given access to the CIP lounge instead. There are decent seating areas, a few workstations and free WiFi, but breakfast options were uninspiring.

Both flights had priority boarding, which worked like a charm in cutting right through the gate area and walking on the plane.



## Seat comfort

We had **window seat 4L** on the overnight flight, which had a massive armrest/table separating it from the aisle. The seat is comfortable when upright, and reclines to lounge as you like. There is a magazine rack on the back of the seat in front of you and some stowage in the armrest, including a power outlet. A separate cubby at floor level is perfect for storing your shoes.

The **big advantage** of these seats compared to the product Finnair features on some of its A340 planes is that **they recline to fully flat beds**. You slide underneath the armrest/table of the seat in front of you. With our 6'4" frame, we were able to stretch out just fine. The shell of the seat, and the armrest between the seat and the aisle ensure privacy and give a great sense of being sheltered when sleeping.

We would say that because your feet and lower legs disappear underneath the armrest, it's not that easy (again depending on your height) to raise your knees. Sleeping on our side was very comfortable though.

On the **day flight we opted for seat 2A**, one of the so-called 'throne' seats, which was an even better choice. With armrests on either side, it's by far the best for solo travelers. It offers tons of space, with two easy places to spread out your belongings. It was a perfect place to relax, watch some TV, and do a bit of work, making the 11 hours fly by.





## In-flight service

Service was **polite and efficient, in a very Nordic no-nonsense way**. As part of Finnair's efforts to be environmentally friendly, you are only provided with socks, eye shades, and earplugs in a small recycled paper bag. **All other amenities are on request**; some might find this disappointing in business class, but it didn't bother us.

The IFE screen is not one of the largest we've seen, but the noise-cancelling headphones did a good job of shutting out engine and cabin sound. While there was a decent selection of TV episodes, the movie selection was quite limited, with few new titles, and nowhere near what you might find on some of the latest IFE technology. If you are looking for a lot of content, bring your own.




Meals on the outbound consisted of a three-course dinner served after take-off and breakfast before arrival. The starter was a Finnish platter with delicious chanterelle soup. As a main, we had chicken with Singapore-style peanut butter sauce, which was tasty if not particularly memorable. We skipped dessert and had a cup of tea. The day flight started with a three-course lunch and ended with a 'light meal.' The food—including the beef, which usually on a plane can be badly overcooked—was good and nicely presented. We didn't drink on either flight, but there was a decent selection of wines available.

## Verdict

Overall, we were **pleased as punch with our first Finnair experience**. Yes, ideally we'd prefer a direct flight; especially on the way home getting off a long-haul leg and still having to do a 3-hour hop to London adds a bit to the journey. But if it gives us the option to fly business class for a fraction of the cost and throws in a nice chunk of qualifying points, we're game. In terms of value for money, it couldn't be beat, and the seat, especially if in one of the 'throne' seats, is one of the better ones we've flown on in a while. We'll be back.

*Check out [Part 1 of our review](#), where we detail why we chose Finnair, what seat you should choose, and overall first impressions.*

*[Photos: JasonD for Jaunted]*

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