

Finnair unveils Airbus A350 interior, inaugural routes

TODAY IN THE SKY  Ben Mutzabaugh, USA TODAY 2:20 p.m. EDT August 13, 2014



(Photo: Finnair)

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Finnair has become one of the first carriers to [unveil what the interiors](#) of its new Airbus A350XWB widebody jets will look like.

Finnair, [which describes the A350](#) as its "new flagship long-haul aircraft," also detailed its first A350 destinations: Shanghai, Bangkok and Beijing. The airline is projected to take delivery of its first A350 next year.

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Finnair will configure its A350s with 297 seats, including 46 in business class that will be arranged in a 1-2-1 layout with direct aisle access for each. Each seat converts to a full-flat bed and has a 16-inch touch-screen in-flight entertainment system in addition to AC and USB power outlets.

TODAY IN THE SKY: [Airbus shows off A350 cabin for the first time](#)
ARCHIVES: [Airbus test-flies A350 to rival 787 Dreamliner](#) (photos too)
MORE: [Airbus plans to deliver A350 by end of year](#)
FINNAIR: [Airbus A350 images](#)

Seats in Finnair's main economy cabin will be arranged in a 3-3-3- layout. The Zodiac Z300 slim-line seats will have 31-inch seat pitch. At the front of its economy section, Finnair will offer 43 Economy Comfort seats [that it says](#) come with "comfier headrests, high-quality headphones and four extra inches of leg room." All of the coach seats on Finnair's A350s will have an 11-inch touch screen inflight entertainment system and USB power outlets.

All Finnair A350s will be equipped to offer Wi-Fi.



Finnair will use these Zodiac Z300 slim-line seats with a 6" recline in the coach class section of its new Airbus A350 aircraft. (Photo: Finnair)

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"Since Finnair's founding in 1923, we have had a long history of operations using the most advanced aircraft available," Finnair CEO Pekka Vauramo says in a [statement](#). "As the first European operator of the A350, we are proud to carry forward this tradition on behalf of our passengers, whose safety and comfort remain our first priority."

Finnair expects to put its A350 into commercial service during "the second half of next year, initially serving Shanghai, Bangkok and Beijing." The airline says A350 service to Hong Kong and Singapore will be added in 2016.

All told, Finnair has 11 A350s on order with options for 8 more. [The carrier says](#) the aircraft "will form the backbone of the company's long-haul fleet and drive expansion plans."

The A350, of course, is [the newest commercial passenger aircraft to be made by European jetmaker Airbus](#). The jet, more than half of which will be made from carbon fibers, is set to be delivered to launch customer Qatar Airways [by the end of 2014](#).

The A350 – along with Airbus' [recently announced update to its A330 widebody](#) – is expected to help Airbus ratchet up competition against Boeing in the long-haul market, where Boeing's 777 and 787 "Dreamliner" models have enjoyed strong sales.

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