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1,000 pilots go on strike, forcing Scandinavian Airlines to cancel hundreds of flights

trains@insider.com (Taylor Rains) - Monday



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A Scandinavian Airlines plane. Shutterstock



- Scandinavian Airlines pilots have gone on strike after pay negotiations 1 Feedback

SAS said.

- The decision to strike was labeled "devastating" and "reckless" by the CEO, Anko van der Werff.



©Air New Zealand

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An airline plans to install bunk beds and couches in economy class to help to boost comfort on long-haul flights

- Air New Zealand plans to equip eight Boeing 787 Dreamliner jets with bunk beds and couches by 2024.
- "Skynests" will be available to economy passengers flying on ultra long-haul flights, per the airline.
- The airline will begin non-stop flights between Auckland and New York in September.

Anyone used to flying economy class will know that comfort and the possibility of a decent night's sleep often comes at a premium. But one airline is looking to change that.

Air New Zealand [announced](#) on Tuesday that it planned to equip eight Boeing 787 Dreamliner jets with bunk beds and couches by 2024.

The airline claims it is the first carrier to put sleep pods on a plane. It is the first to offer economy passengers – those paying the cheapest ticket prices – the option.

Ultra long-haul flights are generally deemed to be non-stop journeys of more than 16 hours.

In September, Air New Zealand will begin non-stop flights between Auckland and New York, lasting more than 17 hours, per [Bloomberg](#). From 2025, [Qantas, its Australian challenger, plans to launch a non-stop service between Sydney, New York, and London](#), with journeys lasting up to 20 hours.

"New Zealand's location puts us in a unique position to lead on the ultra long-haul travel experience," said Air New Zealand CEO Greg Foran, in a release on the company website. He added that the company had "zeroed in" on sleep and comfort, and designed the pods after hearing customer feedback.

"It's going to be a real game changer for the economy travel experience," Foran said in the press release.

The plans are yet to receive regulatory approval, per [Traveller](#). They have been announced as part of a wider suite of changes to premium, business and regular economy classes.

Take a look at the plans.

Read the original article on [Business Insider](#)



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SAS and its pilots had been in [talks](#) over pay and working conditions since June 9 and the pilots' union warned of a strike if a deal was not reached.

However, negotiations reached a stalemate and 1,000 pilots in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden have walked off the job, forcing the airline to cancel about half its flights, [the company said](#). About 30,000 passengers a day will be affected.

"We deeply regret that our customers are affected by this strike, leading to delays and

canceled flights," SAS said.

"We know all our passengers have been longing for this summer holiday and have booked travels for themselves and their loved ones. SAS employees are working hard to help our customers that have been affected by this unfortunate situation."

Related video: Airline SAS warns survival at stake as pilot strike grounds flights

The airline's chief executive, Anko van der Werff, called the move "reckless behavior" & "devastating for SAS."



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an agreement that is viable to secure the long-term competitiveness and financial sustainability of the company," he said. "We presume that the SAS Scandinavia pilots' unions realize what is at stake and choose to continue the work to find an agreement."

Some 174 SAS flights, or 52% of its schedule, have been canceled, [according to FlightAware data](#).

The airline said any flights operated by SAS Link, SAS Connect, and any "external partners" will not be affected.

For affected customers who cannot be moved to a flight with another airline can request a refund or move their trip to a later date. SAS said rebooking on a different flight was "highly limited" due to limited availability.

SAS is the first major airline to face strike action since the pandemic as carriers focus on recovering after years of financial struggles, [Reuters reported](#).

Scandinavian has embarked on a \$3 billion restructuring plan, [according to Bloomberg](#), and the strike is another setback.

In 2019, [SAS pilots walked out over failed pay negotiations](#), leading to nearly 700 flights being canceled.

SAS' pilot strike comes as the industry continues to battle booming demand and pilot shortages.

In the US, [hundreds of Delta Air Lines pilots picketed outside hub airports](#) on Thursday. Meanwhile, [European low-cost carrier easyJet saw its chief operating officer resign](#) on Monday over mass flight cancellations and delays this summer.

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