



AIR INDIA WELCOMES ITS FIRST RETROFITTED B787 FEATURING NEW CABIN INTERIORS AND LIVERY

News / Airlines



Air India unveiled its first retrofitted, twin-aisle B787-8 (registered VT-ANT), marking the successful completion of a nose-to-tail cabin refresh of the first of 26 B787 aircraft. The aircraft, which received comprehensive interior upgrades at Boeing's Modification Center in Victorville, California, was subsequently painted in Air India's striking new livery at AeroPro, an FAA Part-145 certified aircraft paint facility in San Bernardino, California.

Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India, commented: "This is a yet another proud milestone in our transformation journey as we welcome this transformed legacy B787 aircraft as a shining beacon of the new Air India. The retrofit of our first widebody aircraft is a visible symbol of the momentum behind Air India's transformation. With 25 other 787s undergoing this comprehensive refresh, we are rapidly modernising the backbone of our long-haul fleet and raising the bar for customers flying between India and the world."

Refreshed cabins, upgraded experience

As part of the retrofit, the aircraft interiors were completely reconfigured, transforming it from a two-class layout previously to a modern three-class configuration now with the installation of brand-new seats and inflight entertainment (IFE) system, and bringing the aircraft in line with Air India's

latest widebody product standards, as seen on its new bespoke Boeing 787-9 inducted in January 2026.

The first B787 took close to 12,825 manhours over 45 days for the retrofit, as teams progressed through a tightly choreographed workflow - from stripping out the legacy interiors to reconfiguring the cabins, installing new seats, carpets, wall laminates, overhauling galleys, lavatories, and rigorously testing the new seating and cabin components.



Refurbishing the first aircraft required a total of:

- 475 metres of fabric for new seats across cabins
- 167 metres of synthetic leather
- 169 metres of carpet
- 646 litres of paint

The aircraft exterior received a complete makeover as well, with a 20?member specialist team dedicating over 5,700 hours over 18 days to strip the old livery and meticulously apply the new Air India colours.



These custom-styled cabins now feature:

- 20 luxurious private suites in Business Class in a 1-2-1 layout, each offering privacy sliding doors, direct aisle access, 42-inch of pitch, fully flat 79-inch bed, 17-inch 4K QLED HDR touchscreen, multiple charging options, a softly lit cubby, vanity mirror, headphone hook, and a *jaali*-inspired feature lamp.
- 25 Premium Economy seats in a 2-3-2 layout, each offering enhanced privacy, 38-inch pitch, 7-inch recline, 6-way headrest, calf and leg rest, 13.3-inch 4K QLED HDR screens, Type A and C fast charging ports, and a bottle holder for added convenience.
- 205 Economy Class seats in a 3-3-3 layout, each ergonomically optimised, offering 31/32-inch pitch, 5-inch recline, 11.6-inch 4K QLED HDR touchscreen, and Type A and C charging ports.

Additional enhancements across cabins encompass new carpets and curtains, new wall laminates, galley overhauls, refresh of all lavatories, replacement or refurbishment of overhead bin panels, installation of a new Cabin Service System, and an updated Crew Application Panel interface.

The cabins feature customised versions of the Elevate Ascent seat in Business Class and RECARO PL3530 and CL3710 seats in Premium Economy and Economy Class, respectively. All seats are equipped with Thales' state-of-the-art AVANT Up inflight entertainment (IFE) system.



Progress of retrofit programme

Air India will be retrofitting 25 additional B787 aircraft over the next year, two of which are already undergoing the process, as part of a US\$400 million investment to modernise the airline's legacy fleet. The B787 retrofit programme has been jointly conceptualised and executed with Boeing, ensuring the highest standards of quality and safety in the aircraft and throughout the process.

Upon full completion of the B787 retrofit program by 2027, Air India aims to significantly upgrade the onboard product and passenger experience on over 300 flights per week to destinations across the United Kingdom, Europe, and Australia. Air India will subsequently retrofit 13 of its legacy B777-300ER aircraft.

This initiative forms a key part of Air India's broader fleet modernisation efforts, delivering elevated comfort, privacy, and entertainment options while reinforcing the airline's position as a premium global carrier.



19 APRIL 2026

ARTICLE LINK:

<https://50skyshades.com/news/airlines/air-india-welcomes-its-first-retrofitted-b787-featuring-new-cabin-interiors-and-livery>