

Top Airport Lounges In The World

Whether you're traveling to the snowcaps of northern Europe or a tropical beach resort down-under, you want to soak in all the luxury you possibly can. So why not make your journey as indulgent as the final destination? These airport lounges are known for being the best in the world, based on exclusivity, accommodations and all around lavish amenities. Take a look for yourself- with lounges like these you won't ever want to leave.

1. Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse- John F. Kennedy International Airport:

This busy NYC hub welcomes millions of travelers flying in and out every day. Amidst all of this hustle and bustle you'll find the Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse, a place for frequent flyers to kick back and relax while they wait for their next flight. Having been described as "oozing uptown style and sensibilities," this lounge features a fully equipped bar, restaurant, spa and body size wall cavities to grab a bite, unwind or take a quick nap. Enjoy a drink in the cocktail bar or soak up some entertainment on the famous red ball sofa. This clubhouse is exclusively available to Flying Co. members and upper class flyers with at least 10,000 miles- so get flying! Invitations may also be purchased if you have enough miles but are choosing to fly economy.

Location: Terminal 4 in the A-Concourse above gates A4 and A5
Hours of operation: 24 hours, 7 days a week

2. The Pier- Hong Kong International Airport:

The Pier is Cathay Pacific's premiere lounge, open to first class and business passengers. Fully equipped with a Noodle Bar, Coffee Loft and Long Bar, as well as self-serve refreshments, there's no shortage of delicious food for your consumption here. Indulge yourself- it will be worth it! If you're more in the mood to unwind and perhaps rinse off some of that travel grime, the private shower suites are the perfect place to freshen up. Each comes with complementary toiletries and, my favorite, rainfall showerhead options. Having just had renovations in 2013 and again in 2015 to its many design elements, The Pier features an open-air design, made from natural elements, which lend to a very relaxing atmosphere. Business class passengers travelling on a Oneworld operated flight have access to this experience, as well as Oneworld Sapphire and Emerald members.

Location: Gate 63 in the North West concourse
Hours of operation: 6 a.m.- last departure

3. The Concorde Room- London Heathrow Airport:

The "epitome of elegance," this airport lounge is modeled after 5-star hotels. Need I say more? Where else will you find chandeliers glistening above you before boarding your plane? Private dining booth and cabanas allow for a completely personal experience while you unwind and wait for your next flight. Cabanas include a lounge chair, flat

screen TV, work desk and bathroom complete with shower and massage jets, allowing you to forgo having to travel to a separate “shower room.” A food menu and room service is available, although there is also the option to grab a bite at the very accommodating dining area. With plush velvet and leather sofas and luxurious artwork, its no surprise that this lounge is open only to Silver and Gold Executive Club members on a flight operated by British Airways or one of its partners.

Location: Terminal 5

Hours of operation: First departure- last departure

4. Lufthansa First Class Lounge- Frankfurt Airport

The classiest of high class, this airport lounge is harder to get into than many others. Open only to first class passengers and HON Circle Members you will find fine dining, luxury service, private suites and a high-end restaurant and bar serving over 80 different types of whiskey. Still not enough? Enjoy a complementary cigar in the Cigar Lounge along with your glass of whiskey. No worries, this room is self-contained, leaving the rest of the lounge smoke-free. Enjoy a spa treatment ranging anywhere from 15-90 minutes or relax in your own private bathroom with your very own monsoon shower and pick up a collectible rubber duck as a token of your stay. The epitome of exclusivity, Lufthansa even offers Porsche rentals to travelers who have a long layover through their partnership with Avis. Talk about amazing. When you’re finally ready to board, enjoy a ride to your plane by Mercedes or Porsche limousine- luxury from start to finish.

Location: Terminal 1

Hours of operation: 5:15 a.m. – 10 p.m.

5. Qantas First Class Lounge- Sydney International Airport

Voted best airport lounge of 2015 by The Design Air, if you’re traveling into Australia, this is the place you hope your layover will take you. Enjoy 180-degree views across both Sydney and Botany Bay from your spot on one of any Italian leather lounge chairs. As soon as you walk through the frosted lounge doors you’ll see that the lounge is constructed primarily of marble and wood paneling, giving a very sophisticated yet natural look. You’ll find two small library nooks in the middle of the lounge, aiding as the perfect place to get away. However, if you really feel the urge to escape, book an appointment with the spa and be amazed at the beautiful foliage covered treatment room. If this all sounds amazing to you, you have several options to experience all that Qantas has to offer. Primarily, you must be traveling on your next flight with either Qantas or Emirates First

Class, but you may also be a platinum Qantas frequent flyer, even if you are flying economy, to step foot in the lounge. Travelers are also allowed to bring one guest.

Location: Terminal 3, level 4

Hours of operation: 4 a.m. - last departure

6. CIP Lounge- Istanbul Ataturk International Airport

With its modern theme, the CIP lounge takes an alternative approach to many other airport lounges, keeping to its “plain and sophisticated” style. Staying true to its culture, the dining area provides a unique taste of Turkish dishes not found in other lounges. But the food is only half the fun. Other amenities that can be found in the lounge include a playroom for children, billiard hall, library and business center with internet access, golf simulator, video game consoles, and movie theater. In other words, there’s no lack of entertainment here. However, if your flight has drained you, have no fear- the lounge also offers a peaceful prayer room, indoor garden and private day rooms to clear your head. All this is available for Turkish Airlines’ business class passengers, Miles and Smiles Elite, Elite Plus cardholders and Star Alliance Gold membership cardholders.

Location: International Terminal Departures floor, gate 220

Hours of operation: 5 a.m. - midnight

7. The Centurion Lounge- San Francisco International Airport

The Centurion Lounge is one of the easier lounges to gain access to, but not to take away from the services it offers. Travelers can take advantage of a vast computer bar or one of many private workspaces. Sample a meal made by head chef Cedric Vongerichten, graduate of the prestigious Culinary Institute of America, or test your taste buds with some Napa Valley wine tasting. Cocktails are available beginning at 10:30 in the morning, and in pure Cali fashion, wine is available as early as 6 a.m. So pick up a glass and cozy on in at one of the very retro, colorful couches. Complementary access to this lounge is available for all global American Express platinum card owners and Centurion members, but anyone with an American Express card may access the lounge for a \$50 fee, making the Centurion Lounge a must-visit. Traveling with friends or family? Bring along up to two guests for free!

Location: Terminal 3, near gate 74

Hours of operation: 5 a.m. - 11 p.m.

8. Privium Club Lounge- Schiphol Amsterdam Airport

The Privium Club Lounge is not known for being an “oasis of peace and quiet” for no good reason. The entire lounge is done up in true modern fashion. All white carpeting, walls and furniture screams (okay, whispers) relaxation upon the moment you step foot inside. Kick back within this futuristic interior and sample foods from the complementary buffet, including fresh olives, bread and cheeses as and macaroons and chocolate cake to fix any sweet tooth. If your obsession with hanging bubble chairs is anything like mine, you’re bound to be in for a happy surprise- you can find these hanging from the ceiling

throughout the lounge. Access to the lounge is available to Privium Plus members, and guest vouchers can be purchased for 25 euros each. If you're not already a Privium Plus member but you're feeling some much-needed R&R, you can register on the spot with a valid passport, serving as a very useful option.

Location: Main terminal between departure halls 1 and 2

Hours of operation: 6 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.