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NEXT BIG TRIP

This could be the future of first class airplane travel

John Walton, CNN • Published 29th November 2021



(CNN) — First class is on its way out at many airlines, as business class seats and mini-suites become larger, more private and more luxurious -- and fewer budgets stretch to adding on what might be an extra zero on the price tag for first class.

But it's not going away completely.

Yes, that luxurious international carrier you're thinking of is probably going to keep it going. So is the other one with the famous flight attendant uniform and the big global hub, or the celebrity spokesperson, the soccer sponsorship, and the massive route network connecting you to far-flung reaches of the world.

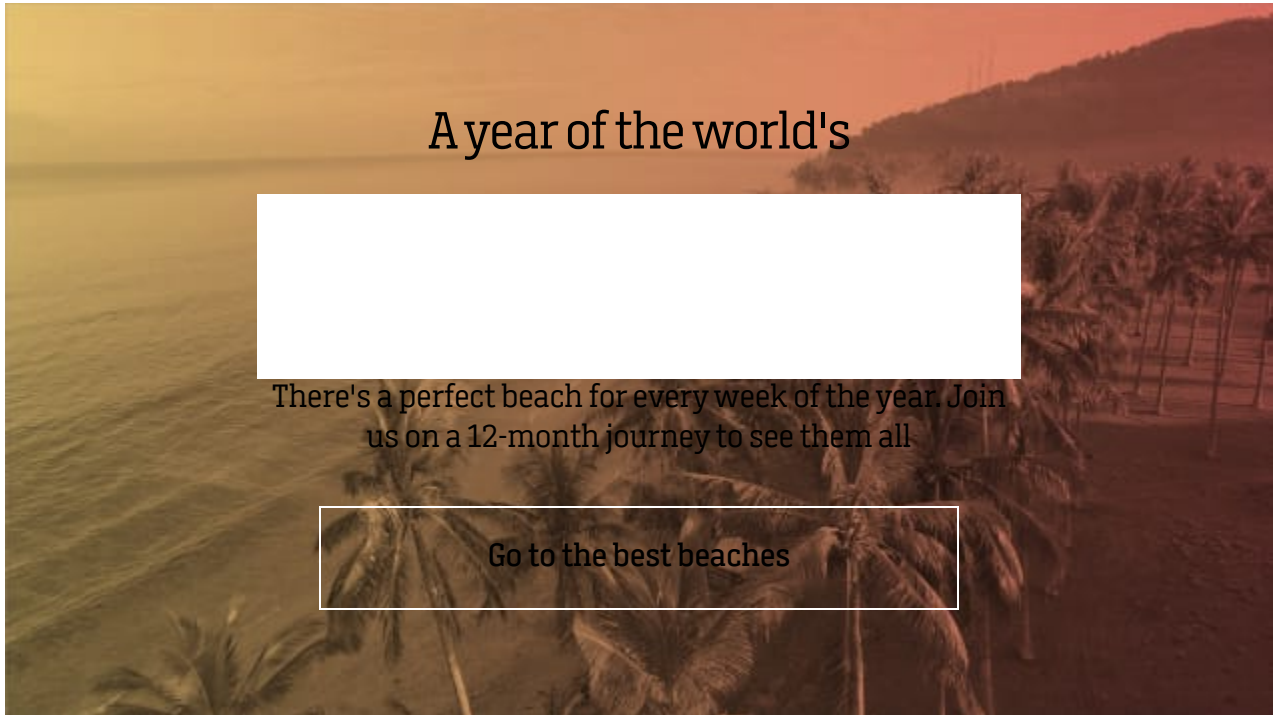
It probably won't look the same though. As smaller premium aircraft replace the A380 and 747 giants of the sky, designers are looking to radically rethink what first class will look like.

So why is first class still going to be a thing? Part of it is what Anthony Harcup, senior director at design house Teague -- which has designed jet cabins in partnership with Boeing all the way back to the 707 -- calls the "halo effect."

"Having a first class cabin has a powerful halo effect -- presenting the airline's

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