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SFO stop planned for biggest jet

EMIRATES AIRLINES PLANS AIRBUS A380 SERVICE

By John Boudreau
Mercury News

Emirates Airlines announced Thursday that it's planning to fly the world's largest passenger airplane to the Bay Area in two to three years.

The Dubai-based company, which begins daily service to San Francisco in November, hopes to tap into the region's

A GIANT OF THE SKIES

Graphic comparing the Airbus A380 with a Boeing 747. **PAGE 4E**

global business travelers and wealthy individuals who frequently travel abroad.

On Aug. 4, Emirates, known for its luxury service, will show off the first fully outfitted Airbus A380 at San Francisco International Air-

port. The plane has 14 first-class suites, 76 business class seats and 399 seats in economy.

The double-decker airplane is 239 feet long with a wingspan of nearly 262 feet, 51 feet wider than a Boeing 747. The A380 can carry up to 840 passengers and 18 tons of cargo.

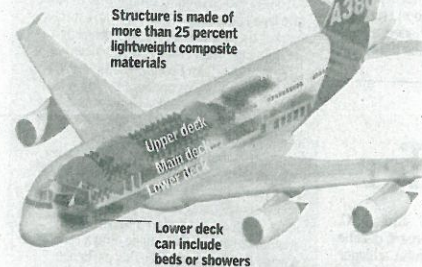
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Sources: ESRI, AP

A giant of the skies

The world's largest passenger airliner, the Airbus A380, boasts two passenger decks and an optional lower deck for a rest area, business center, bar or other amenities. Although the A380 carries more passengers, Airbus claims that the plane has a 15 to 20 percent lower direct operating cost per seat than Boeing's 747-400, the world's most popular jumbo airliner.



Structure is made of more than 25 percent lightweight composite materials

Lower deck can include beds or showers

	BOEING 747-400	AIRBUS A380	A380: 79 ft. 7 in. 747-400: 63 ft. 8 in.
Length	231 ft. 10 in.	239 ft. 3 in.	
Wingspan	211 ft. 5 in.	261 ft. 8 in.	
Seats	416 (524*)	525 (max. 840**)	
Range Fully loaded	8,355 miles	9,445 miles	
Max. fuel capacity	57,285 gallons	81,890 gallons	
Maximum takeoff weight	875,000 pounds	1,234 million pounds	

*Two classes **All economy class
Source: Airbus, Boeing, McClatchy Tribune

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