# Vintage 1970s jet converted into unique glamping retreat in Wales



In an unusual twist on holiday accommodation, a vintage 1970s private jet has been transformed into a unique glamping experience in Dolgellau, Wales. Known as Alaya Airways, this striking conversion showcases the restoration of a Hawker aircraft, which now features a blend of original elements and modern comforts. Over a span of seven months and with an investment of £90,000, owner Tamir Ali, 38, has created an enticing self-catering retreat that appeals to both families and adventurous travellers.

The aircraft, once used as a staff plane by an oil company, retains many of its original features, including the cockpit, which adds a layer of allure for those curious about aviation history. Guests can explore the cockpit at their leisure, enhancing the novelty of their stay. According to Ali, “It’s awesome – when people walk in, they say it’s much bigger than it seems on the outside.” This sentiment underscores the carefully designed interior, which aims to evoke the feel of a comfortable home rather than a traditional holiday let.

The accommodation comprises two bedrooms, with one situated in the main body of the plane and another in an extension that has been cleverly integrated into the design. The bright and modern aesthetics—characterised by wood floors, cream leather seats, and a contemporary kitchen—offer a comfortable environment for guests, all while preserving the nostalgic charm of its aviation roots. The addition of a pet-friendly policy only broadens its appeal, making it an attractive option for families who wish to enjoy a memorable getaway together.

Since its recent listing on Airbnb, Alaya Airways has already enjoyed a soaring occupancy rate of 70%, a figure that suggests the demand for such unique lodging experiences is rising. Guests are drawn not only to the novelty of the setting but also the surrounding beauty of Gwynedd, which offers numerous outdoor activities and stunning landscapes.

Ali's passion for restoring the aircraft stems from a lifelong fascination with planes. He perceived the jet, which he described as "worse for wear" at the time of purchase, as an opportunity to create something special after it was retired from active service. Remarkably, despite its past condition—marked by mould and moss—Ali envisioned a future for it that merged originality with comfort, highlighting an interesting contrast between decay and reinvention.

While Alaya Airways thrives in the market for unique accommodations, the landscape for holiday lets can be decidedly challenging. In a contrasting case, a developer in Dorset faced repeated rejections of his plans to convert a small garage into an Airbnb property, showcasing the hurdles that can accompany property development in desirable areas. As local communities often push back against such proposals, the story of the vintage jet reflects a different trajectory; it reinforces the growing trend for unconventional and original stays that capture the imagination of modern travellers.

As demand for unique experiences continues to grow in the hospitality sector, Tamir Ali's Alaya Airways exemplifies a successful melding of heritage and innovation, offering guests the chance to enjoy something truly distinctive. With its original cockpit and modern conveniences, this unconventional glamping pod not only provides a memorable holiday experience but also serves as a testament to the allure of creative restoration.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6: Sources 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
2. Paragraphs 7, 8: Sources 1, 4, 5, 6
3. Paragraph 9: Sources 2, 3, 4, 6
4. Paragraph 10: Sources 1, 4, 5, 7

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14695803/1970s-private-jet-turned-holiday-home-original-cockpit.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/weird-news/1970s-private-jet-turned-glamping-30312345> - A 1970s private jet has been transformed into a unique glamping experience in Dolgellau, Wales. The vintage Hawker aircraft, now known as Alaya Airways, offers guests the chance to stay in a two-bedroom accommodation with original features, including the cockpit. The conversion took seven months and £90,000, preserving the plane's history while providing modern amenities. The property is pet-friendly and has a 70% occupancy rate, making it a popular choice for families seeking a distinctive stay.
* <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/1970s-private-jet-turned-glamping-30312345> - In Dolgellau, Wales, a 1970s private jet has been converted into a glamping pod named Alaya Airways. The transformation, completed over seven months and costing £90,000, includes original features like the cockpit and modern amenities such as a kitchen and bathroom. The two-bedroom accommodation is pet-friendly and has a 70% occupancy rate, attracting tourists seeking a unique experience. Owner Tamir Ali, 38, purchased the plane in December 2023 and aimed to preserve its history while offering a comfortable stay.
* <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/1970s-private-jet-turned-glamping-30312345> - A 1970s private jet has been transformed into a glamping pod in Dolgellau, Wales. The vintage Hawker aircraft, now called Alaya Airways, offers guests a unique stay with original features like the cockpit and modern amenities. The conversion took seven months and £90,000, and the two-bedroom accommodation is pet-friendly with a 70% occupancy rate. Owner Tamir Ali, 38, purchased the plane in December 2023 and aimed to preserve its history while providing a comfortable experience for guests.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-30312345> - In Dolgellau, Wales, a 1970s private jet has been converted into a glamping pod named Alaya Airways. The transformation, completed over seven months and costing £90,000, includes original features like the cockpit and modern amenities such as a kitchen and bathroom. The two-bedroom accommodation is pet-friendly and has a 70% occupancy rate, attracting tourists seeking a unique experience. Owner Tamir Ali, 38, purchased the plane in December 2023 and aimed to preserve its history while offering a comfortable stay.
* <https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2023-05-11/1970s-private-jet-turned-glamping-pod-in-wales> - A 1970s private jet has been converted into a glamping pod in Dolgellau, Wales. The vintage Hawker aircraft, now known as Alaya Airways, offers guests a unique stay with original features like the cockpit and modern amenities. The conversion took seven months and £90,000, and the two-bedroom accommodation is pet-friendly with a 70% occupancy rate. Owner Tamir Ali, 38, purchased the plane in December 2023 and aimed to preserve its history while providing a comfortable experience for guests.
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