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Families could visit Erebus crash site

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*ONE News*Wreckage from the Erebus crash

Air New Zealand is considering giving three family members of victims of the [Mount Erebus disaster](#) the chance to visit the crash site to mark the 30th anniversary of the accident on November 28.

An Air New Zealand DC10, flight TE 901 smashed into the side of [Mt Erebus](#) on November 28 1979 during an Antarctic scenic flight - killing all 257 on board, 214 were eventually identified.

In the past [family members were not allowed to visit the remote crash site](#) due to logistical difficulties.

However, to mark the upcoming anniversary, Air New Zealand is considering giving a family representative of each of those lost the opportunity to visit the memorial in Antarctica.

It's now proposing that three of those places would be taken by passenger's next-of-kin, with another two places taken by representatives of the cabin and flight crew.

Air New Zealand Deputy Chief Executive Officer Norm Thompson says the airline would like feedback from families on whether they feel it is appropriate for these seats to be filled by next-of-kin.

He says the airline would also like to receive feedback from next-of-kin about whether they would like the opportunity to have messages for loved ones placed in a capsule near the accident site.

[To learn more about the Mt Erebus disaster Click here](#)

NZ icon Sir Edmund Hillary, who died in January 2008, was supposed to be on the ill fated Erebus flight. He had been scheduled to act as a commentator, but had to pull out due to work commitments elsewhere.

His close friend Peter Mulgrew was his replacement.

Perpignan crash

Meanwhile, Air New Zealand is also putting in place plans to mark the first anniversary of the A320 accident off the coast of Perpignan in France on November 28 last year.

"We expect some family and friends of the men lost in the accident to travel to Perpignan where we will hold a service and unveil a memorial plaque. We will also hold an event to thank the search and rescue teams and accident investigators for their tireless efforts. For those who do not to travel to France, an anniversary service will be held in Auckland," Thompson says.

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