

# BA adds high-speed Wi-Fi to first long-haul aircraft

By **Rick Lundstrom** on February, 2 2018 | Inflight Entertainment



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British Airways announced today it is powering some of its long-haul aircraft with high-speed Wi-Fi, with its first three connected aircraft now in service.

The airline will connect 118 of its long haul aircraft over the next two years. Long-haul connectivity is being supplied by Gogo and its 2Ku solution. Passengers will be advised of the availability of Wi-Fi when they board a connected aircraft.

British Airways will provide high-speed bandwidth to passengers, with Internet available approximately 10 minutes after takeoff when the aircraft has passed 10,000 feet. The portal will work with the latest operating systems from Apple, Android and Windows, allowing passengers to connect on a variety of devices. In addition, they will have the ability to stream video content from popular sites such as Netflix and YouTube.

For a limited time, passengers will be able to connect to high speed Wi-Fi and enjoy an hour of free

browsing and streaming, courtesy of Visa.

Passengers will be offered two paid-for Wi-Fi packages including the 'Browse' package, which supports internet surfing, social media and WhatsApp, or the 'Stream' package, which supports streaming of music and entertainment, from the very best online content services, including Netflix. The packages are available to purchase for one hour, four hours or the full flight. Prices for the Browse package begin from £4.99 (US\$7) and Stream from £7.99 (US\$11.27).

Short-haul Wi-Fi is done with Europe's first 4G high-speed air-to-ground network. The European Aviation Network (EAN) high-speed in-flight broadband service is being provided by Inmarsat and partner Deutsche Telekom.

"British Airways has launched its multi-million pound investment plan to benefit its customers with more choice and quality for all," said Carolina Martinoli, British Airways' director of brand and customer experience. "Staying connected is important to our customers who want to be able to work, browse and stream in the air. They can now look forward to enjoying the latest generation Wi-Fi across our long haul fleet over the next two years."