



The Voice of UK Airlines

2009 Seat Pitch

Seat pitch is the distance between a fixed point on a seat to the corresponding point on the seat in front.

The United Kingdom is the only country that has regulations defining the minimum size of passenger seats and the space between seats. These regulations apply to all aircraft registered in the UK. The regulations state that the minimum distance between the front of the back support cushion of a seat and the back of the seat or other fixed structure in front should be 26 inches (660mm). This distance is designed to ensure the rapid and safe evacuation of passengers in an emergency. **This dimension is not the same as seat pitch.** Consideration must also be given to the thickness of the back support and cushion which will vary with the type of seat but is on average about 2 inches (51mm) thick. In practice, the minimum seat pitch necessary to comply with the regulations is 28 inches (711mm).

Long Haul

Standard Seat Pitches (inches)

Airline	Class	
	Economy	Premium Economy
bmi	32	49
British Airways	31	38
Monarch	31	34
Thomas Cook	33	35
Thomson Airways¹	33	36/37
Virgin Atlantic	31	38

'Long haul' typically means flights outside the UK and the rest of the EU/EEA.

More space is provided in Business and First Class cabins.

Short Haul

Standard Seat Pitches (inches)

Airline	Class	
	Economy	Premium
bmibaby	30	-
bmi	32	32
bmi regional	32	-
British Airways	31	34
Flybe	30	-
Monarch	29	34
Thomas Cook	28/30	-
Thomson Airways¹	28/30	33

'Short Haul' typically means flights to the UK and other destinations within the EU/EEA.

Some carriers may operate aircraft with greater seat pitch (more space) in certain classes on 'mid-haul routes' outside of this area, to destinations such as Moscow and North Africa.

¹ Due to the merger of First Choice Airways and Thomsonfly aircraft fleets at the end of 2008 to form Thomson Airways, there can be variation in seat pitch within an aircraft type.

NOTES

- Due to the location of emergency exits, emergency slides, technical equipment, galleys and toilets, there may be some seats on some aircraft with less room than shown above and there are usually some seats with more room. All seats comply with the statutory minimum requirements. If you have any concerns about space, contact the airline or tour operator concerned well before departure.
- These tables are compiled from information supplied by the airlines.
- BATA cannot be held liable for the accuracy of the information contained in the tables above, including guaranteeing that it reflects latest data or developments.
- Please check directly with the relevant airline(s) if you have any queries or wish to confirm current seat pitch(es) on a particular route.
- Last updated **2 September 2009**.