

Seat Pitch

Seat pitch is 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
Astraeus	35	-
bmi	32	38
Britannia Airways	30	35
British Airways	31	38
Excel Airways	30	34
First Choice Airways	33	36
Monarch	30	34
My Travel	30	35
Thomas Cook	30	34
Virgin Atlantic	31	38

'Long Haul' means flights outside the UK, Europe, the Mediterranean, Canaries and Madeira.

More space is provided in Business and First Class cabins.

SHORT HAUL

STANDARD SEAT PITCHES (inches)

Airline	Class	
	Economy	Premium
Astraeus	29	36
bmi	32	32
bmibaby	30	-
Britannia Airways	28	-
British Airways	31	34
British Airways CitiExpress	31	-
Excel Airways	29	-
First Choice Airways	28	33
flybe	31	32
My Travel	28	-
Thomas Cook	28	-
Monarch	29	34

‘Short Haul’ means flights to the UK, Europe, the Mediterranean, Canaries and Madeira.

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.

Last updated 15th April 2005.