

IN-FLIGHT WI-FI IN EUROPE IS STILL RARE AND SLOW



According to a market analysis by the comparison portal Verivox, almost half of the 15 most popular airlines taking off from German airports do not offer in-flight Wi-Fi, not even for a fee. However, it's important to note that many airlines are making significant efforts to provide this service, which instills optimism for future improvements.

These include low-cost and leisure airlines such as Ryanair, Easyjet, Pegasus, Sun Express, and TUifly. Three other airlines offer in-flight Wi-Fi only on selected flights: Condor, Austrian Airlines, and Eurowings. **Larger airlines such as Lufthansa and British Airways offer network access more frequently, but availability depends significantly on the aircraft type and equipment.**

The prices for Wi-Fi above the clouds vary depending on the short-haul or long-haul flight. According to the data, the speed is limited to a maximum of 4 Mbit/s, which is often insufficient for smooth video streaming. Access is much slower and is only sufficient for fluent text message exchange.

Internet access on an airplane is a complex process. Passengers connect via Wi-Fi; the data is transmitted from the aircraft to a satellite, then from the satellite to a ground station, and back again. This intricate process, coupled with the shared network access, often results in a slower connection.

Understanding and considering this shared resource is important, as it can help ensure a smoother experience for everyone and empower travelers to make the most of the service.

Given the limitations of in-flight Wi-Fi, data-intensive applications like streaming music or movies may not work well. However, travelers can take steps to ensure a smooth in-flight entertainment experience.

It's crucial to download movies and music before the flight to avoid slow connections and high Wi-Fi costs on board. **Most major streaming providers offer smartphone and tablet apps that allow users to download a selection of films and music**, which can then be used - sometimes for a limited time - without Internet access. This way, travelers can be reassured that they have a selection of entertainment ready to go, regardless of the in-flight Wi-Fi situation.

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