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American Airlines to Bring Starlink Wi-Fi to More Than 500 Planes Beginning in 2027

American says Starlink will come to more than 500 narrowbody aircraft beginning in Q1 2027, promising faster gate-to-gate connectivity for streaming, browsing, gaming and real-time work on domestic and short-haul international routes.

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American Airlines says it will begin installing Starlink Wi-Fi on more than 500 narrowbody aircraft in the first quarter of 2027, a major inflight connectivity upgrade aimed at giving passengers faster and more reliable internet for streaming, browsing, gaming and real-time communication while traveling.

The Fort Worth-based carrier described the move as part of a “sweeping modernization” of its narrowbody inflight customer experience. American said the Starlink rollout will cover more than 500 Airbus aircraft, including new A321XLR and A321neo deliveries.

The development is significant for travelers across American’s domestic and short-haul international network, including Caribbean markets where the airline remains a major carrier. American Airlines is among carriers serving both Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas and Henry E. Rohlsen Airport on St. Croix, with direct flights from several U.S. and regional gateways depending on the airport.

American did not identify which specific routes will receive Starlink first. The company said the service will support connectivity across domestic and short-haul international routes, positioning the upgrade as a customer-experience improvement for passengers who increasingly expect reliable internet access throughout a flight.

“As a premium global airline, we are continuously seeking out world-class partners like Starlink to deliver what our customers need and want,” said Heather Garboden, American Airlines’ chief customer officer. “The addition of Starlink solidifies American as a leading airline in keeping passengers connected in flight.”

American said Starlink’s low-Earth-orbit satellite network can support inflight streaming, online gaming, collaborative meeting tools and other internet uses that have often been difficult on traditional aircraft Wi-Fi. The airline said Starlink’s Aero Terminal can support up to 1 Gbps per antenna.

The company framed the upgrade around the ability to remain connected without planning around weak or inconsistent inflight service. Ms. Garboden said Starlink’s “high speed and low latency” should make onboard Wi-Fi more reliable for passengers trying to load pages, join collaboration tools or stay connected throughout a flight.

“We are excited to bring an at-home level of Wi-Fi experience to our narrowbody fleet, enabling our customers to work, game, stream and scroll endlessly,” she said.

SpaceX, which operates Starlink, also positioned the agreement as part of a broader effort to make inflight internet more seamless. “We are proud to bring Starlink on board American Airlines, delivering fast and reliable internet to passengers and crew,” said Jason Fritch, vice president of Starlink Enterprise Sales at SpaceX.

The move places American deeper into an industry-wide race to improve inflight internet as airlines compete for passengers who expect aircraft cabins to function more like homes, offices and entertainment spaces. Reuters reported that the financial terms of American’s Starlink agreement were not disclosed, and noted that carriers globally have been moving to faster and more reliable inflight internet as demand for premium travel services has increased.

American already offers free high-speed Wi-Fi sponsored by AT&T on most domestic flights and select international flights for AAdvantage members, according to its customer information page. The Starlink agreement represents a technology upgrade to the onboard experience rather than American’s first move into free or expanded inflight connectivity.

Starlink has become an increasingly visible player in aviation broadband, with multiple carriers moving to low-Earth-orbit satellite internet to address long-standing complaints about slow or unreliable inflight service. Reuters reported that Starlink has also secured airline agreements with

Southwest, United and Alaska Airlines, as well as international carriers including Singapore Airlines and Emirates.

For Virgin Islands travelers, the announcement is worth watching because American's network remains central to air access for both St. Thomas and St. Croix. While the airline has not said when Starlink-equipped aircraft will appear on any specific U.S. Virgin Islands route, the planned rollout across more than 500 narrowbody aircraft could eventually affect the type of service passengers experience on domestic and short-haul international flights that connect the territory to the broader American Airlines network.

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