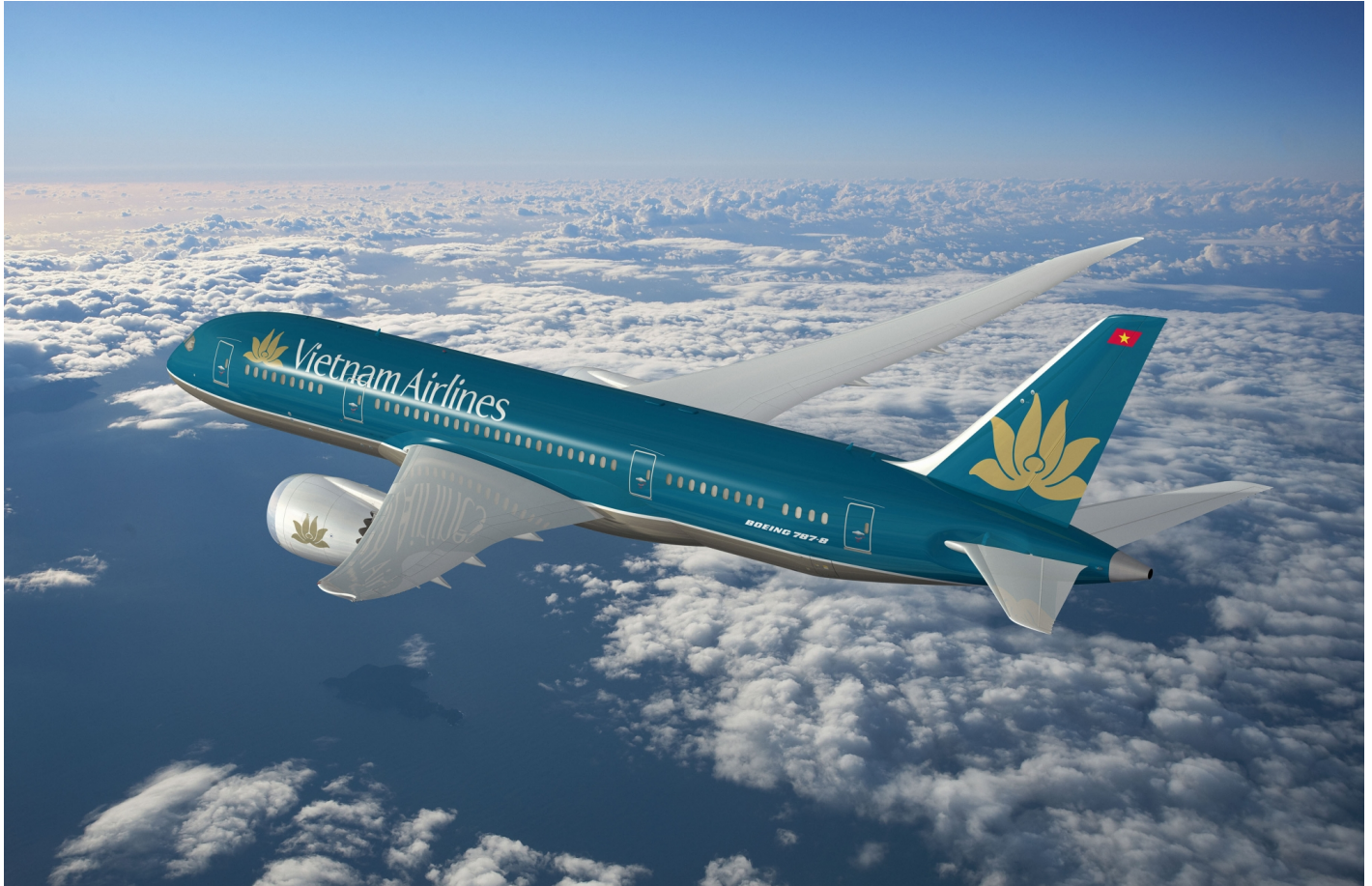




VIETNAM AIRLINES WELCOMES BOEING DREAMLINER TO LONDON HEATHROW ROUTE

News / Airlines, Airports / Routes



Vietnam Airlines has welcomed the inaugural arrival into Heathrow of its first new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner.

The UK hub becomes the first international destination on Vietnam Airlines' network to be served by the new aircraft.

After touching down at 09:18 this morning, aircraft VN-A861 was officially welcomed by Nguyen Van Thao, Vietnamese ambassador to the UK.

Also on hand were Le Thanh Dzung, general manager UK & Ireland, Vietnam Airlines, and David O'Leary, head of customer relations and service at T4, Heathrow.

Following a ceremony in Terminal 4's SkyTeam Lounge, VIP guests were invited on board the aircraft for an exclusive tour of the stylish new high-tech cabin.

All of Vietnam Airlines' five weekly nonstop services between Heathrow and Hanoi/Ho Chi Minh City are now being operated by the new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft - making it the first

airline to operate the new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner nonstop between south-east Asia and Europe.

Flight frequencies from Heathrow are scheduled to rise, initially to six flights per week, and subsequently to a daily service for summer 2016, to meet demand.

In August 2015 Vietnam Airlines also became the first Asian airline to operate both Boeing and Airbus' modern next-generation aircraft at the same time.

A total of 19 Boeing 787s will be delivered to Vietnam Airlines by early 2019, as part of a major fleet upgrade programme which also includes 14 Airbus A350-900 XWBs.

The new aircraft will replace the airline's entire fleet of widebody aircraft, dramatically enhancing its product offering while also maintaining its cost-effectiveness on long-haul and intercontinental routes.

The latest extension to Boeing's super-efficient 787 family, the B787-9 Dreamliner can fly farther, and with more passengers and more cargo, than the B787-8 - but with the same exceptional environmental performance: 20 per cent less fuel usage and 20 per cent fewer emissions than the aircraft it will replace.

The new aircraft will feature fully flat beds in Business Class, with in-flight Wi-Fi services also set to be introduced.

Passengers in all three cabin classes will benefit from larger windows and stow bins, modern LED lighting, higher humidity and cleaner air, lower cabin pressure and a smoother, quieter ride.

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