

Was this the longest ever non-stop flight?

Elementary

1 Warmer

Here are some of the longest non-stop passenger flights in the world. Put them in order from the longest to the shortest.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1. _____ | a. Perth, Western Australia to London |
| 2. _____ | b. Los Angeles to Singapore |
| 3. _____ | c. Singapore to New York |
| 4. _____ | d. Atlanta, USA to Johannesburg, South Africa |
| 5. _____ | e. Auckland, New Zealand to Dubai |

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

sunrise

passenger

journalist

effect

anniversary

expert

1. A _____ is someone who travels in a plane, train or ship. (para 1)
2. A _____ is someone whose job is to report the news. (para 1)
3. An _____ is a change another change produces in a person or thing. (para 1)
4. An _____ is someone who knows a lot about a subject. (para 1)
5. _____ is the time in the early morning when the sun first appears in the sky. (para 2)
6. An _____ is a date when people celebrate something important that happened in a previous year. (para 4)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. How many passengers were on the test flight from London to Sydney?
2. How far did the plane fly?
3. How many sunrises did the passengers see?
4. How long did the flight last?
5. Which was the longer flight to Sydney, the one from London or the one from New York?
6. When does Qantas want to begin non-stop flights between London and Sydney?

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9 January, 2020

- On Thursday, 14 October, 2019, just after six o'clock in the morning, a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner took off from Heathrow Airport in London. This plane usually carries up to 300 passengers, but on this flight, there were just 50 people on board. Many of these people work for the Australian airline Qantas. There were also some journalists. The flight was a test flight to check the effect of the 17,800 km journey on the passengers, so there were also medical scientists and health experts on board.
- The plane flew east from London and, soon afterwards, the people on board saw the first sunrise. The plane was on its way to Sydney, Australia, and, according to some news reports, would be the first non-stop flight between the two cities.
- The plane flew east and then south-east over several countries, including Russia, Kazakhstan and Indonesia. Over Indonesia, the passengers saw their second sunrise, but this time, it was already the early morning of Friday, 15 October. The plane landed in Sydney at 12.28 local time (01.28 am London time). This was 19 hours and 19 minutes after it took off from London. The flight was just a few minutes longer than another Qantas test flight in October. That flight went non-stop from New York to Sydney, but it was around 1,500 km shorter.
- Qantas is the third oldest airline in the world and will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2020. The company is hoping that the test flight will show that non-stop flights from London and other major European cities to Australia are possible and that it can begin a service in 2022.
- So was this the longest non-stop flight ever? Sadly, the answer is no. In 2005, a Pakistan International Airlines plane, a Boeing 777, flew non-stop from Hong Kong to London Heathrow in 22 hours and 22 minutes. It is quicker to fly west from Hong Kong to London, but this plane flew east.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The aim of the test flight was to ... | a. ... in 2005, a Boeing 777 flew for 22 hours and 22 minutes from Hong Kong to London. |
| 2. The plane was flying over Indonesia when ... | b. ... about 1,500 km longer than the flight from New York to Sydney. |
| 3. The flight from London to Sydney was ... | c. ... will celebrate its 100th anniversary. |
| 4. This wasn't the longest non-stop passenger flight ever because, ... | d. ... check the effect of the long journey on the health of the passengers. |
| 5. In 2020, Qantas ... | e. ... the third oldest airline in the world. |
| 6. Qantas is ... | f. ... the passengers saw their second sunrise. |

5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

- after in morning six just o'clock the
- few just minutes longer a
- first non-stop cities the between two the flight
- in oldest the world third airline the

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6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1. test | a. anniversary |
| 2. news | b. flight |
| 3. 100th | c. expert |
| 4. health | d. report |

7 Prepositions

Fill the gaps in the phrases using prepositions from the text. Check your answers in the text.

between

from

on

to

around

on

- _____ board
- the effect _____ the passengers
- non-stop flights _____ London to Australia
- non-stop flights _____ London and Australia
- according _____ some news reports
- _____ 1,500 km shorter

8 Discussion

- How often do you fly?
- Do you enjoy flying? Why? Why not?
- What is the longest flight you've ever taken?
 - o Where did you fly from and to?
 - o What did you do during the flight?
 - o Did you enjoy the flight?

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KEY

1 Warmer

1. c
2. a
3. e
4. b
5. d

2 Key words

1. passenger
2. journalist
3. effect
4. expert
5. sunrise
6. anniversary

3 Find the information

1. 50
2. 17,800 km
3. two
4. 19 hours and 19 minutes
5. the one from London
6. 2022

4 Comprehension check

1. d
2. f
3. b
4. a
5. c
6. e

5 Chunks

1. just after six o'clock in the morning
2. just a few minutes longer
3. the first non-stop flight between the two cities
4. the third oldest airline in the world

6 Two-word phrases

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. c

7 Prepositions

1. on
2. on
3. from
4. between
5. to
6. around