CLEARED FOR TAKE OFF - BRITISH AIRWAYS FINAL HEATHROW 747 AIRCRAFT

News / Airlines, Airports / Routes

British Airways announced that its final two Heathrow based Boeing 747 aircraft are scheduled to depart from the airport for the very last time tomorrow morning (Thursday 8 October). One aircraft is painted in its heritage 'Negus' livery and the other in its current Chatham Dockyard livery. Thousands of British Airways flight crew, cabin crew and engineering teams have worked over several decades on and with the aircraft during their time at British Airways during a period when they represented the heart of the airline's long-haul fleet.

To commemorate G-CIVB and G-CIVY's final take-off from the airport at 08:30am, the airline has arranged a special send off with a unique and rarely seen synchronised dual take off on parallel runways*, which will be followed by fly past along the southerly runway by one of the aircraft (G-CIVY in current BA livery) as it bids its home a final farewell.

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Celebrating the occasion in a virtual way to keep spectators safe, the airline will be live streaming moments from the departure on its Facebook page and is also inviting its colleagues, aviation enthusiasts and customers to share any special memories or photos of British Airways' 747s on social media channels at 7:47am and 7.47pm on their departure day using the hashtag #BA747farewell.

Alex Cruz, British Airways' Chairman and CEO, said "Tomorrow will be a difficult day for everybody at British Airways as the aircraft leaves our home at Heathrow for the very last time. We will pay tribute to them for the incredible part they have played in our 100-year history and to the millions of customers and BA colleagues who have flown on board and taken care of them.

"We hope that Britain will join us in sharing their memories with us on social media at 7:47am and 7.47pm on Thursday using #BA747farewell."

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British Airways 747 G-CIVB

Date it entered service	February 15, 1994
Retirement date	September 08, 2020
Popular/recent routes	Last passenger flight was April 6, 2020 from Miami to Heathrow
Livery	Current livery: Negus Previous livery: Landor and was named ‘City of Litchfield’
Fact and stats (approx.)	Operated 13,398 flights Flown for 118,445 hours Flown 59 million miles

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British Airways 747 G-CIVY

Date it entered service	September 29, 1998
Retirement date	September 08, 2020
Popular/recent routes	March 20, 2020 last passenger flight from Chicago to Heathrow April 5, 2020 last freighter flight from Dallas to Heathrow
Livery	Chatham Dockyard
Fact and stats (approx.)	Operated 11,034 flights Flown for 90,161 hours Flown 45 million miles

Facts and stats:

- Boeing has been manufacturing 747 aircraft for more than 50 years
- BOAC flew its first 747 flight on 14th April 1971
- British Airways took delivery of its first 747-400 in July 1989 and its last in April 1999
- At its height, the airline had a fleet of 57 747-400s
- British Airways was the world's biggest operator of 747-400 aircraft
- The 747-400 has 6ft high winglets on the tips of its wings to improve efficiency
- It has 16 main wheels and two landing nose wheels
- The wings of a 747-400 span 213ft and are big enough to accommodate 50 parked cars
- The tail height of 64ft is equivalent to a six-storey building
- The 747-400 is 231ft long

About British Airways' retro liveries:

Last year to mark its centenary British Airways re-painted three of its jumbo jets in heritage colours donning it's historic BOAC, Negus and Landor livery The BOAC jet put in a guest appearance with the Red Arrows much to the delight of spectators at the Royal International Air Tattoo.

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