# British Airways removes passengers from Florence flight due to extreme heat and runway constraints



On August 11, 2025, British Airways faced the unusual necessity of removing 20 passengers from a flight departing Florence’s Amerigo Vespucci Airport due to extreme heat conditions. The flight, an Embraer ERJ-190 destined for London City Airport, was affected by temperatures reaching around 35°C, which demanded additional fuel to ensure the plane could reach cruising altitude safely. The compounding factor was Florence’s short runway—less than half the length of Gatwick’s main runway—intensifying the operational constraints and ultimately forcing the airline to reduce the aircraft’s weight by offloading passengers.

A British mother on the flight recounted that although initially staff said 36 people would need to disembark, only about 20 volunteered to leave. The airline explained that the hot weather made the air less dense, which reduces both the lift generated by the wings and the engine thrust needed to achieve takeoff speed. Pilots use a measure called "density altitude," an adjusted altitude based on air temperature and pressure, to determine whether aircraft can safely depart under prevailing conditions. In this case, the density altitude was high enough to exceed the plane’s safe operational limits, necessitating a reduction in passengers to accommodate the extra fuel required. A spokesperson for British Airways acknowledged the inconvenience and emphasised their efforts to get affected passengers to their destination as quickly as possible, highlighting the unique physical challenges presented by Florence’s airfield.

This incident is not isolated, as British Airways has encountered similar operational difficulties at Florence in the past due to runway length and weather conditions. Earlier in 2023, an Airbus A320neo flight was diverted to Pisa after it could not land at Florence due to adverse weather, forcing passengers to take a bus for the final leg of their journey. Such diversions and offloading practices underscore the logistical complexities of operating flights from airports with limited infrastructure and variable climatic conditions. Reports from aviation commentators note that Florence’s short runway and sometimes extreme weather—including high temperatures and strong winds—often compel weight restrictions or require route alterations, making it a challenging destination for airlines to serve reliably.

Experts warn that with ongoing global warming, incidents related to extreme heat adversely affecting flight operations may become more commonplace, particularly at airports with shorter runways and limited capacity. This could ultimately have broader implications for flight availability, cost, and passenger convenience in warmer regions. The experiences of British Airways at Florence serve as a case study in adapting to these emerging challenges, reflecting the need for flexible operational planning in an increasingly unpredictable climate. Historical parallels can also be drawn with other airports facing similar challenges, such as London's City Airport, where hot weather has occasionally necessitated removing passengers from flights to maintain safety margins.

Overall, the episode involving British Airways’ Florence flight highlights the intricate balance between aircraft performance, environmental conditions, and airport infrastructure, and points to an evolving landscape of aviation operations in a warming world.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2099381/british-airways-flight-20-passengers-booted-off-london-city), [[2]](https://www.foxnews.com/travel/british-airways-kicks-20-passengers-off-flight-because-heat-wave-made-plane-too-heavy), [[6]](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/extreme-heat-forced-british-airways-to-remove-passengers-084b6616)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2099381/british-airways-flight-20-passengers-booted-off-london-city), [[2]](https://www.foxnews.com/travel/british-airways-kicks-20-passengers-off-flight-because-heat-wave-made-plane-too-heavy), [[6]](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/extreme-heat-forced-british-airways-to-remove-passengers-084b6616)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.paddleyourownkanoo.com/2023/09/12/british-airways-pilot-describes-florence-flight-as-an-absolute-shambles-after-passengers-were-offloaded-to-get-on-a-bus/), [[4]](https://www.paddleyourownkanoo.com/2023/04/17/a-new-british-airways-flight-to-florence-is-off-to-a-rocky-start-after-runway-restrictions-force-a-diversion-to-pisa-just-15-minutes-away/), [[5]](https://onemileatatime.com/news/british-airways-florence-route/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/extreme-heat-forced-british-airways-to-remove-passengers-084b6616), [[7]](https://www.travelagentcentral.com/passengers-kicked-off-heavy-london-city-airport)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2099381/british-airways-flight-20-passengers-booted-off-london-city> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.foxnews.com/travel/british-airways-kicks-20-passengers-off-flight-because-heat-wave-made-plane-too-heavy> - On August 11, 2025, British Airways removed 20 passengers from a flight departing Florence's Amerigo Vespucci Airport due to extreme heat. The 35°C temperatures necessitated additional fuel, making the aircraft too heavy for takeoff. The short runway at Florence's airport further complicated the situation. A British Airways spokesperson acknowledged the inconvenience and stated that efforts were made to get passengers to their destination promptly. ([foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com/travel/british-airways-kicks-20-passengers-off-flight-because-heat-wave-made-plane-too-heavy?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.paddleyourownkanoo.com/2023/09/12/british-airways-pilot-describes-florence-flight-as-an-absolute-shambles-after-passengers-were-offloaded-to-get-on-a-bus/> - In September 2023, a British Airways pilot described a Florence flight as an 'absolute shambles' after passengers were offloaded to board a bus for a 15-minute drive to Pisa. The Airbus A320neo was unable to land in Florence due to weather conditions, leading to the diversion. This incident highlights the operational challenges at Florence Airport, known for its short runway and adverse weather conditions. ([paddleyourownkanoo.com](https://www.paddleyourownkanoo.com/2023/09/12/british-airways-pilot-describes-florence-flight-as-an-absolute-shambles-after-passengers-were-offloaded-to-get-on-a-bus/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.paddleyourownkanoo.com/2023/04/17/a-new-british-airways-flight-to-florence-is-off-to-a-rocky-start-after-runway-restrictions-force-a-diversion-to-pisa-just-15-minutes-away/> - In April 2023, British Airways' new route from London Heathrow to Florence faced challenges when the return flight was forced to divert to Pisa due to runway restrictions at Florence Airport. The Airbus A320neo was unable to land in Florence, leading to the diversion. This incident underscores the operational difficulties at Florence Airport, including its short runway and limiting factors like high winds and hot temperatures. ([paddleyourownkanoo.com](https://www.paddleyourownkanoo.com/2023/04/17/a-new-british-airways-flight-to-florence-is-off-to-a-rocky-start-after-runway-restrictions-force-a-diversion-to-pisa-just-15-minutes-away/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://onemileatatime.com/news/british-airways-florence-route/> - A report from One Mile at a Time discusses the challenges faced by British Airways on its Florence route, including incidents where passengers were offloaded due to weight restrictions caused by weather conditions. The report highlights the operational difficulties at Florence Airport, known for its short runway and adverse weather conditions. ([onemileatatime.com](https://onemileatatime.com/news/british-airways-florence-route/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/extreme-heat-forced-british-airways-to-remove-passengers-084b6616> - An article from News Minimalist reports that extreme heat forced British Airways to remove passengers from a flight in Italy. The high temperatures required extra fuel and a reduced passenger load due to the airport's short runway. Aviation experts warn that such incidents may become more frequent due to climate change, potentially impacting flight costs and availability in hotter regions. ([newsminimalist.com](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/extreme-heat-forced-british-airways-to-remove-passengers-084b6616?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.travelagentcentral.com/passengers-kicked-off-heavy-london-city-airport> - In July 2013, passengers at London City Airport were routinely denied boarding due to safety concerns caused by hot weather. On one occasion, 15 passengers were removed from a Swiss flight to Geneva after the plane was deemed too heavy to take off. The airport's short runway and high temperatures contributed to the need for weight reduction. A British Airways spokesman stated that it was an extremely rare occurrence to remove customers from a flight due to operating restrictions at the airport. ([travelagentcentral.com](https://www.travelagentcentral.com/passengers-kicked-off-heavy-london-city-airport?utm_source=openai))