# British Airways extends Israel flight suspensions until March 2025 amid escalating regional threats



British Airways has announced an extension of its suspension of flights to Israel, a decision made amidst escalating security concerns in the region. This latest move, which prolongs the ban until at least the end of March 2025, follows troubling reports of missile strikes targeting Ben Gurion Airport by Yemen's Houthi rebels. The Iran-backed group has intensified its activities in solidarity with Hamas, the militant organisation that has controlled Gaza for years and is currently embroiled in a military conflict with Israel. Located approximately 12 miles from Tel Aviv and 28 miles from Jerusalem, Ben Gurion Airport serves as Israel's main international gateway—a critical hub increasingly impacted by regional instability.

The airline's spokesperson stated, “The safety and security of our customers and crew is always our priority.” British Airways is closely monitoring the situation, responding to the complexities of the ongoing geopolitical dynamics. Passengers affected by the suspension will be presented with options, including full refunds, reflecting the airline's commitment to customer service amidst a backdrop of heightened uncertainty in Middle Eastern travel.

The operational suspensions are not isolated; they echo a wider trend among various international carriers. Following a series of attacks attributed to Hamas—including a particularly brazen assault on October 7, 2023, resulting in over 1,200 fatalities and numerous hostages—several airlines have either suspended or heavily restricted their services to and from Israel. Virgin Atlantic and easyJet have joined British Airways in ceasing flights, recognising the critical need to ensure the safety of their passengers and crews under precarious conditions.

The ripple effect of these suspensions has raised questions about the future of travel to Israel, particularly as the region grapples with ongoing conflict, including potential escalations with Hezbollah to the north. The decision to suspend flights until March 2025 is an indication of the airline's desire to provide certainty to travellers who are understandably apprehensive about making plans in such a volatile context.

Following this announcement, it remains to be seen how the dynamics will shift once conditions stabilise. Proposals to resume flights in the long term have been floated, especially should a ceasefire be established between Israel and Hamas, as well as improvements in the broader regional security landscape. Observers note that a return to regular operations could not only ease travel tensions but also potentially lower fares for passengers eager to visit the region once it is deemed safe to do so.

As British Airways navigates these turbulent waters, its priorities seem clear: maintain safety and uphold customer trust in an increasingly complex world. The path forward may be fraught with challenges, but the airline's vigilant approach could serve as a model for others in the industry dealing with similar security dilemmas.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059475/british-airways-cancels-all-flights), [[2]](https://www.timesofisrael.com/british-airways-suspends-all-israel-flights-until-march-2025-amid-escalation-fears/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059475/british-airways-cancels-all-flights), [[3]](https://www.middleeasteye.net/live-blog/live-blog-update/british-airways-cancels-tel-aviv-flights-until-26-october)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/11/ba-suspends-flights-between-uk-and-israel-as-concerns-rise-for-trapped-britons), [[6]](https://news.sky.com/story/ba-suspends-tel-aviv-flights-after-hamas-says-it-attacked-airport-12982560)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.timesofisrael.com/british-airways-suspends-all-israel-flights-until-march-2025-amid-escalation-fears/), [[7]](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/397943)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.timesofisrael.com/british-airways-to-resume-london-tel-aviv-service-in-april/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059475/british-airways-cancels-all-flights> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/british-airways-suspends-all-israel-flights-until-march-2025-amid-escalation-fears/> - British Airways announced the suspension of all flights to Tel Aviv until the end of March 2025, citing heightened tensions between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. The airline emphasized the importance of customer safety and offered full refunds to affected passengers. This decision aligns with similar actions by other international carriers, including Wizz Air and Delta Airlines, which have also halted flights to Israel amid escalating regional conflicts. The suspension aims to provide greater certainty to travelers during a period of increased security concerns.
3. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/live-blog/live-blog-update/british-airways-cancels-tel-aviv-flights-until-26-october> - British Airways announced the suspension of its flights from London to Tel Aviv until 26 October, amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. The decision was made following security concerns, including reports of missile attacks near Ben Gurion Airport. The airline stated that the safety and security of its customers and crew are always a priority, and it is continually monitoring operating conditions. Affected passengers were advised of their options, including rebooking or full refunds. This move reflects broader concerns among international airlines regarding the safety of operations in the region.
4. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/british-airways-to-resume-london-tel-aviv-service-in-april/> - British Airways announced plans to resume flights between London and Tel Aviv starting April 5, ending a suspension that began in October 2023 due to security concerns amid the Israel-Hamas conflict. Initially, the airline will operate one flight per day, increasing to two by April 20. The resumption is expected to provide more options for travelers and potentially lower ticket prices. The decision comes after a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and reflects a gradual return to normalcy in the region's aviation sector.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/11/ba-suspends-flights-between-uk-and-israel-as-concerns-rise-for-trapped-britons> - British Airways, along with Virgin Atlantic and easyJet, suspended all flights between the UK and Tel Aviv due to escalating security concerns in Israel. The decision followed an incident where a British Airways flight was diverted back to London Heathrow after sirens warning of potential attacks sounded as it approached Tel Aviv. The suspension aims to ensure the safety of passengers and crew amid the conflict between Israel and Hamas. The UK government is expected to rely on commercial flights for evacuations as long as they remain operational.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/ba-suspends-tel-aviv-flights-after-hamas-says-it-attacked-airport-12982560> - British Airways and Virgin Atlantic suspended flights to Tel Aviv after Hamas claimed responsibility for an attack on Ben Gurion Airport. The suspension followed an incident where a British Airways flight was diverted back to London Heathrow due to security concerns. A spokesperson for Israel's airports authority stated that rockets were flying around Tel Aviv at the time but did not pose an immediate threat to the flight or the airport. The decision underscores the heightened security risks in the region amid ongoing conflicts.
7. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/397943> - British Airways extended the suspension of its flights to Israel until the end of March 2025. Initially, the airline had suspended flights for three days in late September due to security escalations in the region but has not resumed operations since then. The extension aims to provide greater certainty to customers, with options including full refunds. British Airways joins a list of international airlines that have suspended services to Israel amid ongoing regional conflicts and security concerns.