



QATAR AIRWAYS TO OFFER FREE LAPTOPS ON US FLIGHTS

News / Airlines



Qatar Airways said on Thursday that it would offer free laptops to business class passengers flying to the United States, in an effort to get round an American ban on electronics.

The carrier said it would begin offering a "laptop loan service" to those travelling in business class from "next week".

The computers would be collected by US-bound passengers from their departure gate just before boarding, said Qatar Airways.

"By providing this laptop loan service we can ensure that our passengers on flights to the US can continue to work whilst on board," said the airline's boss, Akbar Al Baker.

A similar laptop proposal [is being considered](#) by its fellow Arabian Gulf carrier Emirates, which is also affected by the US ban.

Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways meanwhile [said it would offer free wi-fi and tablet computers](#) to first

and business class passengers on US-bound flights.

The move comes after Washington earlier this month stopped electronic devices bigger than mobile phones from being taken on direct flights to the United States from 10 airports in seven Middle Eastern countries and Turkey.

A similar ban was also imposed by Britain, but this exempted some of the Gulf airlines, including Qatar.

US officials said the measure was intended to thwart possible attacks on airliners with small explosive devices hidden in consumer electronics.

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