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The Q4 2026 edition of one of the world's most transparent aviation rankings is here

Qatar Airways, the world's best airline. Turkish Airlines, the best in Europe. Delta Air Lines, the best in North America. LATAM, the best in Latin America. Qantas, the best in Oceania. Ethiopian Airlines, the best in Africa. 178 airlines, 72 countries, one score and the whole methodology in plain sight.

8 October 2026. Vuelopedia publishes the Q4 2026 edition of the Vuelopedia Air Quality Index (IVCA), the global airline ranking that shows all its cards: public weights, a versioned and reproducible method, and every figure in plain sight on each airline's profile. 178 airlines from 72 countries and a single 0-100 score that joins what passengers reward with what the data confirm. Anyone can see, indicator by indicator, why each airline stands where it stands.

The world's ten best airlines

#	Airline	Country	IVCA
1	Qatar Airways	Qatar	90.4
2	Turkish Airlines	Türkiye	89.8
3	Singapore Airlines	Singapore	86.2
4	Air France	France	84.6
5	Cathay Pacific	Hong Kong	83.0
6	Saudia	Saudi Arabia	83.0
7	ANA	Japan	82.2
8	Delta Air Lines	United States	81.7
9	Japan Airlines	Japan	81.4
10	Emirates	United Arab Emirates	81.2

The champions of the edition

Qatar Airways, the world's best airline. IVCA 90.4: top tier in the international on-board experience rating, a five-star certified product, among the world's best in the 2026 international assessment and 84.42% of flights on time (Cirium 2025). An airline that wins in the surveys and in the data.

Turkish Airlines, the best in Europe and second in the world. IVCA 89.8: the planet's most extensive network, with 352 destinations on six continents, top tier in on-board experience and recognised as the best airline in Europe in the 2026 international passenger survey.

Singapore Airlines, the passengers' favourite. Third in the world (86.2) and voted the world's best airline in the 2026 international passenger survey: a five-star product and top tier in on-board experience.

Saudia, the great revelation. Sixth in the world (83.0): the second most punctual of the big carriers (86.53% of flights on time) and top tier in the international on-board experience rating, held by only ten airlines worldwide.

Air France and KLM, the strength of Europe. Air France is fourth in the world (84.6) and second in Europe; KLM, #13 in the world (80.6) and fourth in Europe. They share Flying Blue, the world's best frequent-flyer programme, and Air France is a founder of SkyTeam.

Delta Air Lines, the best in North America. IVCA 81.7, eighth in the world and the only US airline in the top 10: 311 destinations, a founder of SkyTeam and the best punctuality of the big US carriers. United Airlines (79.7) and Air Canada (79.4) complete the continent's podium.

LATAM, the best in Latin America. IVCA 79.1: five continents, 166 destinations, five stars in the international on-board experience rating and recognised as the best airline in South America in the 2026 international passenger

survey. Aeroméxico (74.3) and Copa Airlines (69.8) complete the podium.

Copa Airlines and Aeroméxico, the most punctual in the Americas. 90.75% and 90.02% of flights on time in Cirium's 2025 listings: Aeroméxico is the world's most punctual airline according to Cirium, and Copa the best in Latin America for the eleventh year running.

Qantas and Ethiopian Airlines, queens of Oceania and Africa. Qantas (80.7), #11 in the world, adds 106 years of history and the 2026 international recognition as the best airline in Australia and the Pacific; Ethiopian Airlines (75.3), #25 in the world, leads Africa with the continent's largest wide-body fleet and the 2026 international recognition as the best airline in Africa.

Iberia, the best in Spain. #17 in the world and fifth in Europe, with 83.52% of flights on time — among Europe's ten most punctual according to Cirium — and a four-star certified product. Lufthansa (#20) is the best in Germany and British Airways (#12) the best in the United Kingdom.

Eight of the ten best hold the top international certification for product or on-board experience. Certified excellence rules the summit; Air France and Delta Air Lines complete the top 10 with network, track record and alliance.

The leaders of each continent

Continent	First	IVCA	World rank	Second	Third
Europe	Turkish Airlines	89.8	#2	Air France	British Airways
Asia	Qatar Airways	90.4	#1	Singapore Airlines	Cathay Pacific
North America	Delta Air Lines	81.7	#8	United Airlines	Air Canada
Latin America	LATAM	79.1	#16	Aeroméxico	Copa Airlines
Oceania	Qantas	80.7	#11	Air New Zealand	Virgin Australia
Africa	Ethiopian Airlines	75.3	#25	Royal Air Maroc	EgyptAir

The best airline of each country

Country	Airline	IVCA (#)	Country	Airline	IVCA (#)
Qatar	Qatar Airways	90.4 (#1)	Taiwan	EVA Air	73.6 (#32)
Türkiye	Turkish Airlines	89.8 (#2)	Canada	Air Canada	79.4 (#15)
Singapore	Singapore Airlines	86.2 (#3)	Austria	Austrian Airlines	76.7 (#23)
Saudi Arabia	Saudia	83.0 (#6)	Sweden	SAS	75.2 (#26)
France	Air France	84.6 (#4)	Panama	Copa Airlines	69.8 (#37)
Japan	ANA	82.2 (#7)	Mexico	Aeroméxico	74.3 (#29)
Hong Kong	Cathay Pacific	83.0 (#5)	Switzerland	Swiss	73.3 (#33)
United Arab Emirates	Emirates	81.2 (#10)	Finland	Finnair	76.8 (#22)
Netherlands	KLM	80.6 (#13)	Brazil	Azul	66.6 (#49)
United States	Delta Air Lines	81.7 (#8)	Oman	Oman Air	68.4 (#44)
Australia	Qantas	80.7 (#11)	Colombia	Avianca	66.9 (#48)
South Korea	Korean Air	78.5 (#18)	Morocco	Royal Air Maroc	70.3 (#36)
China	Hainan Airlines	74.7 (#28)	Ethiopia	Ethiopian Airlines	75.3 (#25)
United Kingdom	British Airways	80.7 (#12)	India	Air India	70.6 (#35)
Chile	LATAM	79.1 (#16)	Portugal	TAP Air Portugal	68.7 (#42)
Germany	Lufthansa	77.6 (#20)	South Africa	South African Airways	64.6 (#51)
Spain	Iberia	78.6 (#17)	Argentina	Aerolíneas Argentinas	59.9 (#70)
New Zealand	Air New Zealand	76.3 (#24)			

Alliances, loyalty programmes and airports

- Star Alliance, the world's best alliance (85.4): 26 airlines and some 1,300 destinations. oneworld (60.9), recognised in 2026 as the best alliance in the international passenger survey, and SkyTeam (55.8) complete the podium.
- Flying Blue (Air France-KLM), the world's best frequent-flyer programme (93.9); Air Canada Aeroplan, American AAdvantage and United MileagePlus follow.
- Istanbul Airport, the world's best airport (78.4); Hamad International Airport and London Heathrow Airport complete the podium of a ranking of 557 airports, published as work in progress.

Why it is one of the world's most transparent rankings

Three pillars with public weights: operations and fleet (32%: punctuality, wide-body fleet and environmental certification), passenger experience (48%: globally awarded recognitions — international passenger survey, regional recognition, on-board experience rating, product certification, international assessment — and the recognition of the frequent-flyer programme) and network and track record (20%: fleet, destinations, continents, years of history and global alliance). Fourteen indicators with published anchors, a versioned method with which any edition can be recomputed, and a profile per airline showing every figure, its score and its weight. The v2.5 methodology of this edition adds two indicators that the airline controls and anyone can check — the wide-body fleet for long-haul flying and independent environmental certification — and gives more weight to punctuality; it also assesses the frequent-flyer programme of every airline. It is recalculated every quarter. Full methodology at vuelopedia.org/en/methodology.

Independent and verifiable

Vuelopedia is an independent, non-profit encyclopaedia. Third-party international recognitions (surveys, awards and ratings) are used solely as an input to the calculation: their lists and placings are never republished and their organisers are not named. Punctuality figures come from the Cirium On-Time Performance Review 2025 and are cited under its terms of use. Vuelopedia is not affiliated with any of those organisations or with any airline, alliance, programme or airport. The airport ranking is published as work in progress.

Quotes

"For the first time, any reader can see, figure by figure, why an airline stands where it stands. That is the transparency we want for aviation rankings."

— Vuelopedia editorial team

"Qatar, Turkish, Singapore, Air France and Cathay Pacific do not win on reputation: they win on punctuality, certified product, wide-body fleet and network, measured with the same yardstick for all 178 airlines."

— Vuelopedia editorial team

Media resources

- Interactive ranking, with a profile of every airline: vuelopedia.org/en/ranking
- Public, versioned methodology: vuelopedia.org/en/methodology
- Full report of the edition (142 pages, PDF): free download with registration at vuelopedia.org/en/downloads/ranking
- This press release in PDF, no registration:
vuelopedia.org/assets/prensa/Vuelopedia_Press_Release_IVCA_Ranking_Q4_2026_EN_r7.pdf · Spanish version:
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About Vuelopedia

Vuelopedia (vuelopedia.org) is an independent, non-profit encyclopaedia of civil aviation, a project of Fundación Poderia. It publishes profiles of aircraft, airlines, airports and manufacturers, history, anniversaries and the IVCA Ranking, in Spanish and English. The calculations of each edition and the data-validation processes are carried out with the help of artificial-intelligence agents; the methodology, the weights, the sources and the editorial decisions are Vuelopedia's.

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