

# First-class views of the world below

November 22 2011

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The collaboration began in 2007 with 250 images. Credits: ESA

Images of some of our planet's most beautiful features can be seen from the comfort of your Air France aircraft thanks to satellites.

Clouds can't obstruct these views: the crystal waters of the Andaman Islands while en route to Singapore, the snaking Senegal River after taking off from Dakar and the rolling dunes of the Gobi Desert before landing in Beijing.

[Satellite](#) photos of the landscape below the aircraft are now accessible by passengers on dozens of Air France flights thanks to a four-year partnership with ESA.

ESA has recently provided Air France with over 1200 new images to incorporate into the in-flight Geovision programme which displays captivating satellite views that link to the route on the onboard screens.

The mesmerizing scenes have been selected by ESA from various Earth observation satellites, including ESA's Envisat and Proba, Korea's Kompsat and France's Spot.

“This collaboration offers a unique opportunity for passengers to experience Earth's vast beauty and even get an up-close look at some of the untouched areas of the world,” said ESA's director of Earth observation programmes Volker Liebig.

“While we recognise the immense importance that Earth-observing satellites have in advancing the understanding of our planet and its environment, these images allow us to appreciate the aesthetic aspects of Earth observation.”

For eastbound destinations from Paris, 628 new images have been added such as the mouth of the Ganges River emptying into the Bay of Bengal and the 3776 m peak of Mount Fuji in Japan.

Passengers on flights heading west can – for the first time – enjoy the show of 390 images including the Canary Islands and Canada's shallow Foxe Basin.

The route on southbound destinations can be followed thanks to 367 new images that cover landscapes such as the vast Sahara Desert and Mount Kenya.

“Air France seeks to make each client's journey a special moment for leisure and discovery,” said Christian Herzog, Senior Vice President Marketing, Air France-KLM.

“The images of the world that we offer on board our long haul flights, thanks to ESA, contribute to the journey's magic.”

The collaboration began in 2007 when initially 250 images were made available on flights operating between France and India, China, Japan and Singapore. Today, the show is accessible on over 67 flights covering Asia, North and South America, Africa and Oceania.

ESA and Air France are looking into extending the service by generating complete destination coverage and, as a next step, adding visual flight animations to the Air France portal.

Provided by European Space Agency

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