

# Wolfram Alpha shows flights overhead

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Typing "flights overhead" into a Wolfram Alpha query box is rewarded with information about [airplanes](#) above, including altitudes, distances, aircraft types, and which [airlines](#) are operating them.

"You'll get information on aircraft that should be visible to you, assuming a clear sky and unobstructed view," Wolfram Alpha said Friday in a blog post at its website.

"At one time or another, we've all looked at a jet flying high overhead and thought 'I wonder where they're headed?'"

If people are using smartphones, Wolfram Alpha results will be based on latitude and longitude information provided by location-sensing capabilities in devices.

Otherwise, the service will work with whatever location information is supplied by Web browsing software.

Wolfram Alpha launched in May 2009 as a search engine that delivers factual answers to online queries instead of links to Web pages.

The curated answer engine uses [mathematical formulas](#) to scour the Internet for information and natural language recognition technology to figure what queries are aimed at finding out.

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