

Air Canada receives first Airbus A321XLR

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: Air Canada has taken delivery of its first Airbus A321XLR in Hamburg, marking a significant milestone in the Canadian carrier's fleet renewal strategy. The aircraft, registered C-GXLR, was delivered on April 24 through a lease from SMBC Aviation Capital.

The airline plans to deploy the new jet on transatlantic routes from Montréal and Toronto, as well as on key North American transcontinental markets. The Canadian national carrier expects to receive a total of 30 A321XLRs, with 15 being leased and 15 acquired directly from Airbus.

Air Canada said its new "Glowing Hearted" cabin standard makes its debut on the A321XLR. The upgraded cabin features personal device power at every seat, free Wi-Fi for Aeroplan members, next-generation in-flight entertainment screens with Bluetooth connectivity, and cabin

finishes inspired by the Canadian landscape.

In a first for the airline, the A321XLR also offers Air Canada Signature Class on a single-aisle aircraft, featuring 14 lie-flat seats. The configuration marks the carrier's first business class product aboard a narrow-body jet.

The A321XLR is the longest-range variant of the A321neo family, capable of flying up to 8,700 kilometers. Its extended range allows airlines to serve thinner long-haul routes that would otherwise require larger, less fuel-efficient wide-body aircraft.

C-GXLR will enter scheduled service following certification by Transport Canada. Air Canada said the type's range and performance characteristics make it well-suited to adjust for seasonal demand and evolving market opportunities.

Air Canada's fleet modernization program extends beyond the A321XLR. The airline has also placed orders for eight Airbus A350-1000s, with deliveries starting in 2030, and 14 Boeing 787-10 Dreamliners. It continues receiving the Canadian-built Airbus A220, with 23 aircraft remaining on its firm order of 65. Five Boeing 737 MAX aircraft on lease have also been delivered in 2026.

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