Introduction

Today in-flight entertainment (IFE) on aircraft can be over 2,000 choices of movies and music not to mention Wi-Fi on offer from more and more airlines. But not so long ago the entertainment options were far more limited.

In the 1950s and 60s IFE was in its infancy and rudimentary.

Although the first film was shown on an aircraft in 1921 it wasn't until the 1960s that inflight movies became popular and there was no choice. Even on the first 747s in 1970s, while movies were shown on the big screen there were no choices and the headset was a basic plastic tube with ear plug. It would not be until the 1990s that seat back videos with choices, for all classes began to appear.

We invite you to view our collection of photos from the early days. Enjoy!
Building a card castle on a Comet jetliner
Part 1: Spending Time
Press photo showing the smoothness of jet travel on a Comet
Captain chats to young passengers on a DC-8
Downstairs bar on a Pan Am Boeing Stratocruiser
Lounge on the Convair 880
Playing with matches on a BOAC Comet 4
Lounge on a Trans Canada DC-8
Part 2: Food
First Class dinner on the DC-10 mockup
Taking dinner on a Douglas DC-4E demonstrator
Economy meal on a DC-8 in 1961
First Class fare in the jet age
First Class dining on the Douglas DC-8
First Class on the Douglas DC-8 mockup

Boeing Historical Archives
Afternoon tea at 36,000ft
Dinner service on BOAC on a Boeing Stratocruiser
First Class Dining Area on the DC-10 mockup
“And this is our flight plan.” (Douglas DC-6B)
Conclusion

We hope you enjoyed this trip down memory lane!

If you love nostalgia photos and articles as much as we do, be sure to check out this page on our website, and follow us on social media.