

Caravelle



Sud Aviation SE-210 Caravelle

The Caravelle made its first flight on May 27th 1955. The Caravelle was offered by the french company SNCASO, which was to become Sud-Aviation and later Aérospatiale, on the specification by the French civil aviation agency for a short-to-medium range fast aeroplane. The nose was adapted from the British Comet aircraft and power plant was the Rolls Royce Avon jet engine. The Caravelle was the first aircraft to have the engines at the rear end of the fuselage.



During its life the SE-210 Caravelle was produced in 11 versions. The first aircrafts had Avon Mk29 engines and could carry up to 64 passengers. Air France put the Caravelle in traffic in May 1959 on a Paris-Rome-Istanbul flight and SAS the same month on the Copenhagen-Cairo route. Air France bought 46 planes and SAS as the biggest international Caravelle user acquired 21 planes. Sterling Airways, danish charter airline, bought 20 of the extended, longer-range Super B Caravelle. This type used Pratt&Whitney engines and could carry up to 140 passengers.

A total of 282 Caravelles were produced and delivered to 35 airlines, the last to French Airline Air Inter in 1972.



My very first flight was on a Caravelle. It was SK 507 from Stockholm Arlanda to London Heathrow via Copenhagen. This was in August 1966. I was 17 years old and I wanted to go to England by boat but they were all fully-booked. My travel agent at Svea Resebyrå in Gamla Stan in Stockholm suggested the SAS/BEA night flight at about the same price, SEK 600 return (app'x USD 75). This was very exciting and the flight was very smooth on this jet aircraft. Only that we had to spend the night at Copenhagen Kastrup as the flight was delayed due to heavy thunder storms. But the next morning I came to London, my favourite destination.

Return was on BE 760 on another famous aircraft, the Trident Two.



Specifications

Caravelle VI-R

Wing span: 112 ft (34.3 m)

Length: 105 ft (32 m)

Height: 28 ft (8.7 m)

Engines: 2 Rolls Royce Avon 532R or 533R (with thrust reversers)

Max cruising speed: 470 kts (845 kms/h)
Max range: 1,430 miles (2,300 kms)
Mtow: 110,200 lbs



Early Transwede charter airline Caravelles. Click for larger images (31 Kb each)
Transwede later split into domestic carrier Transwede and charter airline Blue Scandinavia. Read about the early Transwede story at [Blue Scandinavia](#) (Pilot Information). Transwede is now [Braathens](#). Blue Scandinavia is now Britannia Scandinavia.

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